**Letter template for contacting your MP about cuts to UK Aid – January 2021**

Thank you for using this template to write to your MP about the government’s [intention to cut the aid budget](https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2020/11/why-the-uk-government-is-wrong-to-cut-overseas-aid/).

You can find your MP and their contact details at [members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP](https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP)

We’d love to hear about any response you get. Please share it with us at campaigns@tearfund.org

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Dear [MP name],

Happy new year!

I wanted to write to you now at the beginning of 2021 as it feels like a critical point in history. We have the hope of the vaccines and the promise of a path out of Covid-19. As the world works to recover and rebuild, I think that it is even more important that the UK shows leadership by standing alongside the world’s poorest and most vulnerable communities.

This year we are well positioned to do that, as the UK will be hosting both the G7 and the UN climate talks (COP26). I’m looking to you as my MP to urge the government to make this a historic year for all the right reasons.

I was deeply concerned to hear about [Rishi Sunak’s decision to cut the aid budget](https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/foreign-aid-budget-cut-rishi-sunak-b1761670.html) from 0.7 per cent of GNI to 0.5 per cent. We are obviously in extraordinary times because of Covid-19, and I am not underestimating the pressure that our country’s finances are under.

But there are a number of reasons why I believe this to be the wrong decision and why I’m asking for your help to prevent this.

1. All the major parties promised to maintain the commitment to spend 0.7 per cent of GNI on UK aid in their 2019 manifestos. This was widely supported by the electorate. Cutting the aid budget breaks this promise to voters and to the world’s poorest people.
2. The available UK aid budget already grows and shrinks as it is linked to GNI. In 2020, £2.9 billion was cut from the aid budget because of the economic ramifications of the pandemic. Dropping the 0.7 per cent commitment would amount to a double cut.
3. UK aid is something we can celebrate. It is estimated that UK aid saves a life every two minutes. Together we have helped provide millions of people with hope. More than 11.3 million children have been [given access to education](https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2020/11/why-the-uk-government-is-wrong-to-cut-overseas-aid/). UK aid has also [provided vaccinations to more than 67 million children](https://www.tearfund.org/stories/2020/11/why-the-uk-government-is-wrong-to-cut-overseas-aid/) in the last five years alone.
4. That work is even more crucial now as Covid-19 risks undoing the progress we’ve made. Unicef UK has said, ‘Vaccines can’t distribute themselves,’ and UK aid support for strong health systems is critical to vaccine roll-out. And of course we also know that no one is safe from Covid-19 until everyone is safe.
5. This year we will host the G7, but these cuts do not show us in a leadership role at a time when the level of humanitarian need is greatest. The same is true for our leadership of COP26 and tackling climate change. US President Joe Biden said that effective foreign policy relies ‘not only on the example of our power but on the power of our example’.

As your constituent, I am asking you to please:

* Write to the Prime Minister calling on him to protect the 0.7 per cent aid target.
* Vote against any legislation that will reduce or revoke the 0.7 per cent aid target.
* Speak out against these cuts in Parliament.

I hope that you will agree with me that cutting our aid budget is the wrong action to take in a pandemic and the wrong message to send ahead of the UK hosting the G7 and COP26 this year.

Thank you for considering this: I look forward to hearing from you.

[Include your name and address so that the MP knows you are a constituent]