



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office

Rt Hon Elizabeth Truss MP
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth
and Development Affairs

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH
Tel: 0207 008 5000

Email: fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/fcdo

Sarah Champion MP
Chair of the International Development
Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

17 June 2022

Dear Sarah,

With reference to the International Development Committee hearing which took place on 18 May 2022, I am writing to respond to the questions in your follow up letter and provide clarification to some of the statements made throughout the session.

Follow up questions:

- 1. As the responsible Secretary of State in Cabinet, how will you assess whether the new Strategy is delivering what it is meant to?**

The FCDO will oversee cross-government efforts to deliver the strategy, and has appointed a Director General (DG) for Humanitarian and Development who will be accountable for the delivery of this strategy within the department. This DG will keep me informed on the strategy's progress. FCDO teams across the globe are now working to put the Strategy into action. We are refreshing the cross-government development governance framework to provide oversight, monitor our work, measure progress, share learning, identify opportunities for collaboration and drive coherence. Official Development Assistance (ODA) spending departments will remain accountable for their ODA expenditure and will report on progress in implementing the Strategy and against the Sustainable Development Goals in their annual reports and accounts.

- 2. We asked how many aid recipients the department interviewed during the development of the Strategy. Could you confirm this number and set out how the department incorporated the views of people on the ground?**

The Strategy for International Development was built on the policy and programme experience of FCDO teams who frequently engage with representative organisations, including governments and community groups. We also engaged with partner organisations who are implementing programmes to improve the lives of those in greatest

need. These included NGOs and private sector suppliers. All stakeholders brought perspective and experience from their engagement with people on the ground.

3. The document says that you plan to launch a new Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (PSVI) strategy. What will this new strategy deliver that the current PSVI strategy cannot?

The Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) has been a high priority for the UK Government since its launch in 2012. This is the first time HMG has published a PSVI Strategy, setting out publically and transparently our ambition and specific commitments around delivery. In Jan 2020, ICAI (the Independent Commission for Aid Impact) criticised PSVI for its lack of strategy since its inception. The new PSVI Strategy has been developed as a direct response to ICAI's review and recommendations, and will provide the framework for UK efforts to strengthen the international response for all affected by conflict-related sexual violence, the vast majority of whom are women and girls. It sets out the Foreign Secretary's high level of ambition on tackling the scourge of conflict-related sexual violence. The strategy outlines how we will work with international partners to support survivors, hold perpetrators to account and put an end to these heinous acts for good. The strategy details progress made to date and our response to recent international developments. Progress has been made to support survivors and strengthen accountability but sexual violence continues to be too widely used in conflict, as demonstrated by the appalling reports from Ukraine.

4. The Strategy contains a commitment to rebalance funding away from multilateral organisations and towards bilateral channels. What is the timescale for reducing funding for multilaterals, particularly the World Bank?

a. How much of the reduction in funding to multilaterals will be a result of the planned gradual decrease in EU attribution spending?

Funding reductions will apply at different times. Multilateral programmes are designed, renewed or replenished on a regular basis, all on different timescales. This new approach will be reflected in decisions we take over the SR period.

Funding of £1.4bn for the 20th Replenishment of the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA20) was announced in December 2021. Funding was reduced by 54% compared to our previous pledge to the 19th Replenishment Funding, representing an overall reduction in funding of over £1.6bn by 25/26.

UK ODA spend through the EU as stipulated in the Withdrawal Agreement will fall by over £500m by the end of the SR period.

5. According to the latest Statistics on International Development, the UK spent £7.08 billion on bilateral aid in 2021, a decrease of 25.7% from 2020/1 What plans do you have to restore bilateral funding to pre-2021 levels?

The FCDO is rebalancing its ODA investments from multilateral to bilateral channels, where we can control exactly how taxpayers' money is used to support British priorities. By 2025 the FCDO intends to spend around three-quarters of its budget allocated at the 2021 spending review bilaterally. This will include restoring our level of dedicated bilateral funding to women and girls programme this year – to £745 million in 2022/23, the equivalent of 2020/21 funding levels.

The government remains committed to the International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015 and to spending 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) on ODA once the fiscal situation allows. A return to 0.7% will allow us to scale up critical elements of our new strategy, including on climate and nature, as well as our ability to invest in countries – not only restoring level of bilateral funding but growing them.

6. You said that the Government will increase aid spending in Africa over the Spending Review period, how much do you plan to increase spending in Africa by over each of the next three years (both calendar year and financial year)?

Indicative plans for aid spend in Africa over the Spending Review period are shown below. We are unable to provide figures on a Calendar Year basis as allocations have been made on a Financial Year basis.

- Year 1 - £883m
- Year 2 - £948m
- Year 3 - £1,029m

All future plans are subject to revision as, by its nature, the department's work is dynamic. The FCDO's ODA allocations are continually reviewed to respond to changing global needs, including humanitarian crises and to ensure aid is used effectively to achieve poverty reduction. The precise way in which the FCDO spends will reflect changing demands and the speed at which different programmes are implemented and new programmes developed – whilst at the same time protecting ministerial commitments. Annual budgets can change due to fluctuations in Gross National Income projections and other ODA allocation decisions made at the Budget.

7. You confirmed that the UK has now spent £87 million of the aid that it has committed to Ukraine. What is this aid being spent on?

- a. What amount of this funding has come from the UK's ODA crisis reserve?**
- b. How much remains in the crisis reserve this financial year?**

To date the UK has spent approximately £87 million, in line with agreements reached with partners. Disbursements include:

- £20m to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), overseeing the Ukraine Humanitarian Fund (UHF); which is already helping to reach 2 million people with lifesaving humanitarian assistance, protection support and basic services.
- £25m to the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR, reaching over 140,000 vulnerable refugees fleeing Ukraine, supporting them with protection, shelter materials as well as cash assistance for the most vulnerable groups. We have also delivered 9,468 blankets and hygiene kits to the Government of Moldova, to support people displaced across the border, and we have provided equipment for up to 8 reception centres (tents, generators, lighting, tables, chairs) to UNHCR for use in Ukraine and Moldova.
- £10m to International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), helping to reach over 1.5 million people, including 32,000 who have received health care services; 111,000 who have received psycho-social support; 116,000 who have

received hygiene parcels and 27,000 who have received cash assistance. IFRC has also distributed over 1.8 million kilograms of aid; and

- £10m of our £25 million in matched funding to the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal, which is being delivered by UK NGOs

UK funding has purchased direct in-kind support to the Government of Ukraine including:

- 51 ambulances (in addition to up to 20 being donated by the NHS)
- Over 11 million medical items, including wound care packs to treat over 220,000 Ukrainian patients, over 380,000 packs of medicine (around 2.8 million doses) - including antibiotics and pain relief as well as specialist medicines, specialist brain and spinal injury equipment
- 856 generators to Ukraine to power essential services, including relief centres, hospitals, phone masts, and water pumping stations. 569 generators have been delivered to Poland, of which approximately 300 have been delivered to Ukraine so far. Others are following.
- UK supplies, including inflatable structures and heaters, for 6 reception centres in and around Lviv to the International Organisation for Migration.

8. What analysis has your department done into the potential link between corruption, illicit finance and atrocities?

FCDO has been funding research and analysis on the links between corruption, serious organised crime and political violence with the University of Birmingham, and working with RUSI, the Universities of Nottingham, Exeter and other partners on research into illicit flows. Findings are feeding into policy teams.

This includes, for example, research on illicit markets, targeted assassinations and contract killings in Afghanistan; the links between political violence and illicit finance in Russian foreign policy; lessons from irregular warfare for improved strategy and more politically informed Serious Organised Crime (SOC) interventions that avoid some of the pitfalls of more militarised approaches, among others.

In March 2021 the Office of Conflict Stabilisation and Mediation (OCSM) added a specific section on atrocity risks to the guidance on the FCDO's Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability (JACS) which was shared with geographic teams and Conflict Advisers. JACS can be an effective tool to highlight atrocity risks and identify specific preventive action.

Corrections and clarifications:

1. On the figures for bilateral and multilateral aid in the last two years.
2019: UK bilateral ODA spend was £10,404 million (68.6 per cent of total UK ODA) while UK core funding to multilaterals was £4,772 million (31.4 per cent of total UK ODA).

2020: UK bilateral ODA spend was £9,533 million (65.8% of total UK ODA) while UK core funding to multilaterals was £4,945 million (34.2% of total UK ODA)
2. Total funding for British International Investment (BII) will rise from £1bn this year to £8bn in 2025 – this includes the total amount we aim to mobilise through our British Investment Partnerships (BIP) work.

3. I confirmed that we will restore bilateral spending to 19/20 levels, spending £745 million on bilateral women and girls programmes this financial year. Whilst the spending figure is correct, we are restoring spending to 20/21 levels.
4. Nick spoke on the sustainable development goals and stated there were 264 targets. There are in fact 232 indicators and 169 targets.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Truss', is centered on the page.

THE RT HON ELIZABETH TRUSS MP
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Secretary