

Guatemala joins UK-Mexico seminar to discuss access to COVID-19 vaccines

The event, co-hosted by the two countries, highlighted the importance of the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator to ensure global access to vaccines, treatments and tests to face COVID-19.

Representatives of Latin American and Caribbean countries, including Guatemala's Ministries of Health, and Foreign Affairs, and leaders from multilateral organisations, such as the Central American Bank of Economic Integration –CABEI-, highlighted the need for collaboration between governments, international institutions and businesses.

Officials from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO), alongside senior policymakers and scientists from across the region, presented their views on the COVID-19 pandemic and access to vaccines.

Finding a coronavirus vaccine and supporting equitable access to it, including for Latin America and the Caribbean countries, is a priority for the UK Government. The UK is collaborating with the international community to support the rapid development and manufacturing of safe, effective vaccines as well as treatments and tests to ensure widespread global access.

The UK has already committed up to £313 million of UKAID to support research and development for vaccines, treatments and tests to ensure new tools are available to all, including the world's poorest countries. The UK also co-hosted June's Global Vaccine Summit, which mobilised US\$8.8bn to replenish Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Gavi's work in the poorest countries is critical to sustaining immunisation coverage and bolstering the resilience of primary health care systems needed to tackle COVID-19. In recent days, a study revealed the promising results of the Oxford University vaccine Phase I/II trials, one of a number of projects supported by the UK Government.

In Guatemala, and as soon as the pandemic exploded, the UK invested in several projects aimed at tackling the impact of the COVID-19. Special assistance is provided to: 1) helping indigenous communities in Solola to cover some of their basic food needs, 2) training women leaders on health issues in Quiche, Huehuetenango and Alta Verapaz, and 3) working with Agexport to encourage municipalities to develop and implement covid protocols and economic reactivation.

UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

In order to end this terrible pandemic and kick-start our global recovery, we must make vaccines, treatments and tests accessible for all, from Britain to Brazil, Ethiopia to Ecuador, Turkey to Trinidad and Tobago, and everywhere in-between.

This crisis has challenged us like never before. But it has also shown the profound importance of international collaboration. Only by working together can we defeat this virus and build back stronger and better than ever.

Mexico Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard said:

Mexico seeks to bring the governments of Latin America and the Caribbean closer to the leading multilateral institutions in the strategy for the development and distribution of the vaccine against COVID-19, in order to guarantee equitable access. We appreciate the support of the UK in opening spaces for dialogue and building inclusive responses to global problems.

Notes to editors

- The virtual seminar consisted of three panels: The End-to-End Offer on Global Vaccine Access, including the participation of GAVI and CEPI, Self-Financing for Vaccine Access (with the IFC of the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank), and Policy and Allocation of Vaccine (with the Pan-American Health Organisation).
- The UK is one of the biggest global donors on COVID-19 to date, pledging a total of £774m of UK aid that is helping to stop the spread of COVID-19, find new vaccines, treatments and tests and save lives around the world.
- On 4 June, the UK hosted the Global Vaccine Summit, raising US\$ 8.8 billion from 32 donor governments and 12 foundations, corporations and organisations. This will immunise a further 300m children by 2025, saving up to 8 million lives and supporting the global fight against COVID-19.
- On 4 May, the UK successfully co-hosted the Global Coronavirus Response Initiative, raising \$8 billion for research and development on vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics.

[Foreign Secretary praises strength of UK-Japan partnership](#)

Press release

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab met Japanese Foreign Minister Motegi Toshimitsu at Lancaster House in London this evening



Following the meeting, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

Japan is a close friend of the UK and our key security partner in Asia.

That partnership gains its strength from a mutual belief in collective security, respect for the rules-based international system and shared economic and strategic aims.

Our meeting here in London follows on from positive discussions in Tokyo earlier this year, and on both occasions we found significant common ground.

Whether it's our collective response to COVID-19, cyber security, climate change, or support for freedom in Hong Kong – the UK and Japan stand side by side, and I look forward to an even closer partnership in future.

Further information

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[UK to send emergency relief to Lebanon](#)

Following yesterday's explosion at Beirut Port, which has left thousands injured and caused widespread destruction, the UK has today announced a package of emergency support to Lebanon.

The UK has offered to immediately deploy search and rescue experts with specially trained dogs to help find those caught up in the blast.

Following a call between the Hassan Diab, Prime Minister of Lebanon and the Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, the UK has made up to £5 million in emergency humanitarian funding available to help people made homeless by the

disaster.

The UK has also offered enhanced support to the Lebanese Armed Forces, who are central to the Government of Lebanon's response, including tailored medical help, strategic air transport assistance, and engineering and communications support.

The UK has also offered to send an EMT advance clinical advisory team who could provide initial assessment and coordination with search and rescue teams. UK International Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) offer a rapid provision of internationally accredited public health, medical and surgical teams including both NHS and non NHS experts.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said:

This was a devastating explosion which has caused enormous suffering and damage. The UK is a long-standing friend of Lebanon and the Lebanese people, and will stand with them in their hour of need.

We have offered immediate direct support including search and rescue, emergency medical assistance and up to £5m in humanitarian aid.

International Development Secretary Anne-Marie Trevelyan said:

We have all been shocked by the scenes of devastation and suffering in Beirut. My heart goes out to all those who have been affected by this tragedy and who have lost loved ones.

The UK stands ready to support the people of Lebanon in their time of need and has offered to send medics and rescue workers to treat those who have been injured.

The damage caused by the blast, which measured 4.5 on the Richter scale and was felt as far away as Cyprus (150 miles from Beirut), is widespread and likely to have long-lasting consequences. Lebanon was already experiencing a major economic crisis and dealing with the coronavirus pandemic, as well as hosting over 1.5 million refugees from the war in neighbouring Syria.

The UK already works closely with Lebanon and this partnership is focused on managing the humanitarian, stability and security implications of the war in Syria.

Since the start of the Syria Crisis, DFID has allocated just under £700 million in humanitarian and development funding to Lebanon, including providing support for sanitation facilities, education for refugees and helped provide jobs for both Lebanese and Syrian communities.

Further Information

Media Enquiries

For journalists

Email newsdesk@fco.gov.uk

Funding supports Kent communities

The money has been granted to Folkestone and Hythe District Council to support the work of the Romney Marsh hub to provide a range of community initiatives as coronavirus pandemic continues. The funds will go towards local organisations active in providing support, including foodbanks, food deliveries, purchase of personal protective equipment and printing and distributing advisory literature.

The funding forms part of the 12 grants, worth £300,000 in total, Magnox has made available to local authorities or charities where a Magnox site is located.

Gwen Parry-Jones, Magnox Chief Executive, said:

Many community groups are carrying out positive work, supporting the most vulnerable in their areas. This work is vital, and a key part of Magnox's response to COVID-19 is to help other organisations deal with the pandemic wherever we can.

In this time of national crisis, Magnox has agreed with the NDA that we should make available up to £25,000 at each site from the Magnox Socio-economic Scheme for use by local community groups on COVID-19 related activities. Magnox is committed to assisting the communities surrounding our sites, as our communities have supported us for over 50 years, and we hope this funding will go some way to supporting the essential work being delivered.

Jon Wilson, Romney Marsh Community Hub lead, explained: "We are hugely grateful to Magnox for recognising the support needed across the Romney Marsh at this time of crisis. This support has enabled us to react quickly to the needs of the 16 towns and villages that make up the Romney Marsh. Thank you Magnox!"

Councillor Jenny Hollingsbee, Folkestone and Hythe District Council Cabinet member for Communities, said: "It is truly amazing what has been achieved by the district hubs. The team at Romney Marsh have been throwing a vital

lifeline to those living in a largely rural area, who have been vulnerable and isolated due to COVID-19.

“We are extremely grateful for this financial support from Magnox and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority which will support the cost of setting up and delivering what has been such an essential service during this pandemic.”

[PM call with President Vizcarra of Peru: 5 August 2020](#)

News story

Prime Minister Boris Johnson had a call with President Martín Vizcarra of Peru.



The Prime Minister spoke to President Martín Vizcarra of Peru earlier today.

He expressed the UK's solidarity with Peru in their efforts to tackle the coronavirus pandemic and protect the poorest in society.

The two leaders, who visited the Amazon together in 2018, agreed on the importance of international collaboration in the fight against the virus, including on vaccines.

They also welcomed the recent signing of a second government-to-government agreement to support sustainable post-flooding reconstruction projects, as a sign of the ongoing strength of the UK and Peru's bilateral partnership.

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