

The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

October 2020

Dear Secretary of State,

In light of the upcoming Spending Review on 25th November and ongoing discussions about how our overseas development assistance can be most effectively channeled to achieve the greatest good both at home and abroad, we are writing to express our support for the UK to continue to lead the way in eradicating malaria, a preventable disease which stills kills a child every two minutes.

Over the past decade, under successive Conservative governments, British political leadership, investment, and world-leading scientific research have been at the forefront of the global fight against malaria, which has achieved a 60% reduction in deaths since 2000, and saved 7 million lives. Our investments in tackling malaria to date have been incredibly cost effective, delivering £36 in economic and social benefits for every £1 spent.

But there is still more to be done. In the last couple of years, funding has plateaued, global action has slowed, and malaria cases and deaths have stopped falling. Now COVID-19 threatens to set our hard-fought progress back by decades, as lockdown measures disrupt essential malaria diagnosis and treatment services. As the second largest international contributor to the fight against malaria, continued UK leadership and investment will be crucial in getting the world back on track over the coming years.

We strongly support our 2019 Manifesto commitment to lead the way in eradicating malaria and end the preventable deaths of mothers, new-born babies and children by 2030. The upcoming Spending Review offers an opportunity to turn this vision into a plan for delivery. As such, we must renew our current commitment to spending £500 million per annum tackling malaria until the end of this parliament.

This investment is both a moral response to global need and firmly in our national interest. Investments in malaria: save children's lives and help ensure that no one dies from a preventable and treatable disease; release the education potential of millions of girls, which this government is rightly so passionate about; strengthen our reputation as a science superpower, showcasing British expertise to the world and providing jobs at home; help developing economies to grow, thus boosting opportunities for UK trade; shore up frontline health services in some of the most vulnerable communities around the world, bolstering our efforts to tackle COVID-19 in the short-term, and building resilience in the long term, protecting us all from future health threats that may emerge. According to recent polling by YouGov, 88% of the British public believe investment in global disease prevention to be an investment in our national security.

As you said in your speech to Conference, we can have the greatest impact when all areas of British foreign policy are joined up. Efforts to tackle malaria make the most of our full suite of soft power capabilities, across development, diplomacy, business, and world-leading scientific expertise, and act as an exemplar of the FCDO's new fully integrated approach. Putting these strengths into action

against malaria will particularly benefit our allies across the Commonwealth, which is disproportionately impacted by the disease, and enable us to stand tall at CHOGM 2021, having renewed our commitment to the malaria fight.

By continuing our country's leadership and current level of investment in the fight to end malaria under the new FCDO, we can be the generation that ends this deadly and debilitating disease for good and builds a safer, healthier, and more prosperous world for all. This is Conservative leadership, and this is global Britain.

Yours sincerely,