

UK aid boost for charities fighting coronavirus

Today, International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan has announced which charities and NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations) have received UK aid funding to help fight coronavirus in the developing world.

- 40 charities and NGOs are now receiving new UK aid funding to tackle coronavirus.
- Among other projects, the funding will support healthcare systems in developing countries so they can cope with the effects of coronavirus, helping to stop the global spread and keep us all safer.
- Next week, small-to-medium sized British charities tackling coronavirus can apply for new grants of up to £4 million each.

A total of 40 charities and NGOs will receive funding from the Department for International Development's (DFID) £20 million humanitarian support package, announced last month, or the £100 million global hygiene partnership with Unilever, unveiled in March.

From 18 May 2020, up to £30 million of new grants will also be made available to small and medium-sized UK charities through the next round of the UK Aid Direct programme. Each charity will be able to bid for a grant up to £4 million for programmes that focus on tackling the coronavirus crisis.

The [Small Charities Challenge Fund \(SCCF\)](#) is also open for grants of up to £50,000 for the very best small British development charities tackling coronavirus.

Health experts have identified the weakness of developing countries' healthcare systems as one of the biggest risks to the global spread of the virus. They have also warned that if coronavirus is left to spread in developing countries, this could lead to the virus re-emerging in the UK and put further pressure on our NHS.

DFID is therefore rapidly reprioritising its programmes around the world to better tackle the pandemic. Many of these in-country programmes are currently run directly by civil society organisations, including charities and NGOs.

International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan, said:

This pandemic is having a devastating impact on people all over the world and I am very grateful to charities and NGOs for their vital work to keep people safe.

These organisations are often best placed to help those most at risk and are crucial to slowing the pandemic's spread in the

developing world. This in turn helps reduce the risk of future waves of infection globally, which could otherwise come to the UK.

British charities, such as Humanity & Inclusion, Action Against Hunger, CARE and Christian Aid, have received funding from DFID's £20 million humanitarian package, which will provide healthcare, water and sanitation, food and shelter to meet the basic needs of some of the world's most vulnerable people, including in Yemen, Afghanistan, Somalia and Africa's Sahel region.

More than £24 million has also been allocated from DFID's £100 million partnership with Unilever, one of the largest producers of soap in the world, to Action Aid, PSI, WaterAid, International Rescue Committee, World Vision, the African Medical and Research Foundation and Water & Sanitation for the Urban Poor.

Ms Trevelyan recently wrote to suppliers, including British charities and NGOs, to set out the DFID support available to them amid fears over the pandemic's impact on their operations. This included bringing forward payments and help with the ongoing costs of delivering life-saving programmes.

Plan International is also receiving support through UNICEF's Education Cannot Wait fund which has provided £5m of UK aid to support over 11.5 million children in some of the poorest and most disadvantaged areas of the globe.

Helen Thompson, CARE International UK's Head of Humanitarian Programme, said:

With DFID's support, CARE will work with communities in conflict-affected regions of Niger, Mali and Chad to prevent the spread of coronavirus and deal with the knock-on impacts of lockdown, particularly on women and girls.

From responses such as the West Africa and DRC Ebola crises, we know that strong community engagement and risk messaging is essential to stop the spread of disease. DFID's support will help us rapidly scale up work at community level with trusted messengers.

Notes to editors

- The next UK Aid Direct funding round will open to organisations with an annual income of under £10 million on 18 May. Those helping to tackle coronavirus or its impact on some of the world's poorest people will be given priority for the grants, totalling £30 million. The Small Charities Challenge Fund (SCCF) is also currently open for grants of up to £50,000 from the very best small British development charities tackling coronavirus. For more information on UK Aid Direct, including the SCCF, visit ukaidirect.org.

- Of the £20 million of new UK aid funding for NGOs announced last month, £18 million has been allocated through DFID's Rapid Response Facility, which provides urgent funding to NGOs responding to humanitarian crises and £2 million through the Humanitarian 2 Humanitarian Network (H2H) for organisations, which are improving the global humanitarian response.
- The International Development Secretary wrote this month to all DFID's supply partners to set out the support available to them during the coronavirus pandemic.
- DFID is providing £145 million for UN coronavirus appeals, including: £75 million for the World Health Organization, £20 million for UNICEF, £5 million to Education Cannot Wait, £20 million for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), £15 million for the World Food Programme, and £10 million for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA).