

## LOCAL MP LETTER TEMPLATE (FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC)

*Thank you for taking this action as part of the Small But Mighty campaign! Use this wording as a starter for sending a letter or email to your MP. We make it easy via our website: <https://smallbutmighty.co.uk/get-involved>*

*Make sure you include your address and postcode as your MP will want to check that you are from his / her constituency. As a rule, MPs do not take up issues or concerns on behalf of people who live in other constituencies.*

Dear [name of MP] MP,

I live at [your full address] in your constituency. I'm writing to ask you, as my Member of Parliament, to support the [Small But Mighty campaign](#). Your support shows you recognise the importance of the work that small international development charities do, to fight against coronavirus and against poverty.

[Short paragraph, if you can:

- explain how you're involved with a small international development charity
- talk about the benefits you think these charities bring to some of the world's poorest communities

e.g. "The charity I support/fundraise for, Women and Children First, helps women in some of the world's poorest communities to find solutions to health problems, such as preventable, treatable diseases like malaria and complications in pregnancy. By setting up sustainable health groups, bringing women and men together, they have saved over 6,500 lives to date, reducing maternal mortality by 49% and neonatal mortality by 33% in the communities they work in.

- mention some of the great things this charity does in your local area too – do they host a fantastic event every year that brings the community together?]

e.g. "The charity supports and engages people with stories and events in our community, encouraging people to participate in runs and doing fundraising activities. Their work has also helped beneficiaries in the UK, including Bangladeshi communities in Tower Hamlets."

During this pandemic, small international development charities have been among the first to respond, providing a vital lifeline for communities across the world. But at the same time as demand for their assistance has dramatically increased, their fundraising has been badly affected by the crisis. With the announcement of a second period of national lockdown, the already bleak picture for these charities is becoming increasingly desperate.

Nine out of ten small international development charities have received no support through the furlough scheme, they're ineligible to apply for the Government's existing charity support package and many funders have amended their giving criteria to prioritise UK-based projects. **Without targeted support, 45% of all small UK charities working overseas could close, affecting thousands of jobs and development progress in key areas such as education and women's rights.**

**The Small But Mighty campaign is calling on the UK Government to commit to a £50 million package of support over two years** (this year and next), funded using the existing Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) budget. This would secure these charities' collective future, and protect their ability to help communities across the world defeat the virus and build back better. The campaign is led by Small International Development Charities Network, a coalition of small UK charities working overseas with 1,500 members, and backed by a range of sector bodies, including ACEVO, Charities Aid Foundation, Charity Finance Group, The Foundation for Social Improvement, Hub Cymru Africa, Small Charities Coalition and Wales Council for Voluntary Action.

Small international development charities provide outstanding value for money. Their tireless work has saved many lives, and improved countless more. Collectively, they provide many thousands of jobs and volunteer opportunities in the UK, and support tens of thousands of beneficiaries, employees and partners overseas. They build and sustain unique interpersonal and community links across the world, at a time when they've never been more needed.

**I'm asking you to:**

1. Publicly pledge your support to the campaign through your communications, social media, relevant meetings and speeches
2. Write to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and HM Treasury in support of the campaign
3. Raise this issue in written and oral questions in the House of Commons, including any committees on which you sit

Yours sincerely

**[Name]**

**[Email]**

More about the Small But Mighty campaign: [smallbutmighty.co.uk](https://smallbutmighty.co.uk)