

# Press release: UK leads calls to reach most marginalised girls with quality education

Alongside the leaders of France, Canada, Kenya, Niger and Jordan, the Prime Minister Theresa May asked delegates at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to join the commitment to ensuring all girls can access 12 years of quality education and learning by 2030.

Currently, 90% of primary school children in low-income countries are unable to read or write. This next generation has the potential, energy and ambition to lift themselves out of poverty and transform their countries, yet millions of children leave school without a basic education.

Prime Minister Theresa May said:

“By denying girls an education we deny them a voice, we deny them choice, we deny them their future.

“I am calling on everyone here to join our campaign (Girls Education Challenge). To commit to the individual, collective and governmental action that is needed to break down barriers to girls’ education.

“To increase girls’ access to schools and learning. And to ensure that every girl, in every corner of the world, can access the 12 years of education they need to unleash their potential, to embrace the opportunities before them, and to help change the world for the better.”

To tackle this crisis the Prime Minister announced nine new projects supported by UK aid that will specifically target the most vulnerable and marginalised girls.

These nine projects, which part of the second phase of the Department for International Development’s flagship Girls Education Challenge, will support more than 170,000 of the world’s most marginalised girls including up to 3,500 girls with disabilities.

The UK is a world leader on education. Over the last three years DFID has spent nearly £700 million a year on education on average through bilateral programmes. Over this time (since 2015) DFID supported 11.4 million children to gain a decent education, of which at least 5.6 million were girls.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt also announced further UK aid support to help tackle the global learning crisis and better target development support.

International Development Secretary Penny Mordaunt said:

“Girls have the power and potential to play a transformational role in their

communities, societies, economies and political institutions. Yet over 130 million girls around the world are currently missing out on school.

“To tackle this crisis and reach the most marginalised girls, we need to fully understand the current global situation and identify who is being left behind. UK aid is focused on gathering the right data to help us find out what children are learning and the progress being made.

With a quality education girls can go on to get jobs and help lift their families out of poverty, helping countries move beyond aid dependence. This is a win for the UK and a win for the developing world.”

At the UNGA event, Ms Mordaunt announced UK aid support to improve education data and analysis. This will allow a better understanding of those who are in the greatest need, and help track collective progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The data gathered through this programme will be crucial in identifying where and how to target UK aid and global support, as well as monitor the progress we are making towards the Education Goal.

This will lead to the development of policies and programmes which are better able to improve and monitor children’s learning, including marginalised groups such as girls and children with disabilities, which can be tracked and monitored effectively.

#### NOTES TO EDITORS:

- Ms Mordaunt announced a £7.8 million worth of UK aid support to improve education data and analysis helping the UK and partners to better understand who is in most need and track collective progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The projects (in Ghana, Somali, Nepal, Ethiopia, Zimbabwe and Malawi) announced by the UK Prime Minister will support up to 171,723 girls including 13,146 girls with disabilities.
- Over 130 million girls around the world are missing out on school. In conflict-affected countries girls are twice as likely as boys to be out of school. Girls have the power and potential to play a transformational role in their communities, societies, economies and political institutions. In conflict-affected countries girls are twice as likely as boys to be out of school.
- In order to tackle this crisis and achieve the education Sustainable Development Goals, we need to fully understand the current global situation and where the gaps are in existing learning levels. Currently, there is insufficient data to understand who is learning and what progress is being made.
- DFID’s flagship Girls’ Education Challenge focuses on getting girls into school and learning. The first phase (GEC I) directly provided quality education for over a million marginalised girls. It has also benefited many

more girls and communities through 37 different projects in 18 countries across Africa and Asia, many operating in conflict and crisis.

- At the G7, the PM pledged an additional £187 million of UK Aid funding to the second phase of the GEC, to support 427,779 girls who we have already supported into school to continue their education through primary, secondary school and training – providing them with the opportunity to get twelve years of quality education. This announcement built on the announcement made at CHOGM in April, where the PM pledged £212 million to get almost one million girls in developing countries across the Commonwealth learning. This means that in total the UK is now supporting over 1.5 million girls around the world, through the second phase of the GEC programme.

- The UK recently committed £225 million to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) for the period 2018-2020, to keep 880,000 children in school each year for three years, train 170,000 teachers and build 2,400 new classrooms. The UK has also founded and contributed £30m to Education Cannot Wait, of funds for education in emergencies.

General media queries:

Email: [mediateam@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:mediateam@dfid.gov.uk)

Telephone: 020 7023 0600

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## [News story: Secretary of State meeting with Chief Minister of Gibraltar: 26 September 2018](#)



Secretary of State Dominic Raab said:

“I was delighted to welcome Chief Minister of Gibraltar Fabian Picardo for a discussion about the shared opportunities that lie ahead as the UK and

Gibraltar leave the EU together.

“We had a productive conversation about the importance of UK-Gibraltar ties and the vital work going on to deepen and strengthen these into the future.

“The UK is fully involving Gibraltar as we negotiate our departure from the EU, and this meeting was just one of the many ways in which we are ensuring that their priorities are taken into account.

“I look forward to working together to secure a prosperous future for the UK and Gibraltar outside the EU.”

Published 26 September 2018

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## [News story: Local authorities supported to innovate against childhood obesity](#)

The government is asking local authorities to apply to its ‘trailblazer’ programme, in partnership with the Local Government Association (LGA).

Speaking at the LGA obesity conference, Public Health Minister Steve Brine introduced the programme and invited councils to submit proposals for tackling childhood obesity in their area when the programme launches in October.

The programme forms part of the [second chapter of the government’s childhood obesity plan](#), launched in the summer, which included the aim to halve childhood obesity by 2030. One in 3 children leaves primary school overweight or obese.

All councils will be invited to apply to the programme and set out their proposals. Up to 12 local authorities will be supported to develop practical plans, and in spring next year 5 authorities will be selected for the 3-year trailblazer programme.

Trailblazer local authorities will be on the programme for 3 years. During that time they will be given expert advice to help realise their plans, as well as £100,000 per year in funding to support this.

Successful approaches to reducing childhood obesity will be considered for shaping national policy.

Steve Brine, Public Health Minister, said:

We know that when it comes to improving the health of local communities, local leaders are the real experts. We are looking for innovation, ambition and passion to tackle childhood obesity, particularly in deprived areas, where children are more than twice as likely to be an unhealthy weight.

Our trailblazer programme presents a real opportunity to bring your ideas to life with the help of dedicated support and guidance. Your proposals will not only improve the health of children in your own communities but across the country by helping us to shape future policy on childhood obesity.

Brilliant, innovative projects are already taking place across the country, but now is the time to share your views on what the barriers are and how we can go forward to tackle this issue together.

Councillor Ian Hudspeth, Chairman of the LGA's Community Wellbeing Board, said:

Unless we tackle the obesity challenge, today's obese children will become tomorrow's obese adults, whose years of healthy life will be shortened by a whole host of health problems including diabetes, cancer and heart disease.

This trailblazer programme is a great opportunity for councils to maximise their pioneering work to tackle obesity and health inequalities. We encourage local authorities to apply for this funding to tackle the obesity crisis, which is costing the NHS more than £5 billion a year.

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## **Form: Statutory Firewood Notification Scheme**

*Updated:* The online version of the notification form has been updated.

You must complete and submit a notification form for each new consignment of firewood for import.

## Go online to submit notifications

You can [notify the Forestry Commission of solid fuel \(firewood\) imports online](#). You should [enrol on the scheme](#) first.

You'll get a unique reference number for your consignment. Use this number in any correspondence with us.

## How to submit your paper form

Print the form and complete it manually, then post to:

Plant Health Service

Forestry Commission

Silvan House

231 Corstorphine Road

Edinburgh

EH12 7AT

Or, you can download and complete the form electronically or scan your manually completed form and email it to [plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:plant.health@forestry.gsi.gov.uk)

Read the full guide on [importing firewood into Great Britain](#).

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## Collection: Tree pests and diseases

There are many things you can do to prevent or minimise the introduction, establishment, spread and impacts of tree pests and diseases, including:

- learning to recognise and report pests and diseases of concern
- adopting good biosecurity practice to avoid the spread of organisms from place to place
- not bringing soil or plants back from holidays abroad

## Understand the threat to our trees

The damage to our trees, woods and forests from insect pests and organisms such as bacteria and fungi is significant. The rapid increase in movements of goods and people between countries has increased the risk of spreading pests

and diseases. They can travel hidden in plants, plant products, packaging, wood, vehicles and holidaymakers' luggage – even in the soil carried on shoes.

Some of these pests and diseases do little harm in their native environments, where predators, environmental factors and co-evolution with their host plants keep them in check. However, they can cause significant damage to trees and plants in other countries where those limiting factors are not present. Some single species of insect, fungus or bacterium can damage or kill dozens of different plant species, including trees. As well as causing economic losses for the forestry, timber and plant-based industries, they can disrupt other sectors, such as tourism, and threaten woodland biodiversity, ecosystems and native species.

## **Get notifications about tree pests and diseases**

Sign up for, and read previous editions of, the Forestry Commission's [Tree Health News](#) newsletter.

Follow the [Forestry Commission on Twitter](#).

## **Contact the tree health teams**

[Make a general enquiry about tree, woodland and forest health in England](#)

For the rest of the UK, see:

- [tree health in Wales](#)
- [tree health in Scotland](#)
- [tree health in Northern Ireland](#)

You can also find more information on [scientific research into tree pests and diseases](#).