



MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Dear Members and Supporters of the APPG on Malaria and NTDs,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2022.

In these newsletters we will be sharing updates on the work of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (APPMG) – from events to contributions in debates, from reports and publications to updates on our priorities and plans. We hope to send these out quarterly so you can stay more connected with the work of our Group and we welcome any suggestions from partners and supporters on things to feature, including any exciting news updates from the global malaria and NTD communities that we can help to profile.

The last few years have been difficult for everyone. While there has been some cause for celebration in the malaria and NTD communities, there have also been major setbacks and challenges to progress in defeating these devastating diseases for good. For this reason, the APPMG continues to exist to inform Parliamentarians and advocate for continued UK support in the fight against these diseases.

We understand that this next year is pivotal to our collective success. The Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs in June and the Seventh Replenishment of the Global Fund later in the year are key to recapturing some of the momentum needed to fight these diseases. With renewed commitment, we believe the UK can maintain its place as a global leader on malaria and NTDs. As a Group, we will do all we can to support that goal and look forward to working with you all over the months ahead.

Catherine West

Catherine West

MP for Hornsey and Wood Green and Chair of the APPG on Malaria and NTDs

AGM

The APPMG held its AGM on Wednesday 30 March 2022. We were delighted to elect four new Vice-Chairs onto the Group:

- **Afzal Khan MP** (Labour, MP for Manchester Gorton)
- **Khalid Mahmood MP** (Labour, MP for Birmingham Perry Barr)
- **Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP** (Labour, MP for Streatham)
- **Baroness Sugg** (Conservative)

Our Chair and Vice-Chairs from 2020/21 were all re-elected unanimously onto the Group.

The Parliamentarians present at the meeting agreed the focus for the work of the APPMG over the next Parliamentary year. This work includes:

- demonstrating the value and impact of UK aid on malaria and NTDs;
- raising the profile of malaria and NTDs ahead of and during CHOGM and the Kigali Summit on Malaria and NTDs;
- making the case for an ambitious UK pledge in the Seventh Replenishment of the Global Fund and supporting the work of the Global Fund;
- supporting and promoting British-backed science, research and innovation, with a particular focus on UK regional-based malaria and NTD research institutions; and
- re-establishing the close working relationships with Parliamentary groups, forums and caucuses in other countries that was developed pre-pandemic under former Chair, Jeremy Lefroy.

The minutes from the AGM will be uploaded onto our website shortly.



Members of the APPMG launching our Annual Report at this year's AGM

NEW WEBSITE

We recently updated the APPMG's website to make it more user-friendly and to help showcase some of our work and that of our Partners.

You can access the new website [here](#).



ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

We recently published our Annual Report 2020/21, which you can read and download [here](#). The Report provides an overview of the APPMG's work across the previous Parliamentary year, including the activities and events that took place, and contributions of Parliamentarians to debates in the Houses of Commons and Lords.



Cross-APPG Members with Global Fund Executive Director, Peter Sands

EVENTS

As the Parliamentary Estate has started to ease COVID-19 restrictions, we have been able to hold in-person meetings in Parliament again. We hope to hold more of these events as the year progresses.

In March, Members of the APPMG, together with Members of the APPGs on Global Tuberculosis and HIV and AIDS, met with Peter Sands, the Executive Director of the Global Fund. Peter presented an update on the work of the Global Fund and made the case for renewed investment ahead of the Seventh Replenishment. The Parliamentarians discussed the importance of the vital work the Global Fund has done to tackle malaria, TB, HIV and AIDS, including for women and girls, and discussed strategies around making the case for an ambitious UK funding commitment.

Also in March, the APPMG hosted 25 students from Oxford's MSc International Health and Tropical Medicine Course in Parliament. The students prepared and presented policy briefings on range of global health topics, selected by APPMG Members and Partners:

1. What is the intersection between malaria and AMR, and what implications does this have for role of malaria programmes in building health security?
2. What policy arguments may persuade donor countries to maintain or increase funding for research and innovation around NTDs in the current Covid situation?
3. Can climate finance enhance the resilience of global health?
4. When many public health programmes such as mass treatment are valued on their cost-effectiveness, how can the less cost-effective 'last mile' disease elimination efforts be better valued politically and economically?
5. For some diseases, control interventions can be more effective when focused in a non-human sector, but this may not have obvious benefits to those stakeholders needing to take this action (for example, while sheep

vaccination against echinococcosis can be important to prevention of transmission to humans, it is of little production value to a farmer who must be the one to take action). How can the benefits of veterinary public health interventions to human health be better communicated and achieved?

6. What are the arguments in favour of, and against, a new Pandemic Treaty as proposed by the WHO?

You can read the policy briefings [here](#).



Oxford MSc students presenting their policy briefings in Parliament

PARLIAMENTARY ACTIVITY

To coincide with World NTD Day and World Leprosy Day on 30 January, the APPMG's Chair, Catherine West MP, tabled a number of questions on disease control, research into prevention, diagnostics, treatment, and care of NTDs, and leprosy and leprosy research:

Catherine West: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment she has made of (a) the effectiveness of her Department's Accelerating the sustainable control and elimination of neglected tropical diseases programme and (b) the impact of ending that programme; and what plans she has for future support for neglected tropical diseases programmes.

Amanda Milling: The effectiveness of the Accelerating the Sustainable Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases programme has recently been assessed in the Programme Completion Review. The programme scored A+, moderately exceeding expectations. The full results of the programme, including comparisons to original targets prior to the programme closure, will be published on the government development tracker by March 2022. UK support has reached hundreds of millions of people with preventative treatments and care for NTDs. We continue to invest in strengthening the health systems of countries affected by NTDs, and through our investments in research and development.

You can also access this question in full [here](#).

Catherine West: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps her Department has taken to support research into prevention, diagnostics, treatment and care of neglected tropical diseases; and what plans she has for future financial support for research into diseases for which there is no viable market.

Vicky Ford: FCDO funded research has helped deliver innovative technologies such as new diagnostics and treatments for NTDs, for example the first rapid diagnostic test as well as the first ever oral only drug to treat all stages of sleeping sickness. For many years, the UK Government through FCDO has supported a range of so-called Product Development Partnerships, which develop novel health technologies for diseases of poverty where commercial markets fail. The Department continues to fund the Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative, DNDi, as well as the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics, FIND, both of which include products for Neglected Tropical Diseases. FCDO also supports applied research for Neglected Tropical Diseases through the Coalition for Operational Research on NTDs.

Global health remains a priority for UK Official Development Assistance. We will invest in health systems strengthening through our support for the World Health Organisation (WHO), multi-country global funds and bilateral support for health programmes within countries, including those affected by NTDs. The UK fully endorses the WHO's 2030 NTDs Road map and its focus on sustainability and delivery through health systems.

You can also access this question in full [here](#).

Catherine West: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of UK funding allocated to research on ending leprosy; and what future plans she has to support leprosy research.

Vicky Ford: The FCDO-funded Coalition for Operational Research on Neglected Tropical Diseases (COR-NTD) programme is a research platform which commissions multiple studies to improve the effectiveness of programmes to control and eliminate NTDs, including leprosy.

The results of this research are expected to define best practices of NTD control for uptake by NTD programmes and governments in affected countries and around the world, ultimately reducing the suffering caused by NTDs and securing a healthier future in which the world's poorest are free from the threat of these diseases.

You can also access this question in full [here](#).

Ahead of the Seventh Replenishment of the Global Fund later this year, the APPMG's Chair, Catherine West MP, asked the FCDO about the concerning findings of the WHO World Malaria Report 2022 and the Government's partnership with the Global Fund, which is so crucial to progress in the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria:

Catherine West: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment her Department has made of the potential implications for its policies of the findings of the World Health Organization's World Malaria Report 2021; and whether the UK Government plans to continue its partnership with the Global Fund To Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to help support the attainment of that Fund's global malaria targets.

Amanda Milling: The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) has noted with concern the increase in the number of cases and deaths from malaria shown in the World Health Organisation's World Malaria Report 2021. Cases of malaria increased by 6% from 227 million in 2019 to 241 million in 2020 and deaths by 12% from 558,000 to 627,000. The WHO estimates that about two-thirds of the increase in deaths was due to disruptions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tackling malaria is closely linked with our ambition to end the preventable deaths of mothers, new-borns and children as it predominantly impacts pregnant women and children under 5.

The UK pledged £1.4 billion in the 6th replenishment (2020-2022) to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, making us the 2nd largest donor. We look forward to reviewing the Global Fund's investment case for the 7th Replenishment in due course, which will include the Fund's global malaria targets.

You can also access this question in full [here](#).

Ahead of the Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit, the APPMG's Chair, Catherine West MP, asked the FCDO about commitments to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations to help ensure equitable access to new vaccines:

Catherine West: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, with reference to the Government's role as host of the Pandemic Preparedness Summit in March 2022, if the Government will commit £60 million per year to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations over the five-year replenishment period to help ensure that replenishment (a) reduces the development of vaccines to 100 days, (b) secures future pandemic preparedness and (c) ensures fair and equitable access to new vaccines; and if the Government will use its position as host to demonstrate global leadership and encourage ambitious pledges.

Amanda Milling: The UK Government is pleased to be hosting the Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit on 7 and 8 March to raise funds to achieve the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations' (CEPI) goal to develop vaccines against new health threats and rapidly scale-up regional manufacturing for affordable global supply. CEPI are crucial to delivering on the G7's ambitious 100 Days Mission, which the UK championed under our G7 Presidency last year: to develop safe and effective vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics within 100 days of a pandemic threat being identified.

The Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit will be an important moment to marshal support for vaccine research and development from the international community and to mobilise the resources needed on a global scale to deliver these goals. In support of the replenishment efforts, the UK recently announced our pledge of £160 million towards CEPI's 5-year strategy, building on our long-term support of CEPI – giving £276 million funding since 2018.

You can also access this question in full [here](#).

CONTACT DETAILS

For more information on the work of the APPMG, please contact our new Coordinator, **Martha Varney**, at:

 secretariat@appgmalariaandntds.org.uk

 [@MalariaNTDAPPG](https://twitter.com/MalariaNTDAPPG)

 <https://appgmalariaandntds.org.uk/>



**Malaria & Neglected
Tropical Diseases**