

Dear [name of MP]

I hope this email finds you and those close to you well.

I'm writing to you as a constituent of [name of constituency]. After last week, you'll no doubt be aware of the FCDO cuts. I am a supporter of Temwa UK, a UK registry Charity /NGO that was severely affected by these cuts.

The FCDO letter received by Temwa, informing us that our community partnership grant had been cut, stated that "FCDO would still fund programs that would focus on the bottom billion and tackling climate change" which is exactly what Temwa's project would do.

Temwa works in Nkhata Bay North, one of the most remote and neglected communities in Malawi. In brief;

Main problems in Nkhata Bay North:

1. here are very high levels of poverty that lead to people using local natural resources unsustainably
2. Increasing deforestation that threatens livelihoods and exacerbates impacts of climate change
3. Weak local governance structures are lacking skills, knowledge and resources to lead on sustainable local development

How the project will improve this:

- Supporting 16 Farmer Associations and Community Enterprises to develop and scale up forest-friendly livelihoods. These will increase family incomes and food security and make them more resilient to crisis. This support will directly benefit 1,440 people.
- Planting 110,000 trees and 88 hectares of woodland sustainably managed. Over 10,000 community members will be more aware of the benefits of reforestation and climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Strengthening local governance of natural resources in 8 areas in Nkhata Bay North. This will happen through skills training, enforcement of local forest bylaws and implementation of local forest management strategies.

Some of the negative impacts that will happen now this project will not go ahead:

- Deforestation will continue, threatening viability of people's livelihoods and exacerbating poverty levels.
- Thanks to our previous support, farmers in this area are already able grow cash crops using sustainable farming methods. However, without this project they won't have adequate business skills or access to markets to add value and sell the produce - some of it may be just grown and go to waste.
- Local governance will not operate as mandated by the law, hampering local development efforts and eroding trust in the democratic system.
- Covid-19 has increased levels of hunger and cut people's incomes. **This project is needed even more now than it was when it was first designed.**

Below is a quote from Kondwani Botha – Temwa Malawi's Programme Manager

“The communities we serve are without doubt some of the poorest & hardest to reach in Malawi, one of the world's poorest countries. In these vulnerable communities, most people live on less than \$1 a day, they live hand to mouth and they struggle to produce enough food to survive. The district we work in has been severely affected by climate change, the community has been experiencing unprecedented droughts and floods over the last few years.

The support from the UK government/FCDO will strengthen community resilience on climate change, which is affecting food production for the community as a whole, as well as at the household level. If this support is cut, families go hungry and people will literally starve. The FCDO funded project was designed with our community-driven approach and it is educating people to adopt sustainable farming practices, improve management on natural resources, and establish small business activities to help households see an increased income. If this project is not implemented, the community will have severe food shortages every year.

The lives of rural people depend on their food production, food production depends on sustainable methods of managing the natural resources. Climate change has had such a huge impact on food production if the communities do not implement strategies that bring about resilience they will have continued hunger problems in their household. Our FCDO funding has been cut, without this funding community members will starve, if we get the funding and implement this programme the community will be able to transform itself.”

Please can you let me know what you can do to rectify this appalling decision? To cut the grant from an organisation that is literally saving lives, whilst tackling climate change through reforestation & natural resource protection is just horrific. I am disgusted that the government can make such a heartless decision in the midst of the worst pandemic in over 100 years.

Yours Sincerely,

[Insert name]

