

Extra funding to help low income countries as refugees join NHS

- Celebration event for refugees training to become frontline NHS staff
- Over 110 refugees moving into nursing and healthcare assistant roles
- £5 million of new funding to support healthcare staff in Africa during pandemic

Refugees and people forced to flee their homes overseas are being supported into NHS roles as millions of pounds of new funding is helping low-income countries train healthcare staff, Health Minister Edward Argar has announced.

Speaking at the Nurse Support Programme Celebration and Learning Event in Liverpool, Minister Argar said that by the end of 2021/22, over 110 refugees and displaced people from the UK and abroad will have been supported into NHS roles including healthcare assistants or fully qualified nurses.

The programme's work supports UK-based refugees with health and care experience and those with similar skills in overseas refugee camps into appropriate NHS roles, following a course to assess their skill level. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) recently supported displaced people from Lebanon and Jordan to complete the course, with today's celebration event including many of the students, trainers and recruiting Trusts involved.

Separately, the UK is giving £5 million of funding to the global shortage of quality health workers and increase access to vital services for the poorest and most vulnerable around the world, including refugee populations.

Working with the World Health Organisation (WHO), Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) and the Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG), the new support will develop the future international health workforce in Ghana, Uganda and Somaliland – low-income developing countries with high levels of youth unemployment.

Speaking at the celebratory event, Health Minister, Edward Argar said:

It may be called the National Health Service, but its workforce is truly international, with over 200 nationalities represented within its numbers.

This programme is a fantastic example of innovation and cross-system working. It started with a novel idea – to support displaced people with valuable skills and experience into NHS roles. But that idea only reached fruition because of impressive collaboration and teamwork.

While we are absolutely delighted that the candidates today have chosen to work in the NHS, we know that the world is struggling to

train, employ and retain a sufficient and skilled health workforce.

I am, therefore, delighted to announce that my Department is spending £5m on the Building the Future International Workforce Programme. The Programme aims to address the shortage of quality health workers and increase access to vital services for the poorest and most vulnerable including refugee populations.

The £5 million will improve the quality and quantity of the health workforce in these countries by training more nurses, including refugees or displaced people, supporting health workforce planning to improve local recruitment and retention, and building the capacity of training institutions through NHS partnerships.

THET Chief Executive, Ben Simms said:

THET is thrilled to be partnering with the Department of Health and Social Care on this vital Future International Workforce Programme. Shortages of health workers globally are acute and set to grow, just at a time when we need them most, and with 1 in 7 of our NHS staff recruited internationally the UK has both a moral and practical stake in this. This programme sets us on a path to contribute to this challenge in ways that will benefit patients in the UK and some of the poorest countries of the world.

UK Director at Talent Beyond Boundaries, Marina Brizar said:

People move; but what makes these people special is that they are refugees moving to start their careers in the NHS and a new life in England through Displaced Talent Mobility. We are thrilled that these remarkable, talented nurses were given the opportunity to leverage their skills to secure their futures. We welcome them to the UK.

WHO Representative to Ghana, Dr Francis Chisaka Kasolo said:

The funding and partnership between WHO and the UK Department of Health and Social Care, will contribute directly to ensuring that more people benefit from universal health coverage without financial hardship, more people better protected from health emergencies, and more people enjoy better health and well-being in Ghana.

Background

- The ethical code of practice for international recruitment can be found [here](#) and the UK is not actively recruiting from any of these red list

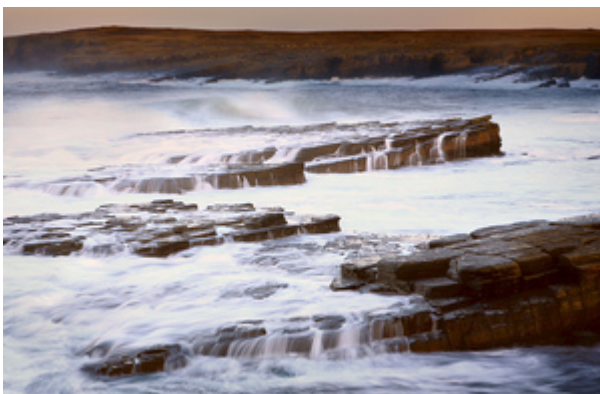
countries.

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) is a leading Government partner in the provision of health services and support in Ghana with a track record of supporting the development and implementation of health policy, including workforce monitoring, incentivisation and management.
- The Tropical Health and Education Trust (THET) is a global health organisation that works to strengthen the health workforce and the health system within which it works. It operates through a model of Health Partnerships between health institutions from the UK and low- and middle-income countries, working together to co-develop responses to locally identified health system priorities.
- The Christian Health Association of Ghana (CHAG) has a mission to provide health care to the most vulnerable and underprivileged population in all 16 Regions of Ghana, particularly in the most remote areas. It has systematic reach to the poorest and most under-served communities where it operates 183 hospitals and clinics including in the communities supporting refugees and displaced people.

[Dounreay funds PhD for legacy particles research](#)

News story

DSRL is funding research through the University of the Highlands and Islands for a critical PhD project to model the behaviour of legacy radioactive particles in the marine environment at Dounreay.



An important part of the work to close down Dounreay is to address the legacy of the radioactive particles that wash up on the beaches next to the site.

Nuclear fuel was reprocessed at the site for almost 40 years. The used fuel rods were dismantled in water-filled ponds in a process that generated metallic fragments, some of which entered the site's drainage system and were discharged to the sea in the 1960s and 1970s.

Dr Iain Darby has been working with Dr Jason McIlvenny of North Highland College UHI's Environmental Research Institute, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands, to offer a full PhD bursary in this critical subject.

He said:

Over the years we have been involved in a great deal of research into the way that the particles behave, and we are able to make predictions about the numbers of particles in the marine environment, and where we expect them to be found. However, this is an extremely important area of research for the site as we must demonstrate to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) that the issue continues to be managed in an appropriate way.

Dr Jason McIlvenny added:

The PhD bursary offers an exciting opportunity to collaborate with DSRL to explore a difficult environmental problem. The project will involve working with state of the art equipment to understand historical movements of the legacy particles and understand the environmental conditions which potentially lead to the mobilisation of radioactive particles in the marine environment.

The successful applicant will be based at the Environmental Research Institute (ERI), North Highland College UHI, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands in the far north of Scotland, and will have regular on site visits to DSRL at Dounreay.

Dounreay is also supporting the NDA PhD bursary on muon imaging at the University of Glasgow; the NDA PhD bursary on eversion and growing robots: pipe navigation, inspection and characterisation at the Queen Mary University of London; and a PhD via Gamechangers into thermal ablation of concrete as a promising decontamination technique. The research for all these PhDs will be trialled at Dounreay in challenging nuclear decommissioning projects.

For more information on any of these exciting opportunities please contact Dr Iain Darby at communications@dounreay.com. If you would like to apply for the PhD bursary please read the [information](#) and complete the [application form](#)

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UK to provide £500,000 of medical equipment to Viet Nam

World news story

The UK is to support Viet Nam in its effort to combat COVID-19 with £500,000 of essential medical equipment.



This commitment follows the donation by the UK government to Viet Nam of 415,050 doses of the University of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine in August 2021.

The UK is also one of the largest donors to COVAX, providing over £548 million to supply vaccines globally, including to Viet Nam.

Commenting on the equipment donation, Minister for Asia Amanda Milling said:

As a strategic partner, the UK stands with Viet Nam in our common effort to combat COVID-19. This is part of the UK's wider commitment to support Viet Nam and our partners in ASEAN as we work together to build back better from the pandemic.

British Ambassador to Viet Nam, Gareth Ward, added:

The only way to recover from this pandemic is through cooperation. Thanks to our partnership with UNICEF, the medical equipment funded by the UK will be procured and delivered to help those in need, save lives and accelerate Viet Nam's economic recovery.

Notes to editors:

- The UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke to the Vietnamese Prime Minister, Phạm Minh Chính, yesterday (26 October 2021). A readout of the call can be found [here](#).

- The UK has been at the forefront of the global response to Covid-19, including through investing £90 million to support the development of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. Over half a billion doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine have been delivered at a non-profit price globally, with two-thirds going to lower and middle-income countries.
- Outside of the pandemic, the UK is a close partner of Viet Nam in tackling global health challenges including antimicrobial resistance and non-communicable diseases.
- On 3 August 2021, the UK donated 415,050 doses of the University of Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to Viet Nam. In addition to this bilateral donation, the UK is one of the largest donors to the COVAX fund, providing over £548 million to supply vaccines globally, including to Viet Nam

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[British Embassy hosts Youth in Climate Action meeting](#)

On October 24th, young activists from all over the country gathered at Paseo Parque Villa Elisa to participate in the "Youth in Action for Climate" meeting, which included workshops and various activities as part of the "Road to COP26" month, organised by the British Embassy in Asunción.

This activity was carried out with the support of the Municipality of Villa Elisa, United Nations Paraguay, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, the Commission on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in Paraguay, the Global Environment Facility, the United Nations Development Programme in Paraguay, UNICEF Paraguay, UNOPS, the World Bank, and non-governmental organizations World Wildlife Fund (WWF) Paraguay, Defensores del Chaco Pypore, and Junio Verde.

The event started with a welcome from Mr. Jorge Larroza, Major of Villa Elisa. Many other representatives from government and organizations offered a few words, among them Mr. Ulises Lovera, National Director for Climate Change; Mr. Mario Samaja, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Paraguay; Mrs. Ruth Vera, Representative of the Commission on Sustainable Development Goals in Paraguay; and Mr. Rodrigo Arias, coordinator of the Defensores del Chaco Pypore Organization. Miss Universe Paraguay Nadia Ferreira, and long-standing environmental activist Carlos González from Ñemby were the MCs. Some notable guests were Congressman José Rodríguez; United Nations Development Programme Resident Representative in Paraguay, Mrs. Silvia Morimoto; and country director for WWF, Mrs. Lucy Aquino.

The British Ambassador to Paraguay, Ramin Navai, also addressed the young people appreciating their commitment to climate action and their interest in the SDG. As part of his speech, Ambassador Navai remarked:

25% of you will see the XXII century. No head of state or I will see it. You will: it is your future.

You must be involved in this conversation and governments must listen to you.

After the launch event, the Municipality of Villa Elisa inaugurated the SDG Promenade. Following this, the youth activist and many representatives joined together to display a giant "Sustainable Paraguay at COP26" flag. The day ended with workshops given by and for young people, with the support of WWF and Defensores del Chaco Pypore.

This year will be the 26th Conference of the Parties, better known as COP26, in Glasgow. The UK has taken over the presidency of the Summit in partnership with Italy and is working with all nations to reach agreement on how to tackle climate change.

In the lead up to COP26, the British Embassy in Asunción organized a series of activities and projects related to climate action and a sustainable future throughout the year, brought together as the "Road to COP26" month.

Referring to the importance of collective climate action, Ambassador Navai concluded by paraphrasing a famous quote:

'We don't need one perfect environmentalist: we need billions of imperfect environmentalists taking climate action every day.'

It is an honour to be supporting the voice of young people in Paraguay: they know what they want for their future and we have to support them.