

Campaigning with RESULTS in 2022

Find out about our campaigning priorities for the coming year.

2021 was a punishing year for global development efforts. Using the excuse of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government cut £4.5 billion from the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget, reducing the funding available for global nutrition programmes by some 70%, polio eradication by 95%, and education by over 25%. But even with a reduced budget, there is much for campaigners to seek to protect and prioritise in the coming year. International donors such as the UK must show commitment to poverty alleviation and tackling injustice, to ensure that people around the world can access the services they need, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

In autumn 2022, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria comes up for its regular three-year replenishment, and it is vital that international donors including the UK continue to fund the eradication of the three diseases. There has been a huge increase in the numbers of people affected, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic diverting resources from diagnosis and treatment for other infectious diseases. A continued focus will also be needed on COVID-19 vaccinations and treatments, with access to these still being highly unequal across the world, causing millions of unnecessary deaths. And a renewed focus on education is needed this year, with children not only needing to re-start learning programmes interrupted by the pandemic, but also to gain the literacy and numeracy skills that were denied to many, even if they were previously attending school. This month, we're asking you to plan your campaigning for 2022 and familiarise yourself with the issues you'll be working on.

The UK's international development programmes

We were dismayed by the Government's decision to [spend less money on Official Development Assistance \(ODA\) in 2021](#), reducing the 0.7% of national income allocated to development to 0.5% – a cut of around £4.5 billion. As the year proceeded, the impact of this cut became clearer: a reduction in global nutrition funding of some 70%, polio eradication of 95%, and education at least 25%. [Many other areas of development spending](#) were cut, including support to countries facing severe humanitarian emergencies.

At the same time, the Government's [development priorities](#) are increasingly moving towards economic growth and trade – something that campaigners will have a role in challenging if it fails to meet the needs of people living with poverty and inequality. While we were all very disappointed that Parliament [failed to protect the ODA budget this year](#), it is predicted to be [£11.4 billion](#) in the budget year 2022/23, and the UK must commit to spending this on poverty alleviation programmes to ensuring that poor and marginalised people around the world can access the health, education and economic opportunities they need, especially as the COVID-19 pandemic continues.

Priority campaigns in 2022

From what we know so far, these are the areas we think RESULTS advocates can make most difference in 2022:

1. The fight to end Tuberculosis (TB)

Until the COVID-19 pandemic, TB was the world's deadliest infectious disease. While COVID-19 has been at the front of everyone's minds, the TB epidemic has been raging in the background. In 2020, [9.9 million people fell ill with TB](#). TB is largely a disease of poverty, with [30 countries](#) making up 86% of TB cases. In many countries, health centres, protective equipment and staff were repurposed for the COVID-19 response, causing catastrophic gaps in TB services. In 2020, reported TB cases [fell by 18%](#), with many people unable to seek diagnosis or treatment. 2020 was the first year since 2005 that saw an increased number of TB deaths, with a devastating [1.5 million deaths globally](#), reversing progress towards ending TB [by approximately 12 years](#). To end TB by 2030 as set out in the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), we must fund and develop essential TB services and innovations. In 2022, we need to see a renewal of the progress that has been lost on ending TB. In particular, the [Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria](#) will need renewed funding for the next

three years. And in the run-up to the 2023 UN High-Level Meeting on TB, the [commitments made at a similar meeting in 2018](#) must be met.

2. An equitable COVID-19 response

COVID-19 has shown the need for countries to work together to ensure people have access to effective health systems. Yet access to vaccines and treatments has been highly unfair, with [just 0.3%](#) of the vaccines administered across the globe going to people in low-income countries. The [COVAX facility](#), set up to ensure equitable vaccine distribution, is facing a critical funding gap and a shortfall of around 190 million doses. Financing moments, such as the 'Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations' (CEPI) replenishment in 2022, will provide critical campaign opportunities to increase COVID-19 funding.

This year, G7 leaders committed to distributing 870 million doses over the next year. But sharing doses isn't enough. The WHO established the [COVID-19 Technology Access Pool](#) (C-TAP) in 2020 for pharmaceutical companies to voluntarily share technology and intellectual property ('IP') to enable others to produce vaccines. None have to-date. In December 2020, the Governments of South Africa and India called for a [temporary waiver](#) on IP related to health technologies for the prevention, treatment or containment of COVID-19, to enable other companies to produce them without infringing patent rights. But this has not been agreed, and there are potential COVID-19 vaccine producers all over the world that are unable to do so because of IP protection.

3. Education and learning

[1.6 billion](#) children have suffered from educational disruption as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly girls and disabled children. Even before COVID-19, progress in reducing out-of-school numbers had stagnated. And for many children who do receive schooling, a poor standard of teaching, poor curricula and lack of resources result in low educational attainment, with more than [617 million](#) children and

adolescents failing to achieve minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics. COVID-19 will push an extra 72 million children into learning poverty, stop [63% of children](#) from understanding a simple story by age 10, and stop an [extra 20 million girls](#) from returning to secondary education. To provide quality education to all children by 2030, an additional [\\$148 billion](#) per year is needed for education systems. However, the UK's funding for global education has been shrinking as a proportion of ODA since 2016, and in 2021 reduced by at least 25%. [At least one in four countries](#) do not meet international targets for public spending on education. Ambitious financing for global education is essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and 'build back better' post-pandemic.

In July 2021, the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) [raised \\$4 billion](#) in July 2021, the UK contributing £430 million. In May 2021, the [G7 Girls' Education Declaration](#) reaffirmed a target of getting 40 million girls into education and 20 million more girls reading by the age of 10 in low- and middle-income countries by 2026. In 2022, The UK Government should use its position as the leading donor to the 'Education Cannot Wait' (ECW) fund to support the provision of education in conflict and emergency situations.

Other global development concerns in 2022

Beyond these expected priorities, other issues RESULTS advocates on may need action during the year:

- **Nutrition funding** may not cover the needs identified at the 'Nutrition for Growth' Summit in Tokyo on 7-8 December, and we may have to campaign for renewed UK Government support.
- **Routine immunisation** has been hugely disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, reversing years of progress. The UK must deliver on financial pledges it made to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 2019 and to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance in 2020.
- **The UK's ODA budget** will need continued scrutiny to ensure that money is spent on the most effective programmes that reduce poverty and inequality.

Take action!

Familiarise yourself with the campaigns we expect to run in 2022. Have a group planning session on Zoom. See the Background Sheet for tips. Make sure you celebrate your efforts made during 2021!

Let us know that you've taken this month's action by emailing Campaigns Coordinator Ruthie Walters at ruthie.walters@results.org.uk