



The Rt. Hon. Rachel Reeves MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer
HM Treasury
1 Horse Guards Road
London, SW1A 2HQ

Thursday, 5 June 2025

By email only.

Dear Chancellor,

As Presidents of 24 UK diaspora health associations – representing over 43,000 NHS and global health workers with strong ties to both the UK and countries affected by UK development policies – we see the real-world beneficial impact of UK aid and Health Partnerships every day.

This letter has been convened with the support of Global Health Partnerships (formerly THET), which has played a central role in bringing together our voices in a shared call to protect and restore the UK's commitment to Official Development Assistance (ODA) for global health. Their long-standing work supporting diaspora engagement is grounded in the same values that motivate our members' contributions both to the NHS and to global health.

An internationalist, and morally engaged UK, is one of the main reasons our members have chosen to be here, contributing to the success of the NHS locally, and sharing its example globally.

We are concerned about what the cuts to ODA and funding for global health initiatives and institutions mean for public health, health workers and health systems in the UK and globally.

Protecting global health security is a strategic investment for the NHS and UK economy

The COVID-19 pandemic showed how quickly diseases can reach the UK, with devastating consequences. The response required enormous economic resources and placed immense strain on the health system and the NHS workforce.

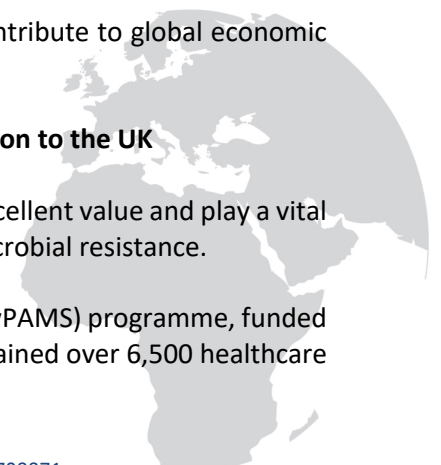
Building stronger health systems and global health security infrastructure should be viewed as an investment in the NHS, helping prevent and contain the spread of diseases before they reach our borders.

Healthy populations also underpin stable societies and thriving markets that contribute to global economic growth and UK trade.

Value for money: International partnerships bring shared benefits and innovation to the UK

UK-funded health initiatives and partnerships through UK ODA have delivered excellent value and play a vital role in supporting efforts to tackle major global health challenges such as antimicrobial resistance.

For example, the Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship (CwPAMS) programme, funded by DHSC's Fleming Fund, links NHS teams with hospitals in Africa. So far, it has trained over 6,500 healthcare





workers, improved prescribing practices in 70 hospitals and developed vital infection control protocols. UK staff involved have gained valuable global health experience, strengthening NHS skills, leadership and clinical capacity. It's a powerful example of how international partnerships deliver benefits both at home and abroad.

These same programmes enrich NHS practice by sharing skills and catalysing innovations.

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust's partnership with Jimma University Hospital in Ethiopia, for instance, has given NHS staff valuable experience in managing health conditions less commonly seen in the UK, including infectious diseases, trauma care and non-communicable diseases. Diaspora staff involved in this partnership have applied their insights to improve diagnostic and treatment protocols for conditions like tuberculosis and diabetes in the UK.

A stronger global health workforce benefits everyone

UK funding has historically helped expand and upskill a pipeline of skilled professionals who can contribute to both local health systems and, where appropriate, the NHS. One in five NHS workers are non-UK nationals. This diverse workforce is vital to delivering high-quality care and maintaining NHS's capacity. Programmes like the [Global Health Workforce Programme \(GHWP\)](#) aim to address global workforce gaps by building, optimising and reinforcing health workforces through partnerships between UK and LMIC organisations.

Our call to action

We recognise the fiscal pressures facing the UK. But failing to prioritise funding for global health would be a false economy, weakening our health security and reducing mutual benefits for the NHS, damaging international relationships, and limiting our economic potential.

We therefore urge you to:

- Recognise funding for global health as central to the Government's ambition to build an NHS fit for the future.
- Protect funding for global health in the Comprehensive Spending Review.
- Set out a clear path to restoring the UK's Official Development Assistance commitment to 0.7% of GNI when fiscal conditions allow.

As health professionals from across the diaspora, we stand ready to work with your government to protect and promote global health for the benefit of people here in the UK and around the world.

Yours sincerely,

Association of Zambia Nurses UK
Mona Siyanga, President

British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin
Dr. Ramesh Mehta CBE

British Indian Nurses Association
Marimoutou Coumarassamy, Founder and Chairman

British Sikh Nurses
Rohit Sagoo, President





British Ugandan Doctors Association

Dr Kamatamu Amanda Mbonye, President

Cameroon Doctors UK

Dr. Linda Bello, Chairperson

**Caribbean Nurses and Midwives Association
UK**

Paulette Lewis, President

Filipino Nurses Association UK (FNAUK)

Ariel Lanada, President

Ghana Nurses Association

Josephine Ababio, President

Ghanaian Doctors and Dentists Association

Dr Jacqueline Bamfo, President

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Sally Nyina, President

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Bernice Boore, President

**Malawian UK Nurses Association for
Advancement**

Charity Gladstone MBE, President

**Medical Association of Nigerians Across
Great Britain**

Dr Jide Menakaya, President

Nigerian IDP Diaspora Support Group

Kevin Obi, Chairman

Nigerian Nurses Charitable Association UK

Wendy Olayiwola, President

Sudan Doctors Union UK

Dr Nabeel Arman, Vice President

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Dr Abdullah Mawas, Chairman

**Tanzanian UK Healthcare Diaspora
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Dr Hamza Hassan, President

Uganda Diaspora Health Foundation

Mariam Aligawesa, President

Ugandan Allied Health Professionals

Justine Musiime, President

**Ugandan Nurses and Midwives Association
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Justine Nakimuli, President

**Zimbabwean Midwifery and Nurses
Association**

Jesca Gudza, Founder and Chairperson

Zimbabwe Life Project

Lucia Vambe, Founder

**Commonwealth Association for Health and
Disability**

Dr Ramesh Mehta CBE, President

CC: **The Rt. Hon. Wes Streeting MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care**
 The Rt. Hon. David Lammy MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs

