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# A Report by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health

## Researched by Nadeem Hasan, Sarah Curran, Arnoupe Jhass, Shoba Poduval and Helena Legido-Quigley

# The UK's Contribution to Health Globally

## Benefiting the country and the world

## Summary

UK-Med  
BBC Media Action  
BHF Imperial  
Wellcome DH  
LSTM Plan UK Oxfam  
Royal Colleges ODI  
**Oxford** Royal Free Hospital  
GMC Smith & Nephew NHS  
Christian Aid NICE Islamic Relief Sightsavers  
VSO HEE GSK Moorfields UCL GMC AfGH PHE  
DH DFID HEE ET CRUK MHRA IHG Nature  
Edinburgh King's NHS GO BMA George institute  
ODI LSE UCL Save the Children  
Mott McDonald Comic Relief ODI  
Chatham House SV Life Sciences  
Manchester DH IHG Healthcare UK  
AstraZeneca PHE  
CRUK IHP

# Foreword

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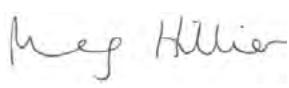
In the next few years the UK could establish itself more firmly as a leader in health and life sciences or it could begin to lose that status forever.

The UK is a global power in health. It has world class universities and research, is a global leader in health policy and international development, has strong life sciences industries, a vibrant and diverse not-for-profit sector and exercises profound influence on health services globally. However, a combination of external competition, internal policy, reduced R&D spend and poor coordination could damage all of these assets – particularly if the UK fails to respond to changing power and perspectives across the world.

We argue here that the UK should aim to strengthen its position as a global leader in health working in partnership with others to improve health globally. This will require new strategies for creating mutually beneficial partnerships globally and greater alignment internally between the four sectors of academia, commerce, government and the not-for-profit sector; as well as the integration of health into foreign policy. This approach will bring great benefits to the UK and to the world.

This report has two elements. The larger part is a mapping of the UK's footprint on health globally undertaken by Nadeem Hasan, Sarah Curran, Arnoupe Jhass, Shoba Poduval and Helena Legido-Quigley from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. This is accompanied by commentary and recommendations agreed between ourselves and the researchers.

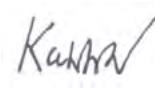
We thank the researchers for their excellent work and are also very grateful to the many leading figures in health nationally and globally who have provided support and advice for this work.



Meg Hillier  
*Chair*



Lord Crisp  
*Co-Chair*



Lord Kakkar  
*Treasurer*

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Global Health

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# Summary

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This report shows that the UK plays a leading role in health globally – in research and education, public health, healthcare, life sciences, policy making, international development, philanthropy and the NGO sector. Its global contribution is second only to the US, which it surpasses in some areas.

This strength is a remarkable asset at a time when health is becoming ever more important globally: politically, economically, demographically and environmentally. It is one of the fastest growing sectors of the world economy and will get a further boost later in the year when the nations of the world sign up to the goal of universal health coverage as part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.<sup>(1)</sup>

There is an enormous opportunity here for the UK to help further improve health globally whilst at the same time enhancing its own standing in the world and strengthening its economy. There are challenges to be met, new partnerships to be made and competition from elsewhere; but by creating better alignment and linkages between the different sectors within the UK and judicious policy making and investment the UK could bring great benefits to the country and the world.

## **Benefits for the world from leading the way on improving health worldwide through:**

- Developing global public goods in health – generating the research and knowledge that will help improve health, tackle global epidemics and the new challenge of non-communicable diseases
- Supporting other countries to strengthen their health systems and achieve universal health coverage – sharing the UK's expertise in health systems governance and delivery and in health worker education and training; whilst at the same time learning alongside other countries how to improve and develop on current practice
- Advocating for the right to health and supporting civil society globally – using all its formal and informal, governmental and non-governmental networks, links and channels

## **Benefits for the UK from strengthening its influence globally and developing its institutions, industry and economy through:**

- Helping the UK strengthen its influence and soft power as the best networked country in the world with strong relationships, global connections and influence in all parts of the world – based on a clear set of humanitarian principles, values and goals
- Promoting the UK's healthcare and life sciences industries – and helping develop a workforce and economy based on innovation, creativity and high level scientific skills and knowledge
- Developing the UK's position as a global 'health hub' – where there is major expertise in every area of health – through building on the strengths of individual institutions and industries, creating greater synergies between sectors, promoting investment, and attracting and retaining the best talent

## The rapidly changing environment

**There is a unique alignment globally of public demand for health care, investment, innovation and scientific discovery as well as global health security concerns.**

Citizens in countries from China and India to Saudi Arabia, Latin America and Africa are demanding that their Governments act to improve health care and those individuals that can afford it are buying their own. Governments are responding with large increases in health spending and venture capitalists seeking health investments are driving asset prices sky high. Growth in health spending globally is expected to rise by 5.2% annually, with Asia and Australasia expected to see growth of 8.1% a year.<sup>(2)</sup> Meanwhile the World Health Organisation, the World Bank and other leading institutions are encouraging countries to develop universal health coverage for their citizens with the likelihood that it will be a central part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

There are major advances in the biological sciences and biotechnology and in the understanding of the behavioural sciences and the social determinants of health. At the same time fast developing countries are generating new ideas about health and introducing innovations in health services and systems. There are, however, also new health threats posed by new and resurgent diseases and by bio-terrorism and other global health security concerns.

This confluence of citizens' demands, investment, science, technology, innovation and security issues is creating a situation where expertise in health and health systems will be invaluable. Existing shortages of health professionals will be exacerbated – placing enormous extra demand on education and training. This represents a huge opportunity for organisations and countries, like the UK, which have the necessary skills and resources to respond – provided they do so in way that supports local ideas and approaches and doesn't simply replicate existing (mainly European and American) models of health care, staffing and education.

### The opportunity

Universal health coverage – creating demand for knowledge and expertise

Growing investment from private and public sources – 5.2% per year globally, 8.1% in Asia and Australasia

Major advances in biosciences, biotechnology and behavioural sciences – driving improvement

Demand for health workers – requiring massive scale-up of education and training

Growing threats from disease and security concerns – requiring expertise and cooperation

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## The UK's current strengths and future challenges

**The UK has great strengths but some critical challenges.** This report describes some aspects of the UK's leading role across its different sectors. It has strong partnerships in all sectors and its research is multi-disciplinary and very broadly based. It has very strong linkages globally through the NHS – which has helped shape many national health systems; through its universities, scientific journals and Royal Colleges which conduct research and provide education and accreditation; and through its leading role in international development with DFID; foundations and the network of British NGOs. External observers note a culture of creativity, high standards of research, patient centeredness and probity.

Competition comes from traditional sources such as the USA – which is strengthening its own global health research capacity and has a highly active, health focussed philanthropic sector – and from fast developing countries like South Korea where health is a major domestic and international priority. As serious, however, are internal weaknesses: its main relationships are with a limited number of nations in a restricted geography, there is a lack of technical skill in delivering alternative models of health financing, the NHS is facing an uncertain future, more emphasis is needed on health promotion and the prevention of disease, most commercial financing is short-term and current immigration policies are discouraging foreign students and researchers.

Strengths	Challenges and risks
Partnerships, collaboration, networks	Changing world power
Education, research and development	Human resources and commercial funding
The NHS, health systems and influence globally	Uncertainties, alternative models
Commitment to international development	Focus on only a few countries with large regional gaps
Culture, creativity, standards and probity	Competition

## The UK's contribution to health globally

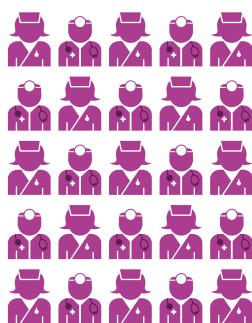
The next two pages provide a very high level snapshot of the UK's strengths in the four sectors. The full report provides a much more comprehensive mapping of the UK's contribution with further commentary on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. It is available at <http://www.appg-globalhealth.org.uk/>

## State Sector

The UK Government has shown **global leadership** in health, including



Over **25,000** health workers in Africa and Asia have received training and education through NHS volunteering



The UK is the **2nd largest donor** in the world, and the only G7 country to meet the global target of 0.7% of GNI

DFID spends  
**>£900 million**

per year on health in developing countries directly, and is one of the top 2 state funders of WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, the Global Fund and the ICRC

DFID's investments have led to over **36,000 maternal lives** saved and over **64,000 neonatal lives** saved since the 2011 strategy was launched



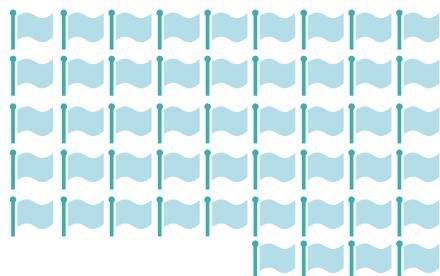
## Commercial Sector

Healthcare UK has helped the UK healthcare sector generate **exports of £749m in 2014/15 up from £556m in 2013/14**, including commercial exports in areas such as:



Since 1978, the International Hospitals Group has carried out over 450 healthcare projects to strengthen

**health systems in 49 countries**



The UK has >4,800 health life sciences companies, generating over

**£55bn per year**  
employing over 180,000 people across the UK & exporting across the world

**Europe's leading biotech sector** with the largest pipeline and attracting the most investment in Europe



GSK is the **top ranked company in the world** for improving access to medicines in low-income countries

## Academic Sector



### 3 of the top 5

universities for medicine in the world:  
**Oxford, Cambridge & Imperial College** & the **2nd largest number** of top 100 universities globally in both medicine & life sciences

A broad funding base including MRC, NIHR, Wellcome, charities & life science companies spending over **£7bn per year** on supporting medical research



### Ranks 1st

for medical research in the G7 by citation impact & over

**81% of clinical research** is ranked as world leading or internationally excellent

### 2 of the top 4 medical journals

in the world in **the Lancet** and **the BMJ**, and **Nature** the top ranked science journal globally



## Not-for-profit Sector



### Over 6,500

NGOs active in improving health outside the UK, through **grant-making, service delivery, capacity building, advocacy and research and innovative approaches**



Over 136 medical research charities funding **1/3** of all publicly funded research, supported by the UK public who rank top in the G7 and **4th in the world** for charitable donations



DEC brings together **13 leading UK NGOs** to fundraise and deliver a coordinated humanitarian response to save lives in disasters, **raising over £1.1bn** over 65 appeals since 1963



A vibrant foundation sector including the **Wellcome Trust** and **CIFF**, world leaders in **giving for health**

## Vision, goals and strategies

**The UK can build on its strengths as an outward and forward looking country, creative, open to new ideas and with great traditions of science, health and education. The report proposes a new vision supported by two goals and four strategies for doing so:**

### Vision

For the UK to be recognised as a global leader in health using the combined strengths of its academic, government, commercial and not-for-profit sectors to work in partnership with others to improve health globally.

### Goals

#### 1. To lead the way on improving health worldwide through:

- **Developing global public goods in health** – this builds on the research and education capability and expertise and its partnerships with others in international organisations.
- **Supporting other countries to strengthen their health systems and achieve universal health coverage** – this builds on the work of DFID, NGOs, Healthcare UK; NHS partnership schemes; the global networks of NICE, the Royal Colleges and other health bodies; and the role of universities in educating and training health workers.
- **Advocating for the right to health and supporting civil society globally** – this builds on the Government's role internationally as well as on the work of UK NGOs.

#### 2. To strengthen the UK's influence globally and develop its institutions, industry and economy through:

- **Helping the UK strengthen its influence and soft power as the best networked country in the world** – this builds on the many powerful historical links around the world (including the Commonwealth, Europe and the G7); its role in the World Health Organisation and other international bodies and needs to extend further into the fast developing areas of the world.
- **Promoting the UK's healthcare and life sciences industries** – this builds on the current successful approaches including the *Strategy for UK Life Sciences*; Healthcare UK; The Academic Health Science Networks, 'Cell Therapy Catapult' and other collaborative initiatives; and new ventures including Med-City and the Northern Health Science Alliance.
- **Developing the UK's position as a global 'health hub'** – this builds on the many strengths across all the sectors identified in this report.

### Strategies:

- 1. Create much greater alignment and synergy between the different sectors concerned with health**
  - This already happens through some of the ways identified above but real barriers remain.
- 2. Work on health globally in a spirit of mutual learning and co-development**
  - This recognises both the shifting of power and perspectives in the world and the need for the UK, for all its strengths, to improve and adapt its own services and learn from others.
- 3. Create a programme of support for universal health coverage which can be offered to other countries**
  - This builds on existing development policies but make full use of the enormous expertise in health systems and the education and training of health workers.
- 4. Adapt the Government's foreign, domestic and economic policy to support these goals**
  - This recognises that health needs to be part of foreign and domestic as well as economic and development policy – and seen as contributing to the UK acting “as a serious force for good as the world continues to change”.<sup>(3)</sup>

### Recommendations

These recommendations are designed both for Government and for leaders in every sector concerned with health. We recommend that:

1. The Government creates and adopts a new vision and strategic approach to health – building on the existing '*Health is Global*' strategy and other policies and which incorporates the goals and strategies identified here.
2. The Government, commercial enterprises and the whole health sector actively work together to develop the UK as a global ‘health hub’ – where there is major expertise in every area of health – and develop their links and networks throughout the globe, not only in the UK’s traditional areas of influence, so as to establish the UK as a respected global source of health expertise.
3. The Government as well as research institutes and foundations continue their support for the development of capacity and capability in science, research and health in other countries and, in recognition of changing world power and perspectives, link this with overt and clear support for mutual learning and co-development.
4. The Government, Departments of Health, International Development, Business, Innovation & Skills and Education work with universities, the NHS, commercial enterprises, NGOs and other health bodies to determine how best to support health system strengthening, universal health coverage and health worker education and training globally.
5. The NHS, both directly and through Health Education England and the equivalents in the other UK countries, actively supports international volunteering and the education and training of UK healthcare and development workers abroad.

6. Government, academia, foundations, the commercial sector and the NHS continue to support the current *Strategy for UK Life Sciences*, widen its scope and develop its links with Healthcare UK.
7. The Research Councils and other funding bodies continue to develop the way they work together and establish some Grand Challenges to promote the UK's role in health and related disciplines in a changing world.
8. The NHS, local authorities and their partners recognise the major role they have in influencing health policy and developments around the world, continue to improve health and care services and develop new and much stronger ways to promote health, prevent disease and develop a health creating society.
9. UK NGOs concerned with health and its wider determinants work together to support long-term international partnerships, develop civil society and the capability to run services, and advocate for health and access to health care globally.
10. The Government reviews immigration policy so as to enable universities, research institutes and other science and health-based organisations to recruit talent globally and provide education and training services effectively in health.

## References

1. United Nations. Zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda. (2015)
2. Deloitte. 2015 Global health care outlook: Common goals, competing priorities. (2015)
3. House of Lords Select Committee on Soft Power and the UK's Influence. Persuasion and Power in the Modern World. (2014)

# Acknowledgements

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This Report was researched by Nadeem Hasan, Sarah Curran, Arnoupe Jhass, Shoba Poduval and Helena Legido-Quigley from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

Lord Crisp, Lord Kakkar and Meg Hillier MP worked with the researchers on this report. A full list of their interests can be found in the Register of Lords' Interests and the Register of Members' interests:

<http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/standards-and-interests/register-of-lords-interests/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmregmem.htm>

The illustrations in the full report were drawn by Claire Greszczuk and Thomas Bannister.

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Copies of the full report may be downloaded from <http://www.appg-globalhealth.org.uk/>

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