



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



UK International
Development

Partnership | Progress | Prosperity

Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell MP
Minister for Development and Africa

King Charles Street
London
SW1A 2AH

Tel: 020 7008 5000

Email:
fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/fcdo

Sarah Champion MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

My Dear Sarah,

16th

October 2023

I thank you and the International Development Committee for your questions for the inquiry into the FCDO's approach to Sexual and Reproductive Health on 12 September 2023. I am writing to you with responses to the Committee's outstanding questions.

- 1. What is the FCDO doing to make available menstruation products at an affordable rate or free at supermarkets serving refugee camps? Including the Za'atari refugee camp in Jordan where both Minister Mitchell and the Chair have visited.**

The FCDO does not directly make menstruation products available or subsidise them at the Za'atari refugee camp. However, the UK supports UNHCR and the World Food Programme with cash-based assistance to refugees which they can use for non-food items, such as gas for cooking and sanitation, in the camp markets and in host communities.

- 2. Have the FCDO published or will the FCDO publish updates on areas: *Ending preventable deaths of mother's babies and children by 2030* and *Health systems strengthening*? Specifically updating on measurable targets and achievements per year for the mentioned strategies.**

The FCDO provides updates on ending preventable deaths (EPD) actions in the [FCDO Annual Report](#), [International Development Strategy Annual Report](#) and the [Annual Human Rights and Democracy report](#). Individual EPD-related programmes are also regularly monitored against their results framework with annual reviews published each year on Devtracker.

Beyond this, the Department intends to publish a short EPD progress report in 2024. This includes progress against key health systems strengthening (HSS) commitments which are measured and reported as part of EPD monitoring and reporting efforts rather than under a standalone HSS framework. The report will speak to UK progress against the key actions laid out in the EPD Approach Paper and associated changes seen at the national and global level. We will look to update this in 2027 and then again in 2030 as part of the SDG review at that time.

3. Will the Minister speak with the Minister for Health about NHS funding for reconstructive surgery for FGM?

Ending FGM is a priority for the FCDO as reflected in our International Women and Girls' Strategy published this year, where ending gender-based violence is one of three core pillars. We believe the efforts to end FGM must be long-term and led by affected communities and countries.

The UK government is committed to supporting these efforts, which is why we are investing £35 million in tackling FGM through our Supporting the Africa-Led Movement (ALM) to End FGM programme. The programme is providing targeted support to grassroots African organisations and activists who are leading change from within their communities in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Senegal.

We are taking a survivor-centred approach and support individual choice for survivors to undergo surgery, but we do not fund reconstructive surgery in developing countries. I would encourage parliamentary colleagues to write to the health secretary to find out more about what is being done domestically.

4. Would the Minister extend invites to COP28 for members of the IDC?

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero are coordinating the UK Delegation to COP28. I would suggest that the International Development Committee's secretariat contact COPUKpavillion@energysecurity.gov.uk, who will be able to provide more information on Parliament's delegation to COP28.

With every good wish,
Yours,
Andrew

Rt Hon. Andrew Mitchell MP
Minister for Development and Africa