Written evidence submitted by PATH

About PATH

PATH is an internationally operating nonprofit organisation based in the United States. PATH’s mission is to improve the health of people around the world by advancing technologies, strengthening systems, and encouraging healthy behaviors. For over 35 years, PATH has worked with partners from the public, private, nonprofit, and philanthropic sectors to develop and deliver innovative health technologies and solutions to maximize public health impact.

Learn more at www.path.org.

Summary

- Innovation saves lives. Globally, new vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, and other health innovations have led to 4.2 million fewer child deaths in 2013 compared to 1990.\(^1\) Investment in innovation is critical to developing the next generation of technological and social interventions that can prevent and treat existing and emerging global health threats. However, major challenges such as antimicrobial drug resistance, and the health burden imposed by poverty, remain far too high.
- The United Kingdom is a leader in supporting innovation as an important part of its international development strategy. The UK Department for International Development (DfID) should be lauded for its approach to supporting innovative research models and financing mechanisms such as product development partnerships (PDPs); the Advanced Market Commitment (AMC); and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; which have helped to accelerate the development and introduction of lifesaving global health tools.
- It is essential that the UK government fully support the inclusion of robust research and innovation indicators in the post-2015 agenda in order to measure progress towards economic and social development for all. The post-2015 development agenda must retain a strong focus on eliminating poverty-related diseases and conditions and build on previous achievements to ensure that healthy lives and access to health services can be achieved in an equitable and sustainable way, leaving no one behind.
- We believe the UK government should use its leadership position as a preeminent and longstanding funder of innovation, particularly for global health, to influence other funders to ensure this important area is prioritised and funded as part of their international development agendas.
- As the International Development Committee considers the future of the United Kingdom’s approach to development, we encourage DfID to continue to strengthen its links with other UK

government departments and institutions including the private sector, which recognise the impact of innovation as a driver of economic and social development, and the value of working across sectors.

Innovation saves lives.

1. Disrupting the cycle of poor health is at the core of any sustainable development and poverty elimination strategy. Health innovations can drive massive improvements in health worldwide. PATH works across five platforms—vaccines, drugs, diagnostics, devices, and system and service innovations—to advance hundreds of technological and social service interventions. To take these innovations to scale, we work with partners in the private sector, funders, and governments to deliver measurable results and achieve impact.

2. Investments made by the United Kingdom and other governments, philanthropic organisations, and the private sector over the past three decades have enabled PATH, in collaboration with partners from the public, private, and academic sectors, to advance a number of new innovations. Among them are new and improved vaccines for meningitis A and Japanese encephalitis, improved drugs against malaria, diagnostics and testing platforms for infectious diseases such as malaria and hepatitis B, and safe injection technologies that help to prevent millions of new blood-borne infections. Additionally, PATH and partners have made significant progress in the development of much-needed technologies—such as preventive vaccines for malaria, bacterial pneumonia, and diarrhoeal diseases; diagnostics for neglected diseases such as onchocerciasis (or river blindness) and Chagas disease; and devices aimed at improving maternal and newborn health outcomes, and family planning options.

3. Through an innovative cross-sector partnership, the development of the first meningitis A vaccine cost less than one-tenth of a typical new vaccine in just one decade. The Meningitis Vaccine Project—a collaboration between PATH and the World Health Organisation (WHO)—partnered with an Indian vaccine manufacturer, Serum Institute of India Ltd., and governments from across four continents to advance and introduce the first vaccine to be developed specifically for Africa. MenAfriVac® is expected to prevent 437 000 cases of meningitis over the next ten years, saving approximately 43 500 lives and averting an estimated 105 000 disabilities. Since MenAfriVac® was introduced in late 2010, Africa has experienced the lowest number of meningitis A cases in its history, and the vaccine is expected to save the global community US$570 million during the next decade.²

4. Investment in innovation is the bedrock of many global health successes. Lifesaving innovations are redefining the boundaries of global health and creating new opportunities for people to live healthy, productive lives. These innovations such as vaccines, treatments, and bed nets, have cut in half the number of children who die before age five. Despite these successes, nearly 600 000 diarrhoea-related child deaths still occur each year. We need to redouble efforts to break

the cycle of poverty, and ultimately to improve the lives of the poorest and most marginalised communities.

The United Kingdom is a leader in supporting innovation as an important part of its international development strategy.

5. The United Kingdom has long supported innovations for poverty-related and neglected diseases and conditions through the Medical Research Council and DfID, as well as commercial investment from UK-based companies. In fact, of all European Union Member States, the United Kingdom is the leading investor in global health research and development, contributing 0.0049 percent of its gross domestic product.3 For the past several years, the United Kingdom has consistently been one of the top three funders of global health research in the world.4

6. DfID was the second largest funder of PDPs in 2012, accounting for a 12.1 percent share of total support, and leading government aid agencies of high-income countries for the fourth consecutive year.5 DfID and other public sector funders play a critical role in driving innovation and encouraging sustainable private-sector investments by mitigating risk and providing incentives. By supporting the PDP model, the United Kingdom’s investment in global health has a multiplier effect by leveraging inputs from the philanthropic sector and the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries. Public-private partnerships for global health are proven to be good value for money. By maximizing complementary areas of expertise and resources of different stakeholders, public-private partnerships are an efficient and sustainable model to develop and bring innovative technologies to market, supporting new business, saving money—and saving lives. Sustained and flexible financing to support public-private partnerships and increased investments in international development are some of the smartest actions donors can take to ensure everyone has timely access to the most effective technological and social interventions.

7. DfID plays a critical role in supporting PATH’s work to develop and deliver technological and social solutions to improve health, especially among women and children. The United Kingdom is currently supporting PATH to develop new drugs and vaccines against diarrhoeal disease, and malaria diagnostics, as well as our efforts to improve nutrition programming worldwide through Maximising the Quality of Scaling Up Nutrition project (MQSUN) and the Nutrition Embedding Evaluation Programme (NEEP).

8. In 2009, the UK government committed €355 million to the AMC, an innovative financing mechanism designed to incentivise vaccine manufacturers to develop vaccines for developing country use. In response to the AMC, GSK Biologicals developed the first pneumococcal conjugate vaccine to receive WHO prequalification for use globally. The health impacts of this

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are enormous, with the vaccines provided through the pneumococcal AMC estimated to save 900,000 lives by 2015 and up to 1.5 million lives by 2020.6

It is essential that the UK government fully support the inclusion of robust research and innovation indicators in the post-2015 agenda in order to measure progress towards economic and social development for all.

9. Thanks to investments by the United Kingdom and other United Nations Member States, the current Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have spurred international action to improve the health and lives of millions of people around the world. A sustained focus on some of the greatest global health challenges has led to enormous progress in many areas, including significant improvements in the development and delivery of health tools such as drugs to treat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria. Efforts to tackle diseases have also helped underpin progress in other important areas, such as gender equality, child mortality, and maternal health. Millions of lives have been saved.

10. The Lancet Commission on Investing in Health—a group of renowned economists and global health experts—has outlined the investment framework for achieving the dramatic health gains called for in the post-2015 agenda. In the *Global health 2035: A world converging within a generation* report the Commission specifically calls for greater investment in global health research and innovation by all countries in order to close the health gap between rich and poor within a generation.7 In this context, it is essential that the post-2015 development agenda includes research and innovation targets and indicators to measure progress towards eradicating poverty by 2030.

11. The post-2015 agenda must ensure universal access to proven health interventions. But it also vital that developing and delivering new health technologies which can help address the shortcomings of existing interventions and sustainably reduce morbidity and mortality over the longer term be prioritised. This will require continued support for the research, development, and delivery of new tools to the combat major epidemics like HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria, as well as other poverty-related diseases and conditions ranging from neglected tropical diseases to reproductive, maternal, and child health. Continuous investment of human and financial resources in science, technology, and innovation is essential to achieve health for all regardless of age.

12. At the request of the government of Norway, PATH is developing the Innovation Countdown 2030 initiative to showcase innovations that the world believes have great promise to accelerate progress and “bend the curve” of present trends to meet the targets included in the post-2015 agenda. These targets focus on reducing preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths; ensuring universal access to reproductive health supplies and services; preventing and treating

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infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria; and reducing the toll of diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory and cardiovascular disease. With the MDGs’ deadline near, we see the transformative gains that have been made around the world. Looking back to the launch of the MDGs in 2000, many of the innovations responsible for this success already existed, somewhere in the pipeline. PATH’s goal is to catalyze investment in high-potential innovations to meet the 2030 goals—by engaging investors, entrepreneurs, innovators, and experts from around the world in identifying and following a diverse and exciting set of promising global health innovations.

Key recommendations for the United Kingdom’s international development agenda

13. It is essential that the UK government fully support the inclusion of robust research and innovation indicators in the post-2015 agenda in order to measure progress towards economic and social development for all. The post-2015 development agenda must retain a strong focus on eliminating poverty-related diseases and conditions, and build on previous achievements to ensure that healthy lives and access to health services can be achieved in an equitable and sustainable way, leaving no one behind.

14. We believe the UK government should use its leadership position as a preeminent and longstanding funder of innovation, particularly for global health, to influence other funders to ensure this important area is prioritised and funded as part of their international development agendas.

15. As the International Development Committee considers the future of the United Kingdom’s approach to development, we encourage DFID to continue to strengthen its links with other UK government departments and institutions including the private sector, which recognise the impact of innovation as a driver of economic and social development, and the value of working across sectors.