



Health is Wealth

the UK government's role in achieving
the Health Millennium Development Goals



All Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health - UK
All Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (APPMG)
All Party Parliamentary Group on Tuberculosis (TB) - UK
All Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and Aids

GLOBAL HEALTH APPGS AND THE UN MDG SUMMIT

The UK, for decades, has demonstrated consistent leadership on international development and global health. The UN Millennium Development Goals Summit in September 2010 provides a critical opportunity for the coalition government to demonstrate the UK's continuing commitment to global leadership on international development.

Some progress has been made on the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) but there is still a long way to go to meet these targets and MDGs 4 and 5 (child survival and maternal health) are lagging behind the most. Progress has not only been insufficient, it has also been deeply uneven, within and between countries. The poorest and most marginalised are being left behind and these inequities undermine progress across the board.

We are calling on the UK Government to pledge to act to ensure that world leaders coming together for the MDG Review Summit in September 2010 commit to:

1) Support the strengthening of health and community systems by:

- a. Promoting health care free at the point of use for essential services;
- b. Building strong primary health care systems throughout the developing world; and
- c. Investing in training and retaining a health workforce that can provide good quality health care to all populations in less developed countries.

“Universal access to high quality sexual and reproductive health information, commodities and services including abortion, is critical to achieving progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. It is cruel and immoral to prevent women from access to reproductive health and family planning.”

Baroness Jenny Tonge, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Population, Development and Reproductive Health



Jenny Tonge

2) Deliver an integrated action plan that can achieve all of the health-related MDGs by:

- a. Establishing a comprehensive action plan to get MDGs 4 and 5 back on track, and taking a life cycle approach to services that support sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- b. Agreeing an ambitious plan to extend universal access to HIV Prevention, treatment, care and support and to tackle new threats including the rise in HIV-TB co-infection, increasing drug resistant TB and malaria, and rising incidence of neglected tropical diseases;
- c. Increasing spending on health-related social programmes such as, nutrition, sanitation and clean water; and
- d. Prioritising equity and ensuring that resources are directed towards countries and populations most in need.



“We can’t win the fight against HIV without achieving the other Millennium Development Goals. Good maternal health is critical to preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV; medicines for HIV will not work without food, so nutrition is crucial; HIV drugs should be taken with clean water, so sanitation is key; and education and improvements in gender equality are needed to prevent new infections. These are just some of the links. Every MDG is important.”

David Cairns, Chair of All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and AIDS



David Cairns

3) Increase overall financial commitments to health and not reduce funding to any area by:

- a. Encouraging all donor countries to enshrine the commitment to allocate 0.7% of GNI to overseas aid in law, and agree to allocate a minimum of 15% of this budget (or 0.1% of GNI) to global health;
- b. Supporting the development of innovative funding mechanisms to fill the health financing gap, including considering the introduction of a financial transaction tax; and
- c. Calling on African leaders to uphold their commitment to spend at least 15% of GNI on health as agreed in the Abuja Declaration.

“Having hosted the crucial 2005 summit, it is important that the UK is seen to be taking the lead so that the poorest countries have a chance of reaching the promised Millennium Development Goals.”

Andrew George, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on TB



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew George'.

To achieve these asks, the UK Government must take a lead at the UN MDG Review Summit by:

- 1) Developing a concrete and ambitious action plan to accelerate progress on MDGs 4, 5 and 6;
- 2) Using child survival and maternal mortality as measures of the effectiveness of UK aid, reporting progress annually, disaggregated by income and social group;
- 3) Supporting efforts to ensure developing states invest in their health workforce;
- 4) Calling for the international introduction of the financial transaction tax and other innovative financing mechanisms;
- 5) Committing to the UK providing its 'fair share' to the replenishment of the Global Fund and to the UN Secretary General's Joint Action Plan on MDGs 4 & 5 and encourage other donors to do the same;
- 6) Continuing to support the International Health Partnership and related initiatives.

Specific actions the UK Government can take to demonstrate its commitment to achieving the health MDGs include:

Support the expansion of the international patent pool for life-saving drugs and support non-profit based innovation and distribution models for life saving medicines.

Establish a Centre for Progressive Health Financing to provide support to developing countries wanting to remove user fees and provide health care free at the point of use.

Enshrine the commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on overseas aid in law and actively encourage other donor government to follow suit.

Disaggregate DfID's proposed £6bn health spend to reveal how much has been disbursed and how that has been spent.

“Malaria remains a global challenge. There are still over 850,000 deaths and 500 million cases every year. Yet it can be prevented and treated if the right tools can be made available to the many remote communities when they need them. Neglected Tropical Diseases, infections largely unknown in the Western world, are an integral cause of poverty and prevent progress on the Millennium Development Goals. If they can be controlled a heavy burden on vulnerable economies will be removed.”

Jeremy Lefroy, Chairman, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases

