



MNMUK statement following announcement of UK pledge to the 7th Global Fund replenishment

***14 November 2022:** Malaria No More UK responds to the news that today, the UK government announced a pledge of £1bn to the 7th replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, more than three weeks after the replenishment conference hosted by President Biden on the side-lines of UNGA raised US\$14.25bn. The UK's commitment is £800m short of the 29% increase in funding that the Global Fund called for to get progress against the three diseases back on track – a call which G7 allies such as the US and Germany met.*

Headline: UK government steps back from historic leadership role in fight to end malaria

The pledge made today by the UK government to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria represents a significant sum at a time of great need at home and abroad. We welcome the ongoing support of this government for the life-saving work that the Global Fund – of which the UK is a founding member - delivers.

However, for the first time in the Global Fund's 20-year history, the UK has significantly reduced its financial commitment to an organisation which has saved 50 million lives since its inception. This comes off the back of the Global Fund's call for increased commitments from all donors, following setbacks in the progress against malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis due to the knock-on effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. While G7 allies such as the US and Germany stepped up to the challenge, the UK has this time stepped back.

The pledges raised this year by the Global Fund are to be commended but will not be enough to ensure we get progress against three of humanity's deadliest diseases – including malaria – back on track and will not be enough to save the 20 million lives the Global Fund was determined to fight for over the next three years.

Stepping away from its historic leadership role in the fight against malaria will have serious consequences for the fight against the deadliest pandemics confronting humanity.

It will mean a more dangerous world for us all. As a disease that still takes the life of a child every minute and that disproportionately affects women and children, malaria not only kills and destroys the childhoods of those directly affected, but it weakens the ability of already vulnerable front line health systems to withstand new diseases when they appear, meaning new health threats can go undetected.

This decision will also have major implications for British investment, trade and science. The UK has been at the forefront of developing the innovative tools needed to respond to emerging threats and accelerate the fight against malaria, something we couldn't be prouder of. But without the programmes to deliver these new tools, like those supported by the Global Fund, British inventions will sit on shelves rather than reach the children and women whose lives could be saved.

Indeed, with the 7th Replenishment target unmet, difficult decisions will need to be made as to where the funding received is allocated. The reality is that some countries will receive less support, risking further increases in the number of malaria-related deaths and cases. It also means there will not be enough funds to deploy life-saving new products that are ready to go. For example, British-backed next generation nets from the Innovative Vector Control Consortium (IVCC) in Liverpool – nets that overcome mosquito resistance and kill about 70% to 97% of the mosquitoes which encounter them¹ – will not make it to those who need them urgently.

Now more than ever we need British leadership on the global stage, standing firm with our allies to build a safer world. We urge the Government to re-join the US and other G7 allies at the top table in the battle to end malaria at the soonest possible opportunity.

Gareth Jenkins, Interim Chief Executive Officer at Malaria No More UK, said: “For the first time in a decade, we have seen malaria rates and deaths on the rise. We thank the Minister of State for Development, Andrew Mitchell MP, for having implemented his principled leadership to avert a larger cut to the UK's Global Fund pledge than was feared. However, this year the UK has decided to row back on its historic leadership in the fight against a preventable and treatable disease that still claims the life of a child every minute. While we acknowledge that the domestic and international challenges that require our government's support are considerable, the fight against three of humanity's deadliest diseases should not be deprioritised. The repercussions will not only be felt by the world – including Britain – in terms of our safety, but this decision will also impact the UK's trade and investment prospects, as well as our relationships with our closest allies. Expert, considered, and ambitious, Britain has a long proud history in the field of human health. The pandemic showed just how precarious our health security is. Now more than ever the world needs British investment and the specialist leadership that our country has reliably delivered over decades. It is critical that the UK steps back up to the plate at the soonest possible opportunity.”

Dr Jeremy Farrar, Director of Wellcome, said: “We welcome the UK Government's support for the Global Fund, which is vital to the world's ability to fight TB, HIV and Malaria and prepare for outbreaks. While significant, today's pledge marks a considerable decrease in the UK's contribution, which is worrying for the crucial work the Global Fund does. The Covid-19 pandemic has already shown the challenges of tackling infectious disease threats at the global level and set back decades of hard-won progress against diseases like TB. The UK has a central part to play in helping turn this global fight around. Investment in health is an investment in a stronger national and global economy. We call on the UK Government increase their funding contribution at the earliest opportunity and commit to maintaining their track record as a leader in global health”

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*See here for digital assets: [Canto](#)

¹ <https://malariaenomore.org.uk/sites/default/files/Best%20Of%20British%20-%20How%20British-backed%20science%20can%20accelerate%20the%20end%20of%20malaria.pdf>