



General Election 2024 Briefing

The NHS is the biggest source of national pride in the UK, but the public is understandably concerned about its future. We believe that through increased Official Development Assistance (ODA) investment in global health programmes and equitable international partnerships to cultivate the exchange of knowledge and skills between health systems, the NHS can be improved and protected for future generations while providing a model for Universal Health Coverage globally.

The next government's opportunity

Through our partnership approach, we have seen the influence of health workers who can move seamlessly between health systems. Over the last ten years alone, we have worked with over 130 UK health institutions and we know that without internationally recruited staff, the NHS would simply stop functioning and waiting lists would spiral even further out of control.

1 in 5

NHS staff report
a non-British
nationality

1 in 3

UK doctors were
not trained in
the UK

214

Health systems
connected to
the NHS by
diaspora staff

Diaspora health workers are the diplomats who move with ease between health systems, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and skills across borders and between health systems globally. We must listen to their voices as we seek to improve health for everyone, everywhere. They are the #ExpertsInOurMidst.

The next government has an opportunity to listen to the voices of over 250,000 diaspora health workers in the NHS. Our recent research shows that more than 1 in 3 diaspora health workers in the UK are already involved in improving health in their countries of heritage, making the world a healthier place for everyone.

96%

of NHS staff believe
sharing clinical
skills globally can
benefit us all

88%

agree that we can
learn from health
systems overseas in
order to improve the
NHS

76%

of NHS staff are
interested in
getting involved
with global health

Despite the progress made in recent years, and the evidence of mutual benefits of investing in global health systems strengthening, 4.5 billion people still lack coverage for essential health services. We believe it is wrong that somebody's chances in life depend on where they are born, which is why the UK Government must commit to increased health ODA funding.

#HEALtogether

It's time to #HEALtogether

When the Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget was cut from 0.7% of GNI to 0.5% in 2021, this represented a real-terms cut of up to 40% to the global health budget. For THET alone, the cuts saw £48 million of funding for Health Partnership programmes stop overnight.

£48 million

THET health workforce training and development ODA funding cut

78,000

Healthcare professionals not trained as a result

430,000

Patients left without improved access to healthcare

With the Sustainable Development Goals already drastically off-track, cuts to UK ODA budgets have compounded the challenges faced in international development and marked a departure from the mantra that no-one should be left behind. Equitable partnerships based in respect and joint learning present an opportunity to re-build the reputation of the UK overseas.

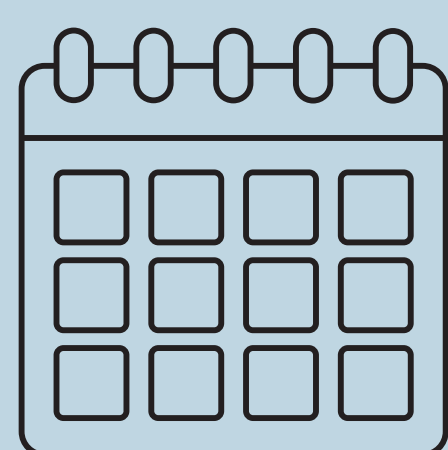
The time has come for the next government to restore respect for the UK's leading position on the international stage and increase health spending as a proportion of ODA to support, train and strengthen the health workforce to build stronger health systems in the UK and overseas.

Our key asks for the first 100 days:

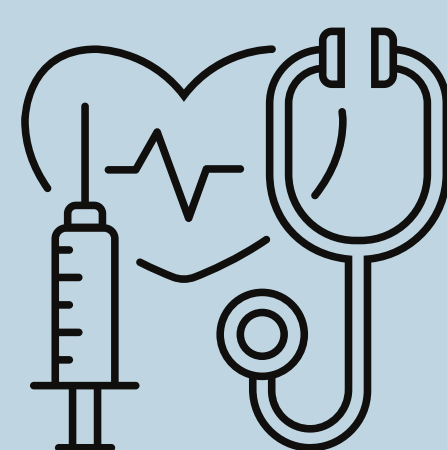
- Increase health spending as a proportion of the ODA budget and invest in supporting and strengthening the health and care workforce globally.
- Mobilise UK expertise and harness diaspora knowledge through a new NHS Global with a greater focus on equitable global Health Partnerships.
- Back the Health Partnerships approach as a mechanism for delivering better healthcare and strengthening the UK's soft diplomacy across low- and middle-income countries.

About THET

THET, soon to be re-named to Global Health Partnerships, is a UK-based international organisation that works to train health professionals across Africa, parts of Asia, and most recently, in north-west Syria.



In the past
10 years
alone



THET has reached over
100,000
health workers



Across
31
countries

Since 1988, THET has been known for our [Health Partnership](#) approach, which is a model for improving health services based on the idea of linking hospitals and clinics in the UK with their counterparts overseas. We are passionate about building partnerships of equals, and we are determined to help the NHS learn from our partners overseas while supporting health system strengthening around the world.