While substantial progress has been made across global health indicators since 2000, poor health and malnutrition remain key drivers of poverty and inequality around the world. The next two years provide an unparalleled opportunity to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfil the UK’s strategic objectives of tackling extreme poverty, promoting global prosperity and securing value for money for UK Aid. The coinciding funding opportunities for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), and the Nutrition for Growth Summit highlight the importance of a coherent and holistic approach to how UK Aid is spent in the pursuit of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and how even greater impact can be achieved through closer collaboration.

INVESTING IN HEALTH

Vaccines prevent illness, costly medical interventions, disability and death. Early diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases prevent prolonged suffering and death, medical complications such as the development of drug-resistance and further transmission to others. At the same time, good nutrition is needed in order to develop a strong immune system and for vaccines to be effective. Each of these interventions represent a brick through which a person’s good health and wellbeing is built.

We know that malnourished individuals can lose around 10% of their lifetime earnings, every US $1 invested in immunisations can yield up to US $44 in return, while work absences from drug-resistant tuberculosis (TB) treatment alone resulted in a US $3 billion loss to global GDP in 2018. While the benefits of investments in health may take longer to materialise than infrastructure or construction projects, individually and collectively, they drive sustainable human development, resilience and economic opportunity.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>FIGURE I</th>
<th>TIMELINE OF EVENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>OCTOBER 2019</td>
<td>Pledging moment for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER 2019</td>
<td>Replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB &amp; Malaria (the Global Fund)</td>
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<td>JUNE 2020</td>
<td>Replenishment of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi)</td>
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<td>LATE 2020</td>
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GOING FURTHER, FASTER

Throughout 2019 and 2020, a number of major health multilaterals and partnerships are scheduled for re-financing, raising essential resources that will enable them to continue their vital work once current budgets expire. Every one of these financing moments is critical in the fight against extreme poverty and an opportunity to accelerate progress on global health and the Sustainable Development Goals as a whole.

Globally coordinated initiatives like Nutrition for Growth and multilaterals like the Global Fund, Gavi and GPEI are proven to be effective and to offer value for money for the UK taxpayer. These initiatives pool resources, consolidate technical expertise and leverage increased investments from the private sector and high-burden countries. Their economies of scale offer the greatest cost-effectiveness and drive transparency, resulting in consistent ‘A’ grades in DFID’s annual review process. Investing in all of these building blocks will exponentially increase the impact of the individual funds, while a failure to adequately finance one will critically undermine the work of all the others.

LEAVING NO-ONE BEHIND: ENSURING A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Investments through multilaterals and initiatives have yielded incredible results, saving millions of lives and making the world a healthier, more prosperous and peaceful world. Despite this far reaching impact, some of the most vulnerable and marginalised groups are still falling through cracks in the system. Health and nutrition drive poverty and inequality, with huge implications across the whole Sustainable Development Goal agenda.

The government has committed to leaving no one behind through the Sustainable Development Goals and the UK Aid Strategy. Today, however, at least half of the world’s population does not have access to essential health services, and an estimated 100 million people are being pushed into extreme poverty due to healthcare costs each year. It is often the same people that are missed by immunisation programmes, nutrition interventions and the broader health system. The multiple replenishments taking place in the next two years offer a vital opportunity to consolidate our learning, ensure greater coherence among global initiatives and drive impact and efficiency as a result.

Funds

- **GAVI, THE VACCINE ALLIANCE (GAVI):** Founded in 2000, an alliance of key development partners and the private sector, with the mission to save children’s lives and protect people’s health by increasing equitable use of vaccines in lower-income countries.
  - 700 million+ children immunised since 2000, averting over 10 million future deaths.
  - US$150 million+ achieved over 18 years in economic benefits by preventing illness, death, and long-term disability.

- **THE GLOBAL FUND TO FIGHT AIDS, TB AND MALARIA (THE GLOBAL FUND):** A partnership founded in 2002 between governments; civil society; the private sector; and people affected by AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria to accelerate the end of these three diseases.
  - Helped to save 27 million lives since 2002, includes treatment for 5 million people with TB and 102,000 people with drug-resistant TB.
  - US$205 million savings generated by pooled procurement.

- **THE GLOBAL POLIO ERADICATION INITIATIVE (GPEI):** A public–private partnership led by national governments with five partners, with the goal of eradicating polio worldwide.
  - 450 million+ children vaccinated against polio every year.
  - US$27 billion+ generated by investments in eradication in savings through health benefits and deaths averted.

Partnerships

- **NUTRITION FOR GROWTH (N4G):** A partnership established in 2013 to drive new commitments and steps to end malnutrition in all forms by 2030.
  - 200+ global commitments to reduce stunting and save the lives of 2 million children.
  - 42.1 million reached with nutrition-related programmes through UK investments alone.
COLLABORATION IN PRACTICE

In many cases, we are already seeing this collaboration on the ground. In Madagascar, the Global Fund, Gavi and the World Bank share a programme management unit with the Ministry of Health. In Ethiopia, the Global Fund and Gavi are working with the national government to strengthen the procurement and distribution of health products across the country, whether it be for vaccines, TB drugs or diagnostic tools. In Malawi, coordination between bilateral donors, multilateral agencies and philanthropic donors is helping tackle infrastructure problems that have undermined all their programmes individually.

The Global Action Plan for Healthier Lives and Well-Being has seen 11 of the world’s leading health and development organisations, including Gavi and the Global Fund, commit to working together more closely to maximise their impact around the world. Ultimately, however, this ambition will not be reached if any of them do not have the resources they need to fully play their role in the delivery of UHC.

BUILT TO STAND THE TEST OF TIME: RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE HEALTH SYSTEMS

Investments in multilateral leverages a much wider impact than the individual issues they have been set up to tackle. Strengthening health systems and integrating services are core elements of all of their work. For example, the Global Fund invests at least 27% of its budgets into these initiatives. As such, laboratory services, data and surveillance, human resources and health sector governance are all being strengthened, with effects that go far beyond any individual disease and remain in place long after these organisations leave individual countries.

By working more closely with national governments and insisting on gradual increases in domestic investments, multilaterals have also been able to secure greater country ownership and financing for health. Gavi co-financing requirements have seen country contributions double over the last two years, and similar results are reported by the Global Fund. By increasing country-ownership and investing in health as a whole, multilaterals help build health systems that are able to deliver UHC sustainably and have the capacity and resilience to deal with outbreaks and other crises.

“...To realise this opportunity, we will prioritise the interests of the world’s most vulnerable and disadvantaged people; the poorest of the poor and those who are most at risk of violence and discrimination.”

DFID, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND: OUR PROMISE, MARCH 2019
THE IMPORTANCE OF UK LEADERSHIP

The UK has been a leading donor to global health multilaterals and plays a vital role in fostering greater global coordination through initiatives such as Nutrition for Growth. Their impact has not only been driven by the generous support of the UK taxpayer but also by the policy leadership demonstrated by DFID on each of their Boards. Continued UK leadership in funding and on key policy agendas will draw attention to important health issues and ensure other donors and recipient countries step up their own efforts. This will exponentially increase the impact of UK Aid and demonstrate clearly what it means for Global Britain to lead on the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Investing in health and nutrition multilaterals and partnerships extends the reach of UK Aid and delivers cost-effective impact for the UK taxpayer in pursuit of UHC and the SDGs as a whole. Nutrition, immunisation and infectious disease programmes complement one another. Their individual impact is drastically reduced if one is neglected but together they can deliver sustainable, resilient and equitable health and well-being for all.

The UK must invest ambitiously in the upcoming replenishments of Gavi, the Global Fund and the GPEI, and renew its commitment to nutrition.

DFID should pursue an aligned approach to bi- and multilateral investments in health and nutrition, to leverage complementarity and maximise UK Aid impact on UHC.

As a leading donor, the UK should use its influential position to drive a new focus towards global collaboration and country ownership on health and nutrition.

Based on a report by RESULTS UK (Brick by Brick, 2019)
For more information please contact: info@results.org.uk
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