

United Kingdom

In 2018, the United Kingdom had the world's fifth-largest economy, as measured by gross domestic product.²⁷ And per GBD 2017, average life expectancy in the UK in 2017 was 79.2 years for males and 82.7 years for females.²⁹ In 2017, the UK spent a total of \$258.3 billion (250.5–266.4) on domestic health. Of that total, \$11.8 billion (9.9–13.9) or 4.6% (3.9–5.3) was prepaid private spending, \$41.3 billion (38.0–44.9) or 16.0% (14.8–17.2) was out-of-pocket, and \$205.2 billion (199.5–211.3) or 79.4% (78.3–80.6) was government spending.

Prior to COVID-19, the biggest UK-related news in 2019 came at the end of the year: the UK's exit from the European Union was approved. Following a UK general election in mid-December 2019, the move to leave the EU became law – the “European Union (Withdrawal Agreement) Act of 2020” – officially in January 2020. Political, trade, and budget-related uncertainty abounds as a result. In addition, because the UK's foreign aid is tied to the country's GNI (giving 0.70%), whether the UK's departure from the EU will have any effect on its spending on global health remains to be seen.

Nonetheless, in 2019 the UK retained its place as the second-largest government funder for global health. In 2019,

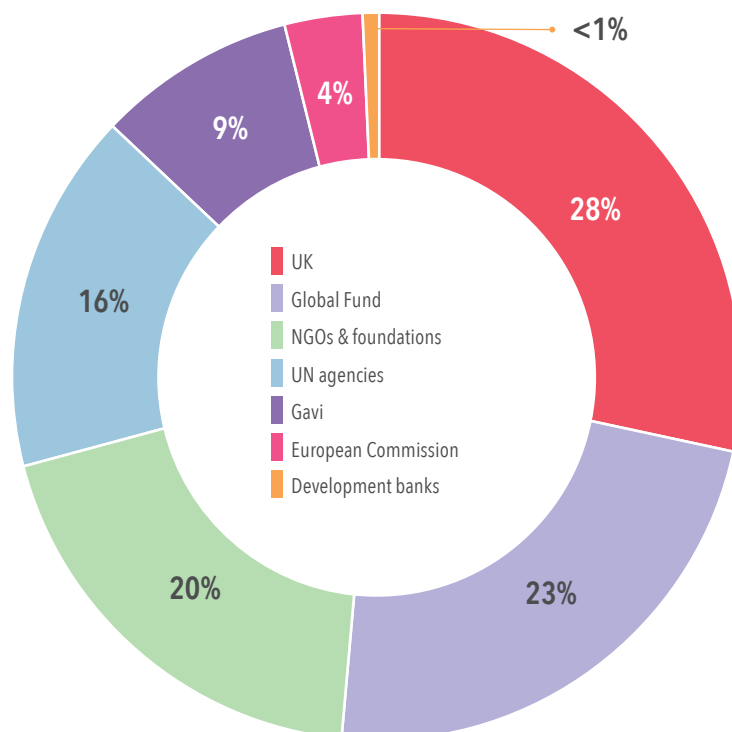
the UK contributed \$3.5 billion to DAH, up 20.6% from 2018 and accounting for 8.7% of total DAH worldwide; since the start of the SDG era in 2015, UK DAH has seen a 1.4% annualized decrease. Per the UK's 2019 HLPF voluntary national review, the SDGs have helped the country “not just to compare our programmes abroad with those at home but also to reconsider our approach in the UK.” The UK is involved in a number of sustainability partnerships, from the Climate and Clean Air Coalition to Water and Sanitation for the Urban Poor.³⁰

Of the UK's 2019 DAH, \$990.3 million (28.2%) was channeled to UK bilateral agencies; \$524.6 million (14.9%) to UN agencies; \$306.4 million (8.7%) to Gavi; and \$817.1 million (23.3%) to the Global Fund. Reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health was the focus of \$1.4 billion (38.5%) of the UK's DAH in 2019, followed by HIV/AIDS with \$553.9 million (15.8%).

By GBD super-regions, the UK contributed \$1.3 billion, or 37.3% of its 2017 DAH, to sub-Saharan Africa; \$301.0 million (8.7%) to South Asia; \$163.9 million (4.7%) to Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Oceania; \$237.9 million (6.9%) to North Africa and the Middle East; and \$41.0 million (1.2%) to Central Europe, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia.

Figure 1 shows UK DAH provided by channel in 2019, while Figure 2 shows trends in DAH by health focus area for the period 2010–2019. And per Figure 3, in 2017, the UK provided 38% of its DAH to sub-Saharan Africa and 14% to global recipients and programs.

FIGURE 1 DAH provided by the UK to each disbursing channel, 2019*



*2019 estimates are preliminary.

NGOs = non-governmental organizations

Development banks = the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank

UN agencies = PAHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, Unitaid, WHO

FIGURE 2 DAH provided by the UK targeting each health focus area, 1990-2019

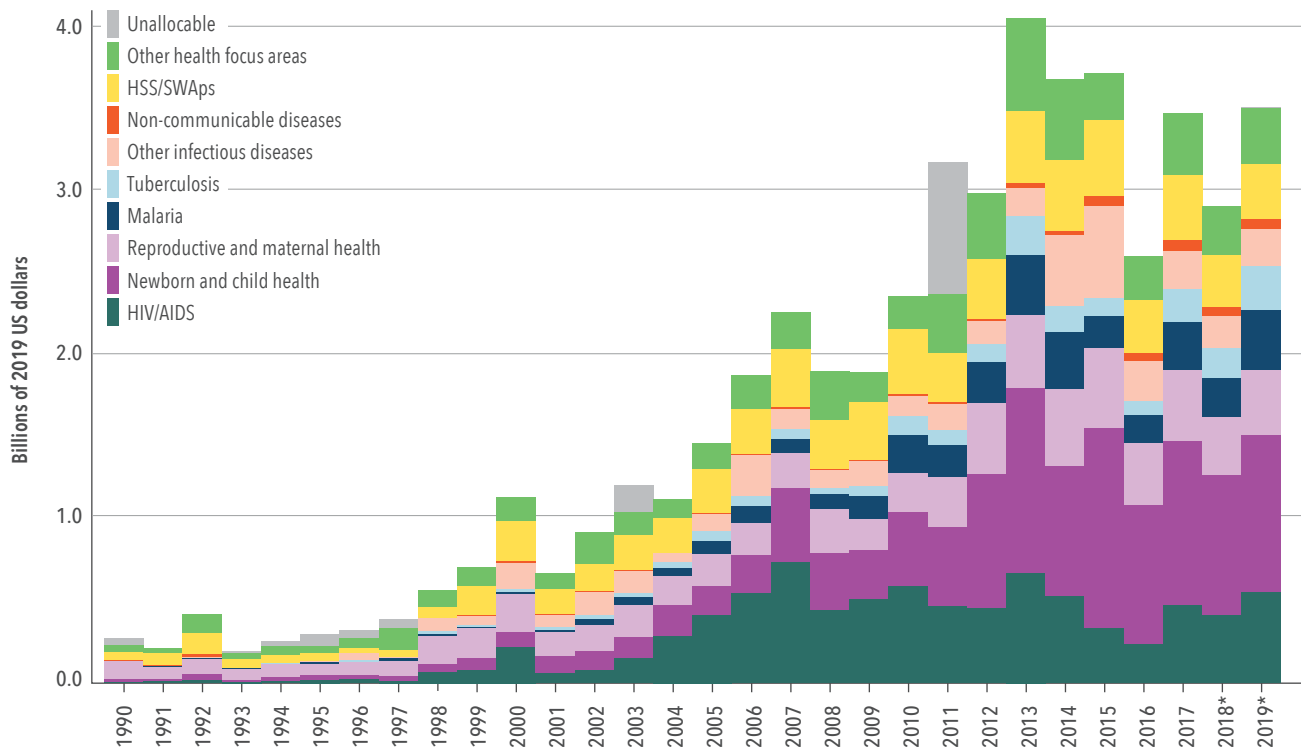
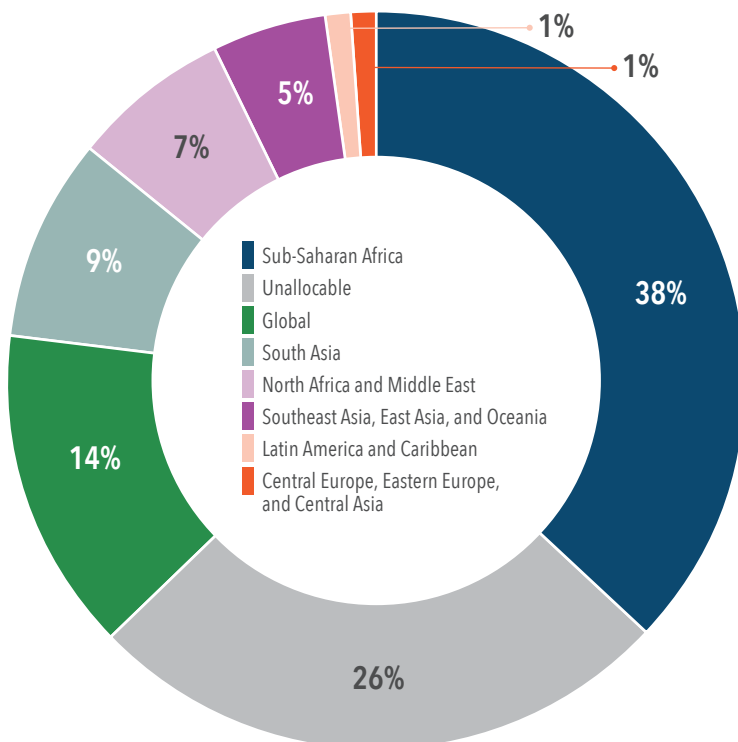


FIGURE 3 DAH provided by the UK for each GBD super-region, 2017



*2018 and 2019 estimates are preliminary.

“Other health focus areas” captures development assistance for health for which we have health focus area information but which is not identified as being allocated to any of the health focus areas listed.

HSS/swaps = Health systems strengthening and sector-wide approaches

Health assistance for which we have no health focus area information, or for which no recipient country or regional information is available, is designated as “Unallocable.” Due to data limitations, development assistance for health estimates are not available by recipient region for 2018 or 2019.