

LET'S TALK: SAVING LIVES AND PUTTING CHILDREN FIRST

More children are living to see their fifth birthday than ever before. From stamping out Ebola to making sure refugee children get an education, the world is getting better at responding to challenges. Aid is a critical part of this progress. For many of the world's poorest people, aid from the UK is a lifeline.

But together we've work to do to convince others of the impact of aid. Here are a few things people sometimes say if they're not sure about UK aid – and some tips for what you might want to say in reply.

“I've heard lots of aid money gets lost or wasted.”

The UK has one of the most transparent aid systems in the world. The National Audit Office's report in 2017 estimated that just 0.03% of the UK Department for International Development's (DFID) spending is lost to fraud. This is much lower than other government departments, and well below private sector averages.

There are also common misconceptions about the scale of corruption in aid. Corruption is wrongly used to justify cutting aid. The reality is that DFID and organisations like Save the Children work tirelessly to make sure support gets to where it's needed most. Cutting the aid budget would stop the UK from helping those children most in need.

Innovative programmes to help the poorest families are designed to track what is delivered, meaning children and their families can report if it isn't reaching them. New technologies, like mobile phone apps, are used to transfer money directly to families, like those displaced by the war in Syria. So funds go directly to the families in need, giving them the chance to provide for themselves.

“What about countries like India? Why do they need aid when they have a space programme?”

It's true that the Indian economy is growing. But there's also deep inequality there, and more people are living in poverty in India than in all of sub-Saharan Africa. As India's needs are changing, so is DFID's work.

UK aid can help India's government to better provide for its people and make sure everyone – including the poorest people – have access to healthcare, education and nutrition.

Creating jobs has proved the most effective way to lift huge numbers of people out of poverty. So the UK works to help India realise the potential of its young workforce by supporting skills training and start-ups.

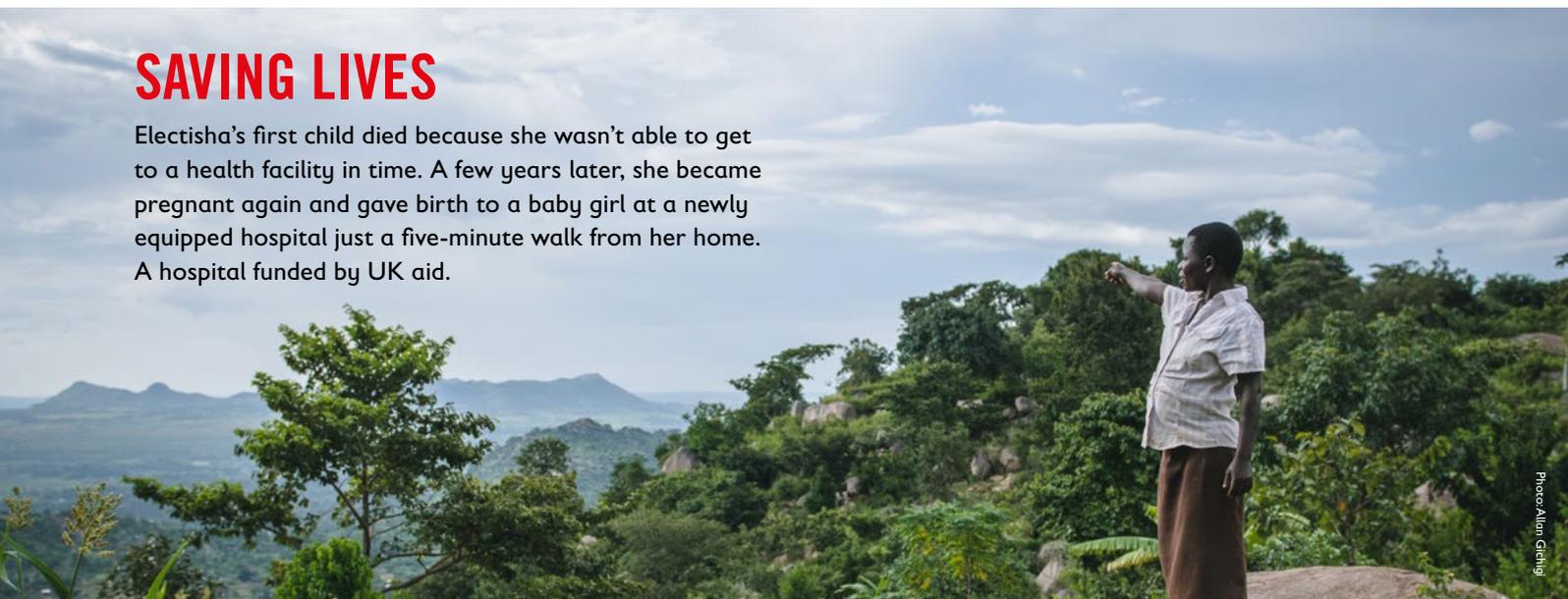
“Nothing seems to be improving. There are still so many people living in poverty.”

The world has made real progress in tackling poverty. The World Bank reports that the number of people in extreme poverty (those earning less than \$1.90 per day) has halved over the last 30 years. So has the number of children dying before they reach five. But not everyone has benefited equally. Now we must focus on reaching the poorest and most vulnerable children and their families.

The UK government has made a pledge to leave no one behind and to prioritise the needs of those who are discriminated against because of their gender, their sexual orientation, where they live, their ethnicity or their physical ability.

SAVING LIVES

Electisha's first child died because she wasn't able to get to a health facility in time. A few years later, she became pregnant again and gave birth to a baby girl at a newly equipped hospital just a five-minute walk from her home. A hospital funded by UK aid.



CHANGE IS HAPPENING ALL OVER THE WORLD, EVEN IF IT TAKES TIME.

UK aid supports the creation of effective tax systems to help the poorest countries build governments and strong public services that protect and empower citizens.

UK aid has been part of a story of progress. Over the last five years, UK aid has made sure that:

- **More than 5 million babies** were delivered safely by doctors, nurses and midwives

- **More than 11 million children** have had an education, through training 177,000 teachers, building classrooms, and providing textbooks for the poorest girls and boys
- **Millions of children and adults** fleeing war in Syria and Yemen got life-saving support, while an international conference organised by the UK to support Syria raised over \$12 billion.



GIVING CHILDREN THE CHANCE OF A FUTURE

UK aid has supported the Rwandan government to improve its tax system. As a result, the national budget has grown and poverty has fallen in Rwanda, meaning that the government can make huge improvements to education and health services.

Save the Children is working to complement this by helping children find books they love. Having good-quality books in local languages in schools, homes and communities will make sure children like Epaphrodite (pictured here) leave school able to read.

For more information on UK aid visit:
devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/
or www.savethechildren.org.uk/how-you-can-help/show-your-support/uk-aid