



**Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office**

The Rt Hon Dominic Raab 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, International Development
Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

10 February 2021

Dear Sarah,

I was pleased to give evidence to the International Development Committee on Tuesday 26 January. During the session I agreed to write on a number of points, I hope this letter addresses any outstanding questions.

Question 18 – Nutrition

Theo Clarke MP asked about our commitments to nutrition-related programmes. The UK has invested £3.7billion in tackling malnutrition since we hosted the first Nutrition For Growth (N4G) Summit in London in 2013. Between 2015 and 2020 our nutrition programmes reached 55.1 million young children, women and adolescent girls. The UK has been the largest nutrition donor globally over the past few years - accounting for 16% of all donor funding for nutrition in 2019.

Minister Morton spoke at the Government of Canada's virtual N4G event in December 2020 to launch the Year of Action on Nutrition and to restate our support for the Nutrition for Growth process. FCDO has worked closely with Japan since early 2018 to support their work to deliver a meaningful and ambitious Nutrition for Growth Summit in December 2021. The Department is undertaking a business planning process following the spending review settlement. We are still working through what the total reduction in ODA means for nutrition spend and no decisions have yet been made. We will update on the implications of this for any new nutrition commitment in due course.

Question 33 – CDC

You asked about the CDC's ethical framework. The policy and ethical framework for CDC investments is set down in CDC's Investment Policy¹, which is approved by the Foreign Secretary and CDC's Board. It sets out CDC's mission and broad objectives, and describes where, how, and in what, CDC may invest. This includes listing eligible countries; sector prioritisation and exclusions, and the financial instruments it may use. The Investment Policy also includes the CDC Code of Responsible Investing², which defines the Environmental, Social (E&S) and Business Integrity (BI) standards that apply to all CDC

¹ <https://assets.cdcgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/25150847/Investment-Policy-2017-2021.pdf>

² <https://assets.cdcgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/25150831/Code-of-Responsible-Investing.pdf>

investments (including anti-corruption and Modern Slavery). The Code reflects international standards and practices including the International Finance Corporation's ("IFC") Performance Standards, and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. CDC has also recently published updated policies on its requirements in relation to fossil fuels and climate change³. Both the Code and the Investment Policy are reviewed and updated every five years, when CDC's five-year strategy is agreed with the department. Both are available online via CDC's website.

Supplementing these policies CDC has a sophisticated impact framework, aligned with international best practice, to assess the development impact it expects from each investment it makes.⁴ CDC assesses six dimensions of impact through dedicated Impact Dashboards for each new investment and links this to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Its thinking is underpinned by evidence reviews and sector impact frameworks for each of its seven priority sectors.⁵ Investments are actively monitored and managed throughout their life to deliver against the impact objectives.

Questions 38 & 39 – ODA

You requested an update on our current legal obligations, grants and contracts. The FCDO is currently undertaking a business planning process, following the spending review settlement. As part of this we are in the process of assessing, reviewing these while considering the strategic priorities of FCDO and current economic realities. We will honour our obligations under the statutory instruments laid in parliament for the below:

Instrument	Laid	Approved	Made
International Development Association 19th Replenishment (IDA 19)	May 2020	July 2020	November 2020
15 th Replenishment of the African Development Fund (AfDF15)	May 2020	July 2020	November 2020
Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) Debt Relief to World Bank's International Development Association (IDA)	May 2020	July 2020	November 2020
Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (MDRI) Debt Relief to World Bank's International Development Association (ADF)	May 2020	July 2020	November 2020
African Development Bank Seventh General Capital Increase	May 2020	July 2020	November 2020
International Finance Corporation General Capital Increase	June 2019	July 2019	November 2020
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Selective Capital Increase	June 2019	July 2019	September 2019
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development General Capital Increase	June 2019	July 2019	September 2019

Question 42 – EU development programmes

Pauline Latham MP asked about the UK's contribution to EU development programmes. The UK continues to contribute to EU development programmes under the 2014-2020 EU budget and for the European Development Fund (EDF), as part of the wider financial settlement in the Withdrawal Agreement (with a declining spending tail of ODA contributions until around 2027). As a third country, we have access to all programme documents and we engage with the Commission on programming and finance aspects on projects we are committed to as part of the Withdrawal Agreement. We also retain access to governance structures for some of ODA mechanisms and funds (EU TF Africa, FRIT, ACP IF), and use that to engage and influence the programme delivery in priority areas such as

³ CDC's Fossil Fuel Policy and Guidance on Natural Gas Power Plants: <https://www.cdcgroup.com/en/news-insight/news/announcing-our-new-fossil-fuel-policy-and-guidance-on-natural-gas-power-plants/>

⁴ CDC's Impact Framework aligns with the Impact Management Project and the Operating Principles for Impact Management

⁵ CDC's seven priority sectors are: infrastructure, food and agriculture, healthcare, financial services, education, construction and real estate, and manufacturing.

migration, conflict prevention and economic resilience. The UK will not be contributing to the next EU budget (2021-27) including for EU external action. Outside of those commitments in the Withdrawal Agreement, we will be free to take decisions on where to direct UK ODA based on our own prioritisation frameworks and the wider orientations in the Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy. The level of resources no longer provided to the EU budget in support of EU development programmes will become gradually more significant over time. Future Spending Reviews will determine how these ODA resources are prioritised.

Question 43 – ODA spend by devolved administrations

Pauline Latham MP asked about the ODA spend by devolved administrations. HM Treasury are currently in the process of finalising the 2020/21 ODA allocations following the supplementary estimate and will publish these in due course. UK ODA includes Barnett given to the devolved administrations as a result of UK Government spend on ODA. As usual, FCDO's National Statistics publication - 'Statistics on International Development' will then provide a full breakdown of UK Official Development Assistance spend for the previous calendar year. The Statistics for International Development published in Autumn 2021 will provide a full breakdown of the UK's ODA spend for 2020.

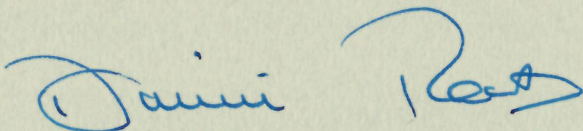
Question 56 – FGM

Pauline Latham MP asked about the FCDO's approach to tackling FGM in Ethiopia and other African countries. I was pleased to see anti-FGM campaign materials in the school I recently visited in Addis. In 2020, the UK joined the launch of Ethiopia's National Costed Roadmap to End Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) 2020-24. This Roadmap builds upon Ethiopia's success and lessons learned under the UK-supported UNICEF-UNFPA Joint Programme to End FGM. We have also been working closely with Canada, Germany and Ireland to increase the donor base for tackling FGM in Ethiopia.

From 2012-2019, UK-Aid provided technical and financial support to Ethiopia's National Strategy and Action Plan on Harmful Traditional Practices against Women and Children (2013) including FGM. We supported advocacy actions including an Ethiopian Summit following the London Girl Summit in 2014. These actions attracted support from high profile Ethiopians such as Haile Gebreselassie. In Ethiopia, support for the continuation of FGM declined from 31% in 2005 to 18% in 2016.

The UK is taking a range of approaches to support efforts to end FGM across Africa, including: working with activists, communities and experts; responding to local contexts; harnessing evidence-based solutions and finding ways to scale up efforts to end-FGM efforts. In November 2018, the UK announced a new aid package, building on the successes and learning from our earlier programme. This includes support to the UN Joint Programme to end FGM; support to the Africa-Led Movement including working directly with communities and supporting grassroots activists; strengthening data and evidence; and expanding the FCDO's end-FGM programme in Sudan. Support to end FGM is also integrated into bilateral programmes in Africa focused on women's and girls' rights, education, and violence against women and girls.

Yours sincerely,



THE RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP