

# ACTIONAID CAMPAIGN LETTER

Thank you for your enquiry about Action Aid's campaign, which focuses on HIV/AIDS and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM).

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is a terrible human catastrophe and its impact on social and economic development in Africa in particular is reversing the development gains of the past, at a time when 46% of Africa's people are living in extreme poverty.

There is a simple solution to this very complex and globally diverse epidemic. Condoms or drugs alone are not the answer to tackling HIV/AIDS. The fight against HIV/AIDS also has to include effective public health programmes to be implemented successfully, they need to involve government, education, health, agriculture, civil society and the private sector, and this is the approach the UK promotes.

Most of the Department for International Development (DFID)'s HIV/AIDS spending goes direct to developing countries, through Government, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) or the private sector. Last year we invested over £250 million on HIV/AIDS related bilateral work. We are committed to increasing our activities and spending over the next five years. We also provide significant contributions to supporting the HIV/AIDS programmes of multilateral agencies, including the United Nations.

The UK has played a leading role in setting up the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and want to play our part in making it an effective instrument in the fight against AIDS, TB and Malaria. We recognise that to do this, it needs predictable and sustainable financing. The Global Fund conference held in Paris earlier this year provided a good opportunity to increase and widen the partnership base and showed Europe's commitment to the GFATM.

The EU contribution now represents 55% of the total commitment to the GFATM. The UK has pledged an additional US\$80 million to the GFATM (US\$40 million over a further two years). This will extend our current commitment to 2008, bringing our total contribution to the Global Fund to US\$280 million.

I won't pretend that this is a magic answer to the problems posed by the issues of AIDS, TB and Malaria. What I hope you accept is that it is an important step towards meeting this challenge.