



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SWA 0AA

Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP
House of Commons
London SW1A 0AA

27th January 2012

Dear Malcolm

As you will know tomorrow marks the 10th anniversary of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. In its first decade the Global Fund has had a significant transformative effect on the battle against these three diseases having invested over US\$ 22 billion to help prevent and treat the three diseases in 150 countries.

With this investment the Global Fund has supported 3.3 million people receive antiretroviral treatment, helped detect and treat 8.6 million cases of TB and distributed 230 million insecticide-treated mosquito nets to families at risk of Malaria and other diseases.

As you are aware through the success of its work the Global Fund has become a significant force for good in the development world, responsible for two-thirds of the international financing provided to fight TB and malaria, and a fifth of the international financing against AIDS. An estimated 100,000 lives are saved every month as a result of the support given through the Global Fund.

But as I write to you before what should be celebrated as a momentous milestone, these achievements are under threat. At the Global Fund's last pledging conference the organization failed to meet the level of contributions necessary to progress its work. This has resulted in a freeze on new grants to those struggling to battle against HIV, TB and Malaria. The consequences of this cutback could be devastating, not only will it leave millions unprotected from three of the world's most significant killers but as Ban Ki-moon said "If we lose the ground we have gained, we will be back to square one – all that effort and investment, lost."

The price of the financial crisis should not be paid by the world's poorest. Whilst yesterday's announcement that the Gates Foundation is pledging an additional \$750m to the Global Fund is extremely encouraging it does not resolve the long term funding shortage.

Given the significance of the financial challenges facing the Global Fund, Britain's role as chair of the board and the recent change of executive leadership, I urge you and your committee to consider holding an urgent one-off inquiry to examine its current funding situation. It is right for the UK to take an active role in bringing other countries to the table to support the Global Fund. It is also important to examine the effect the Global Fund's spending freeze is having on DfID's targets for tackling HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria as well as how best the international community could come together to find a workable solution to ensure ten years of progress are not put at risk.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ivan Lewis".

Ivan Lewis MP
Shadow Secretary of State for International Development