



DEBATE PACK

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Economic effects of vaccinations in developing countries

Westminster Hall

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1. Background

Over recent decades successive studies have led researchers and campaigners to claim that vaccination programmes have a highly positive impact in developing countries by simultaneously reducing the health costs that would otherwise be incurred in treating serious illnesses and increasing economic productivity. The latest study to support these claims was [published](#) in February 2018 in the journal *Health Affairs*.

[GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance](#), one of the “co-authors” of the Harvard University study, [said](#):

In addition to saving millions of lives, vaccines will help prevent 24 million people in some of the world’s poorest countries from slipping into poverty by 2030, according to a study published today in *Health Affairs*. The Harvard study [...] modelled the health and economic impact of vaccines for ten diseases in 41 developing countries. As well as the economic impact, the study also estimated that vaccines administered between 2016 and 2030 would prevent 36 million deaths.

“Vaccines don’t just save lives, they also have a huge economic impact on families, communities and economies,” said Dr Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. “A healthy child is more likely to go to school and become a more productive member of society in later life, while their families can avoid the often crippling healthcare costs that diseases can bring. As this important study shows, this is enough to save millions of people from the misery of extreme poverty. To realise these figures we now need to redouble our efforts to ensure every child, no matter where they’re born, has access to lifesaving vaccines.”

In 2016, almost £116 million of bilateral aid from the UK (that is, aid that goes directly to specific countries or projects rather than to a multilateral organisation) was spent on areas related to vaccinations. This can be broken down by the type of organisation that handled the money as follows.

Bilateral aid funding for vaccinations, by recipient organisation	
£ thousands, 2016	
Developing country-based NGO	21
Donor country-based NGO	4,198
Donor Government	186
Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization	14,000
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	491
International NGO	14,843
Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Civil Society	7,576
Public Sector Institutions	495
United Nations Children's Fund	1,020
University, college or other teaching institution, research institute or think-tank	29,553
World Health Organisation - core voluntary contributions account	30,694
Other	12,637
Total	115,714

Notes: Includes all funding for DAC purpose codes 12250 (Infectious disease control) and 12263 (Tuberculosis control).

Source: DFID, Statistics on International Development 2017, 16 November 2017

This shows that the largest recipient of this funding was the World Health Organisation, with £31 million, followed by all universities, research institutes and think-tanks with £30 million.

The UK also provided £81 million of aid funding to multilateral organisations that can be attributed to vaccination-related sectors. This breaks down as follows.

Multilateral aid funding for vaccinations	
£ millions, 2016	
Infectious disease control	52.2
Tuberculosis control	29.2
Total	81.4

Source: DFID, Statistics on International Development 2017, Table A9, 16 November 2017

Definition of bilateral and multilateral aid

Although the definition of bilateral aid is that it is intended for a particular country or project, that aid can still be spent by a multilateral organisation – when this happens, it is listed in the official stats as “bilateral through multilateral”, and is included in the bilateral total.

This means that in the first table, the aid listed as going to the WHO is aid given to them **specifically for vaccination-related projects** (and it is therefore still bilateral); in the second table, the money is aid given to multilateral organisations **without a specific purpose in mind**, which they have then spent on vaccination-related areas.

Some vaccination-related funding may also be covered under other sectors; for example, in the same period, £208 million of multilateral aid funding was spent on basic health care, and £117 million on humanitarian relief assistance and services.

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GAVI

GAVI, which is an international organisation that brings together the public and private sectors “with the goal of creating equal access to new and underused vaccines for children living in the world’s poorest countries”, received a total of £214 million of UK aid in 2016. Some of this funding will have been included in the above tables; the remainder likely could not be attributed specifically to any of the vaccination-related sectors.

According to the UK Government’s [‘development tracker’](#) website:

Over the 2016 to 2020, Gavi will fully deliver the UK target to immunise 76 million children and save 1.4 million lives. Gavi targets reaching those in hard to reach areas, the poorest, and the most marginalised. Gavi has a major global market shaping role for vaccines, negotiating lower prices for low-income countries, and incentivising new vaccines such as for Ebola and Malaria.

A substantial [amount](#) of UK aid goes to the [UK Vaccine Network](#), which “brings together industry, academia and relevant funding bodies to make targeted investments in specific vaccines and vaccine technology for infectious diseases with the potential to cause an epidemic.”

2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

[**Ebola Erupts Again in Africa, Only Now There's a Vaccine**](#)

New York Times
Donald G. McNeil Jr. and Nick Cumming-Bruce
11 May 2018

[**Largest cholera vaccination drive in history launched**](#)

Daily Telegraph
Anne Gulland,
8 May 2018

[**Countries urged to harness the power of vaccines**](#)

Daily Telegraph
Anne Gulland
24 April 2018

[**Vaccinating Against Poverty**](#)

Project Syndicate
Seth Berkley
12 March 2018

[**Nigeria loses 800,000 children due to lack of immunisation, says GAVI**](#)

Vanguard
8 March 2018

[**The Full Course Argument For Investing In Vaccines**](#)

Huff Post
Orin Levine
17 October 2017

[**Nigeria battles to beat polio and Boko Haram**](#)

The Guardian
Tracy McVeigh
7 May 2017

[**Three African countries chosen to test world's first malaria vaccine**](#)

The Independent
Cara Anna
24 April 2017

[**Vaccine development needs global alliance**](#)

Financial Times (Subscription required)
Andrew Ward
25 April 2016

[A new study confirms that spending \\$1 on childhood vaccines can save \\$44 in future savings, in poor countries](#)

Quartz
Frida Garza
11 February 2016

[A drop of pure gold](#)

The Economist
13 October 2005

3. Gov.uk

[How the UK is helping to tackle Ebola in the DRC](#)

Department for International Development, Department of Health and Social Care, Public Health England

18 May 2018

A vaccination campaign to prevent the spread of Ebola is soon to begin in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) thanks to UK aid and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

The vaccine was developed in trials funded by the Department of International Development (DFID) and [Wellcome](#) after the last major Ebola outbreak in 2014.

Gavi, with DFID support, is funding the transport of vaccines to the affected areas – thousands of doses are already on the ground. The DRC government, World Health Organisation (WHO) and Médecins Sans Frontières will lead the vaccination campaign.

Three experts from the UK Public Health Rapid Support Team – two epidemiologists and a data scientist – are being deployed to the DRC imminently to assist our partners in tracking the spread of the disease so that it can be tackled quickly and effectively.

The UK is also helping to fund the rapid response through its major contributions to the UN's Central Fund for Emergencies, and the WHO's Contingency Fund for Emergencies, both of which have released \$2 million to fund surveillance, diagnosis and treatment operations. The UK is largest donor to the UN Fund and the second largest donor to the WHO Fund.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

The UK's robust response to the Ebola outbreak demonstrates how seriously we take such health threats around the world – and how quickly we act to contain them.

UK aid's support for Gavi, the global vaccine alliance, has already helped to ensure thousands of vaccines have arrived in the Democratic Republic of Congo ready for distribution, and more are on their way.

UK disease experts will this weekend be setting off to support the country's Ministry of Health, the World Health Organisation and our other partners to help stop this deadly disease.

Our contributions are helping to limit the spread of Ebola, making the world – including the UK – a safer place.

Ms Mordaunt is receiving regular operational updates and has spoken to Tedros Adhanom, the Director General of the WHO following his recent visit to the country.

DFID has also made available £1 million from its joint research initiative on epidemic preparedness with Wellcome, alongside a further £2 million available from Wellcome.

The UK-supported START Fund has also allocated £250,000 to support the public health system and provide clean water for health workers and local communities.

UN Agencies including the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), which the UK supports, have mobilised two helicopters and an aeroplane to transport experts and supplies to the affected area.

4. PQs

[Yemen: Cholera](#)

24 May 2018 | 146331

Asked by: Dan Carden

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what estimate she has made of the number of cholera vaccinations which will be available in north Yemen this year.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

In May 2018, the first phase of the first-ever cholera vaccination campaign was completed in the south of Yemen. More than 450,000 doses of oral cholera vaccine were supplied to protect vulnerable Yemenis from cholera. The UK paid for 25% of these doses. A further 860,000 doses of the vaccine have been made available to Houthi-held areas in the north of Yemen. However, the Houthis are yet to provide permission for this campaign to go ahead.

Overall, 4.5 million doses of the vaccine have been approved by the Global Task Force on Cholera Control for the whole of Yemen. These will be delivered throughout 2018, access allowing. The exact allocation of these doses between north and south Yemen is still under analysis, but nearly 90% of Yemeni districts prioritised by the UN for its cholera response are in Houthi-held areas in the north of Yemen.

[Developing Countries: Pneumonia](#)

26 Feb 2018 | 128984

Asked by: Preet Kaur Gill

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to tackle pneumonia in developing countries.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

The UK is the largest donor to Gavi, the global vaccine alliance, which provides developing countries with pneumococcal vaccine to protect against the main cause of pneumonia. 109 million children were given this vaccine between 2010 and 2016, thanks to Gavi's support, saving an estimated 762,000 lives.

DFID supports Gavi's Pneumococcal Advanced Market commitment, an innovative funding mechanism that incentivises pharmaceutical companies to produce vaccines for the world's poorest countries at an affordable cost. DFID also supports countries to build stronger health systems that can respond to existing disease burdens and emerging health issues, including pneumonia, and works to tackle malnutrition, a key risk factor for severe pneumonia.

[Developing Countries: Pneumonia](#)

19 Dec 2017 | 119642

Asked by: Sammy Wilson

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, how much her Department has allocated to the prevention of childhood pneumonia in developing countries in each of the last five years.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

The UK, as the largest donor to Gavi, the Global Vaccine Alliance, will contribute US\$168.7 million to Gavi's pneumococcal Advanced Market Commitment for the 2016-2020 period. Immunising children against major killers (such as measles, pneumonia and diarrhoea) is a public health and development best buy. 109 million children were vaccinated between 2010 and 2016, thanks to Gavi's support where again the UK was the largest donor, saving an estimated 762,000 lives. Gavi's Pneumococcal Advanced Market commitment reduces costs, which has enabled 58 countries to introduce vaccinations. The UK also supports countries to build stronger health systems that can respond to existing disease burdens and emerging health issues, including pneumonia.

[Developing Countries: Pneumonia](#)

06 Dec 2017 | 116682

Asked by: Layla Moran

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps she is taking to prevent deaths from pneumonia in developing countries in children under five years old; and if she will make a statement.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

The UK is the largest donor to Gavi, the global vaccine alliance that provides developing countries with pneumococcal to vaccinate against pneumonia. 109 million children were vaccinated between 2010 and 2016, thanks to Gavi's support, saving an estimated 762,000 lives.

DFID supports Gavi's Pneumococcal Advanced Market commitment which reduces costs, enabling 58 countries to introduce vaccinations. We also support countries to build stronger health systems that can respond to existing disease burdens and emerging health issues, including pneumonia.

[Developing Countries: Pneumonia](#)

05 Dec 2017 | 116183

Asked by: Jared O'Mara

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to help end childhood deaths from pneumonia by 2030.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

The UK is the largest donor to Gavi, the global vaccine alliance that provides developing countries with Pneumococcol to vaccinate against pneumonia. 109 million children were vaccinated between 2010 and 2016, thanks to Gavi's support, saving an estimated 762,000 lives.

DFID supports Gavi's Pneumococcol Advanced Market commitment which reduces costs, enabling 58 countries to introduce vaccinations. We also support countries to build stronger health systems that can respond to existing disease burdens and emerging health issues, including pneumonia.

South Sudan: Poliomyelitis**30 Nov 2017 | 115562****Asked by: Edward Argar**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assessment she has made of the ability of South Sudan to maintain its vaccine programme after the global polio eradication initiative in that country has been wound down.

Answering member: Rory Stewart | Department for International Development

South Sudan has been polio free since June 2009. The UK supports the eradication of polio globally through the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), which has reduced polio cases by more than 99% since its launch in 1988. In preparation for the world to be certified polio-free and the corresponding ending of GPEI funding, GPEI is supporting countries to plan for this transition and ensure that investments made to eradicate polio contribute to future health goals. Given the fragile situation, South Sudan has been selected as one of 16 countries who are receiving additional in-country technical assistance for transition planning and the UK-led Health Pooled Fund, South Sudan's largest health programme, is improving access to healthcare including routine immunisations for children. For South Sudan to remain polio-free, these efforts are focussing on increasing vaccination coverage and maintaining essential surveillance systems.

Bangladesh: Rohingya**27 Nov 2017 | 114560****Asked by: Lyn Brown**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment she has made of the availability of (a) food, (b) clean water, and (c) shelter for Rohingya refugees in the Cox's Bazaar area of Bangladesh.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

DFID has worked closely with agencies on the ground to increase the supply of food being provided to huge numbers of refugees who have fled from Burma to Bangladesh and is determined to ensure that food is

reaching those that need it. DFID is supporting the World Food Programme, which is managing food distribution. DFID assesses that current distribution has reached 70% of the Rohingya refugee population in Bangladesh.

While approximately 77% of the Rohingya refugee population have access to safe water, around a third of total water sources in the camps are believed to be contaminated. One of the largest cholera vaccination campaigns in the world is underway. The UK is the largest funder of the Gavi Vaccine Alliance, which is providing cholera vaccines for the campaign. We are also looking to increase chlorine provision and promote hygiene standards to reduce the risk of disease outbreaks. Emergency shelter materials have been provided to 90% of the refugee population and will have been provided for all refugees by the end of November, after which humanitarian organisations will upgrade shelters to improve their resilience to disasters and extreme weather.

Developing Countries: Pneumonia

25 Oct 2017 | 108627

Asked by: Chris Law

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to support programmes to tackle preventable child deaths from pneumonia in less developed countries.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

The UK is the largest donor to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which delivers the pneumococcal vaccine to developing countries to protect against the main cause of pneumonia. Between 2010 and 2016, 109 million children received the vaccine with Gavi support, saving an estimated 762,000 lives.

As part of the UK's commitment to achieving the Global Goals, DFID supports countries to build stronger health systems that are better able to deal with all causes of ill health including pneumonia.

Developing Countries: Cholera

25 Oct 2017 | 108388

Asked by: Keith Vaz

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what her policy is on international action to end cholera by 2030; and if she will make a statement.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

DFID is supportive of the ambition of the Global Task Force on Cholera Control to reduce mortality from cholera by 90% by 2030. We invest significantly in the provision of safe drinking water and sanitation services combined with good hygiene behaviour. We plan to help 60 million people gain access to water and sanitation between 2015 and 2020, building on our achievement of helping 64.5 million people gain access between 2011 and 2015. We are also supporting the delivery of

oral cholera vaccines in areas affected by outbreaks and continue to invest in research into cholera prevention and treatment.

Bangladesh: Infectious Diseases

23 Oct 2017 | 108507

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent discussions she has had with (a) the WHO and (b) NGOs on tackling the spread of waterborne diseases in Bangladesh.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

DFID has been delivering improved sanitation, safe water and safer hygiene in homes, schools and clinics in Bangladesh. DFID is providing support in Bangladesh through WaterAid and other UK agencies under the South Asia WASH Results Programme (SAWRP), and through UNICEF. Under both programmes our partners are providing improved sanitation and safe water to communities, sourcing groundwater or suitable surface water alternatives which are free from arsenic contamination. Over the next three years DFID will help 2.3m people get access to improved water and sanitation in Bangladesh.

The Rohingya refugee crisis in Cox's Bazar poses a particular challenge for the spread of waterborne diseases. DFID Bangladesh works closely with partners across sectors of the humanitarian response, including health. WHO and UNICEF are coordinating through the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) cluster, and are carrying out regular, random sampling of water points and sources in the settlement areas. One of the largest cholera vaccination campaigns in the world is underway. The UK is the largest funder of the GAVI alliance, which is providing cholera vaccines for the campaign. As part of our help to the Rohingya, we will provide safe drinking water, emergency latrines and hygiene kits for more than 138,000 people,

Vaccination: Children

16 Oct 2017 | 107266

Asked by: Gregory Campbell

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what estimate she has made of the number of children that will be vaccinated through the GAVI vaccine alliance by the end of 2020.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, aims to vaccinate 300 million children between 2016 and 2020, saving between 5 and 6 million lives. This represents 60% of the world's children. Gavi is ahead of schedule having immunised 62 million children in 2016 against a target of 50 million, and I estimate that Gavi will exceed its 300 million children target by the end of 2020.

Development Aid

20 Jul 2017 | 5254

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to tackle (a) barriers to economic development, (b) preventable diseases and (c) malaria in developing countries.

Answering member: Alistair Burt | Department for International Development

DFID is taking major steps to tackle the barriers to economic development. In January the Secretary of State launched DFID's Economic Development Strategy which sets out how the UK is stimulating growth that transforms economies and how we are helping the poorest countries to attract investment, trade more, and create millions of jobs. This will help create prosperous economies that lift people out of poverty, help countries overcome the need for aid, and accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals whilst also benefiting Britain. The Strategy can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/587374/DFID-Economic-Development-Strategy-2017.pdf

DFID is a leading global actor on preventable diseases, including malaria, TB, HIV/Aids, providing significant funding to the World Health Organisation, the Global Fund on Aids, TB and Malaria, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and running programmes across regions and from country offices.

Guinea: Measles

04 Jul 2017 | 2071

Asked by: Liz McInnes

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what assistance her Department is giving to improve routine measles vaccination programmes in Guinea.

Answering member: Rory Stewart | Department for International Development

The UK is supporting Guinea to strengthen its routine health and immunisation systems, through the UK's investment in Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. In 2016 Gavi immunised over 2 million children with measles vaccine in Guinea, and will support Guinea to introduce measles into its routine vaccination programmes in the future.

5. Other Parliamentary material

5.1 Written Statements

[UK Response to the Ebola Outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo](#)

23 May 2018 | HCWS710

[Rohingya Crisis: Flood and Cyclone Preparedness](#)

29 Mar 2018 | HCWS608

5.2 Debates

[Sierra Leone: Ebola](#)

30 October 2017 | 785 cc1236-1251

[Tackling Infectious Diseases](#)

20 April 2017 | 624 cc852-870

6. Further reading

Angela Y. Chang, Carlos Riumallo-Herl, Nicole A. Perales, et al, [The Equity Impact Vaccines may have on Averting Deaths and Medical Impoverishment in Developing Countries](#), *Health Affairs*, No. 2 2018

Seth Berkley, [The power of vaccines](#), *World Economic Forum*, 22 January 2015

[Economic benefits of vaccines](#), Gavi, 25 August 2014

(*This short presentation sets out the growing body of evidence to show the economic impact of vaccination through direct and indirect cost savings, as well as contributions to the broader economy.)

[Gavi: the vaccine alliance](#) (Webpage)

[All-Party Parliamentary Group on Vaccinations for All](#)

[All-Party Parliamentary Group on Child Health and Vaccine Preventable Diseases](#)

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