



Department
for International
Development



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Andrew Stephenson MP
Minister of State

Stephen Twigg MP
International Development Committee
By email

Our ref

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Dear Stephen,

It was a pleasure to meet with you and committee members last week to discuss selected humanitarian situations in Africa; and global education. Your continued interest in these regions and your personal commitment to global education is greatly appreciated. I am writing to follow up on several points made by committee members during the session.

Sudan: UK Work with OCHA on Cholera Outbreak

During the session you asked what the UK is doing to work with OCHA and others on the latest Cholera outbreak in Sudan. The UK has been at the forefront of pushing for a more risk-based approach to prevent global outbreaks, including through investment in vaccinations and prepositioning of supplies. The UK has allocated £200 million a year towards GAVI (The Vaccine Alliance) to help prevent and tackle outbreaks. In Sudan, GAVI has helped to vaccinate 1.6 million against cholera in the worst affected areas.

On 6th October, humanitarian partners in Sudan launched the Cholera Readiness and Response plan seeking \$20.8 million to address the current outbreak. This is now 43% funded due to a \$6 million contribution from the OCHA managed Sudan Humanitarian Fund (SHF) to which the UK is the largest donor, and \$3 million from the UK supported Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The SHF allocated a further \$5 million to respond to the floods which caused the recent outbreak of cholera. The UK is working with OCHA to encourage further support and funding.

Zimbabwe: Sexual and Reproductive Rights Programmes

Richard Burden MP asked about DFID support to sexual and reproductive rights programmes in Zimbabwe. The Sexual, Reproductive, Health, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (SRMNCAH) programme which was mentioned in February is still running. The programme which began in 2017 is implemented through our main partners UNICEF and UNFPA as part of the pooled Health Development Fund (HDF) and will run until Dec 2020. Total amount paid for May/June 2019 disbursement was £20,910,000.00. For November 2019 cash payment, a total amount of £11,410,000.00 would be disbursed to UNICEF and UNFPA for the same programme.



Through our development partners we will improve sexual, reproductive, maternal, new-born, child and adolescent health and nutrition outcomes through:

- (i) strengthening health systems and improving service delivery through the multi-donor Health Development Fund,
- (ii) supporting Zimbabwe's capacity to prevent, detect and respond to disease outbreaks and epidemics through the World Health Organisation,
- (iii) delivering additional family planning and reproductive health services through the private sector; and
- (iv) providing technical assistance for monitoring, evaluation and research to support reforms and innovations.

The Sahel: Burkina Faso Security Measures

You asked whether any discussions have taken place between the UK and the Burkina Faso Government about security measures in place to protect civilians. As the UK scales up in the Sahel, the protection of civilians will be an important part of our work. We supported the establishment of the G5 Sahel Joint Force's compliance framework, which is designed to encourage respect for human rights and compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL), including in Burkina Faso.

The UK is also providing £4.5m in humanitarian assistance to Burkina Faso in 2019. This helps humanitarian agencies, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), to protect civilians in conflict-affected areas. The ICRC works with parties to the conflict to ensure respect for IHL, including by providing training, and directly supports civilians by providing them with basic assistance and monitoring their concerns about abuses, including through visits to those in detention. The UK also funds the UN World Food Programme and UNICEF's assistance to conflict-affected people, ensuring that they have capacity to deliver in hard to reach areas.

The UK has been encouraging the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to further develop its dialogue on civilian-military coordination with Governments in the Sahel, including Burkina Faso, to ensure that the humanitarian needs of civilians are properly factored into their military operations. The UK does not have personnel based in Burkina Faso at present, but as we build our relationship with the Burkinabe government, these issues will be at the centre of our work.

The Sahel: Funding

You asked for an up-to-date picture of funding of the work in the Sahel and the reason for any delays. We are aware that the speed of implementation of some partners' programmes has sometimes been impacted by the difficult operating environment in the Sahel. We have welcomed efforts by the European Commission to increase the pace of implementation, particularly where that has been affected by the capacity of implementing agencies, but we have been clear that this should not be at the expense of sufficient consideration of the sometimes substantial levels of risk inherent in the work of the EU Trust Fund (EUTF), not least in the areas of migration management and security.

At present, for the Sahel window of the EUTF, 101 programmes have been approved by the EUTF Operating Committee, to a total value of €1.95BN. Thus far, 284 contracts have been signed in respect of those programmes to a total value of €1.49BN, with €0.82BN of that funding paid out to date.

The independent reports of the Monitoring and Learning System (MLS) for the Sahel and Lake Chad (SLC) window of the EU Trust Fund (latest here: https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/sites/eueta/files/eutf_slc_2019-q1_report.pdf)

outline the significant results already being achieved across the four strategic objectives of the Sahel & Lake Chad window of the Trust Fund (economic and employment opportunities; strengthening resilience; improved migration management; governance and conflict prevention).

We can also assure you that all of the UK's bilateral funding is on track for the Sahel. We map the delivery chains of all our bilateral programmes and this year we are undertaking third party monitoring for our largest programme.

Cameroon: UK Aid

As you mentioned there are three separate crises in Cameroon at the moment and DFID is responding to each. This year the UK has provided £2.5 million to the UN's response in the Anglophone regions, supporting 25,000 people with essential supplies such as mosquito nets and hygiene kits and we have also provided human resources funding to the UN to establish a better presence in the region. We are currently finalising our 2019 contribution to needs in the Far North, but we have provided £22 million since 2015 to support humanitarian needs in the region, including £3.4 million last year. We are also supporting refugees from the Central African Republic in the far East, providing £1.1 million to support 48,800 beneficiaries with cash transfers this year.

Nigeria: Suspensions Against INGOs Temporarily Lifted

On 30 October the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development issued a statement that the suspension on Action Against Hunger and Mercy Corps would be temporarily lifted. The statement contained a seven-point agenda for strengthening coordination between the humanitarian community and the Government of Nigeria.

We welcome Mercy Corps and Action Against Hunger's return to providing life-saving support to people affected by conflict in the North East following their suspension by the Nigerian government. It is vital that next steps are coordinated between the authorities and the humanitarian community.

The UK will continue to support safe, timely and unimpeded humanitarian access to all conflict-affected people, wherever they are.

Best Wishes



Andrew Stephenson MP

