



Department
for International
Development



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

Wendy Morton MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

To supporters of the Unicef report on ending
preventable child deaths

February 2020

Thank you for your recent correspondence regarding the Unicef report on ending preventable child deaths. I am responding as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I welcome the Unicef UK report and its recognition of the work UK aid is already doing. This report is fully in line with the UK Government's ambition to end preventable maternal, new-born and child deaths by 2030, which we announced as a priority in October 2019.

The UK is proud of this ambitious commitment and, although we have worked on these issues for many years and with many partners, we want this announcement to galvanise action and catalyse the scale of the global response needed to save the lives of millions of women and children around the world.

We will use the UK's strong track record as a leader in health to reinvigorate global progress and work with others to push for greater investment to end preventable deaths of mothers, new-borns and children. We will lead from the front, bringing together and stepping-up our own investments behind this common goal. Universal health coverage, including access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, will be central to these efforts, as well as addressing the wider determinants of health such as healthy diets and healthy environments.

Our commitment will include a range of exciting initiatives, including funding for research and development, supporting developing countries to better prioritise their own domestic resources on highly cost-effective health interventions, and ensuring children in the poorest countries have access to the life-saving vaccines that children in the richest countries routinely receive. On this final point, The UK is a strong supporter of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and I am delighted that the UK is hosting the Gavi Replenishment Conference in June 2020. As hosts of the Replenishment Conference, the UK's priority

will be to help Gavi secure the funding it needs to deliver this life-saving work. This funding will ensure Gavi can deliver on its commitment to vaccinating 300 million more children and saving at least 7 million more lives by 2025.