



Department
for International
Development



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Rt Hon Dr Andrew Murrison MP
Minister of State

To the supporters of the campaign regarding
the UN High Level Meeting regarding
Universal Health Coverage

September 2019

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the importance of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) for the most vulnerable populations around the world. I am replying as Minister at the Department for International Development responsible for the global health portfolio.

The Secretary of State attended the UN High Level Meeting (HLM) on Universal Health Coverage to represent the UK, along with over 100 national leaders from around the world. The meeting was a huge opportunity to galvanise global political commitment and action to drive progress on achieving UHC, ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages. The UK worked closely with other Member States to deliver a strong political declaration from the UHC HLM. It was a great success that countries committed more money for health from domestic resources, showing their own commitment to providing quality health services for their populations.

The Secretary of State delivered a statement at the HLM and announced a £600 million Reproductive Health Supplies programme that will help 20 million women and girls to access family planning, and prevent five million unintended pregnancies each year up to 2025. This shows our commitment to a fully integrated approach to UHC that must include sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and we will continue to protect and promote SRHR and gender equality in the face of growing opposition. I also agree that it also must include nutrition and immunisations, and health security to protect people from threats to their health.

The UK is well placed to show leadership on UHC. We are the second largest government donor for health and have a world-renowned track record on UHC, with our NHS providing a flagship example of quality health care that is free at the point of use. We have real expertise to share, in partnership, with developing countries.

I look forward to continuing UK support for countries around the world to achieve UHC so that the poorest and most vulnerable have affordable access to essential quality health services and to working with you all on this important agenda.

RT HON DR ANDREW MURRISON

