

# HOLD THE GOVERNMENT TO ACCOUNT FOR CUTTING AID

THIS MONTH, HELP US GAIN SUPPORT FOR REVERSING THE CUTS TO ODA, USING THE MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA.

Due to [cuts to the Official Development Assistance](#) (ODA) budget, the UK's efforts to reduce global poverty have been dramatically reduced in recent years. Now, it seems that the commitment to [reinstate the UK's spending](#) on ODA to 0.7% of our Gross National Income by 2024/25 is further off than ever, despite there being a [legal obligation](#) to return to the 0.7% figure. The Government faces a challenge to reduce public spending given the recent budget turmoil. We have to be realistic about the financing available for international development, especially given the cost of living crisis, the war in Ukraine, and financial instability. But cutting ODA and delaying a return to spending to 0.7% of GNI are clear political choices rather than an economic necessity. This increase would make a big difference to people living in poverty around the world, but have practically no impact on our ability to tackle the cost of living crisis in the UK.

This month, please help us show that there is continued public support for the UK's international and legal obligations to be fulfilled. Use your local media or social media networks to show the impact that cuts have had on the [UK's ability to help reduce global poverty](#). At the time of writing this action sheet, [further cuts](#) are being discussed which would be a great failure of the UK's international and legal obligations to support global poverty reduction. It is vital to demonstrate loud public support for the reduction of global poverty.

- The ODA budget has been squeezed following cuts of roughly one third in 2022. In addition, the Government is now expected to count [up to £3 billion, a quarter of the UK's annual ODA budget](#), on the costs of hosting Ukrainian refugees in the UK.
- The [speed and depth of the Government's ODA decisions](#) had a detrimental impact on programmes which had to end ahead of schedule, as numerous [reports](#) show.
- While other countries increased their pledge in full to the Global Fund by 30%, the UK has failed to make a pledge and show solidarity with global efforts to end HIV, TB and Malaria, despite saying that they support it. At the time of writing, the UK Government has still not made a financial commitment to the Global Fund's [Seventh Replenishment campaign](#).
- Investment into GPEI for polio eradication was reduced by an alarming 70% cut from the commitment made in 2019, to just £50 million over 3 years. The Government has still not confirmed it will spend this money, despite having the opportunity to do so at a recent pledging conference on 18 October.



**CHECK OUT OUR NEW SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDE AND OUR BLOGS GUIDE!**

*Yulia Malyk provides community-based health outreach services to prevent, diagnose and treat people with tuberculosis (TB) through the non-profit organisation '100% Life', one of the Global Fund's partners in Ukraine. Georgy Berdnyk had TB in 2011 and is currently experiencing TB-like symptoms. He speaks to Yulia and agrees to go for further screening.*  
*Image Credits: Ashley Gilbertson / © 2022 The Global Fund.*



## What do the aid cuts mean for the Global Fund?

RESULTS campaigners have been advocating all year for the replenishment of funding for the [Global Fund to Fight HIV, TB and Malaria](#), which since its creation in 2002 has saved 50 million lives. The Global Fund has a [proven track record](#) of being one of the most effective and inclusive of all the large multilateral health organisations, one that we are proud to advocate for. The Government expects to be able to make a pledge in the coming weeks, and it is absolutely vital that they do so. A UK pledge is still needed, and it is critical that the Government does this as soon as possible.

## What do the aid cuts mean for polio?

ODA has been disproportionately cut across development areas and one of the areas hit particularly hard is the investment in polio eradication. In 2019, the UK initially made a welcome pledge of £400 million to the [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) (GPEI) for the period of 2020-23, receiving [global praise](#). However, in 2021, the Government made a cut of 95% in funding, spending only £5 million that year. In 2022, this pledge was replaced by a new one of £50 million over 3 years – effectively a 70% cut to the original pledge. However, even this reduced pledge has not yet been confirmed, with the UK being absent from the GPEI pledging conference on 18 October. We were on the verge of eradicating the disease from the world for good, yet in the last year, we have seen a resurgence of cases and isolates, including in London. This is the worst possible time for the UK to back away from its responsibility to help fund this important global effort.

## ODA and in-country refugee costs

The UK Government is expected to [include up to £3 billion](#) out of a total budget of £11.4 billion this year on some in-country (i.e. in the UK) refugee costs. Whilst counting certain in-country refugee costs as ODA is allowed according to [OECD regulations](#), very few countries and no other G7 nations are counting the cost of supporting Ukrainian refugees as part of their international development budgets. Other countries are finding money to support people seeking sanctuary in their countries as well as keeping commitments to supporting people living in poverty elsewhere in the world.

### TAKE ACTION! This month:



We are asking you to use your social media networks or write to your local media to highlight the impact of the aid cuts, helping hold the Government accountable for its failure to fulfil its international responsibilities to help fight global poverty. It is vital to return the UK's ODA budget to 0.7% of GNI as soon as possible.



**Write a blog or media article about the harm done by the aid cuts and use social media to share it and raise awareness.**

Read our guide to [working with the media](#), and our new [social media guide](#) and [blogs guidance](#) to raise awareness about the significance of Government decisions to cut our ODA budget.

Don't forget to tag your MPs in social media posts!

Let us know that you've taken this month's action by emailing:

**Campaigns Coordinator Tanya Begum at [tanya.begum@results.org.uk](mailto:tanya.begum@results.org.uk)**