

SoS statement on World TB Day (24 March)

The ongoing fight against TB is one of the most important health challenges of our time. Every 15 seconds someone in the world dies of TB. Most of these deaths take place in the developing world. World TB Day is an important opportunity to raise awareness of the need to stop TB all over the world. We want the poorest countries to be able to diagnose TB without the need for sophisticated training and equipment.

The Global Plan to STOP TB is the means by which these ambitions can become a reality and the UK is firmly committed to the vision and goal of the STOP TB Partnership. Research to meet new challenges, such as extensively drug resistant TB, is essential and the UK has recently provided an extra £1.6 million to the STOP TB Partnership to help address the outbreak in Southern Africa. The Prime Minister, the Chancellor and I have repeatedly put tackling TB at the top of our priorities. We will continue to provide funding and call for support from others, as it is only by working together that we can hope to stop TB.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Benn', written in a cursive style.

Hilary BENN

U.K. Secretary of State for
International Development