

The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

7 June 2021

Dear Prime Minister

Ahead of the G7 Summit in Cornwall, we ask you to emphasise your commitment to sustainable overseas development and announce that the UK will once again start to spend 0.7 per cent of Gross National Income (GNI) on Official Development Assistance (ODA).

As you will know, the Government first met the United Nations 0.7 per cent target in 2013, and has been under a statutory obligation to do so since the passage of the International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) Act 2015.

Sadly, in last November's Spending Review the Chancellor announced that the UK would temporarily abandon that commitment, cutting spending from 0.7 per cent of GNI to 0.5 per cent.

We are still learning what these multibillion-pound cuts will mean in practice, but we already know the impact, particularly on women and girls, will be significant. A great many projects stand to lose, particularly those looking to train much needed healthcare professionals, including nurses, midwives and doctors in training^[1]. Dr Natalia Kanem, the Executive Director of UNFPA, which stands to lose £130 million, said^[2] the lost funding would have helped prevent "around 250,000 maternal and child deaths, 14.6 million unintended pregnancies and 4.3 million unsafe abortions."

The lost billions in funding as a result of these cuts will cause direct harm to some of the world's most vulnerable people, particularly women and girls. At a time when humanity faces a global pandemic, the UK Government's obligations to some of the world's poorest should be strengthened and not weakened.

While we recognise that the Government has stated that these cuts are only temporary, no sense has been given as to what 'temporary' means in this case.

With the eyes of the world on the UK for the G7 Summit – and on you, Prime Minister – we ask that you use this golden opportunity to confirm that the UK will once again honour the UN 0.7 per cent spending commitment, and that it will do so without delay.

Yours sincerely

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^[1] Mitchell, G. and Mitchell, G., 2021. [Exclusive: Anger as government withdraws funding promised for nursing abroad | Nursing Times](#)

^[2] unfpa.org. 2021. [Statement on UK government funding cuts](#)

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