

UK Aid Direct: response to the COVID-19 pandemic

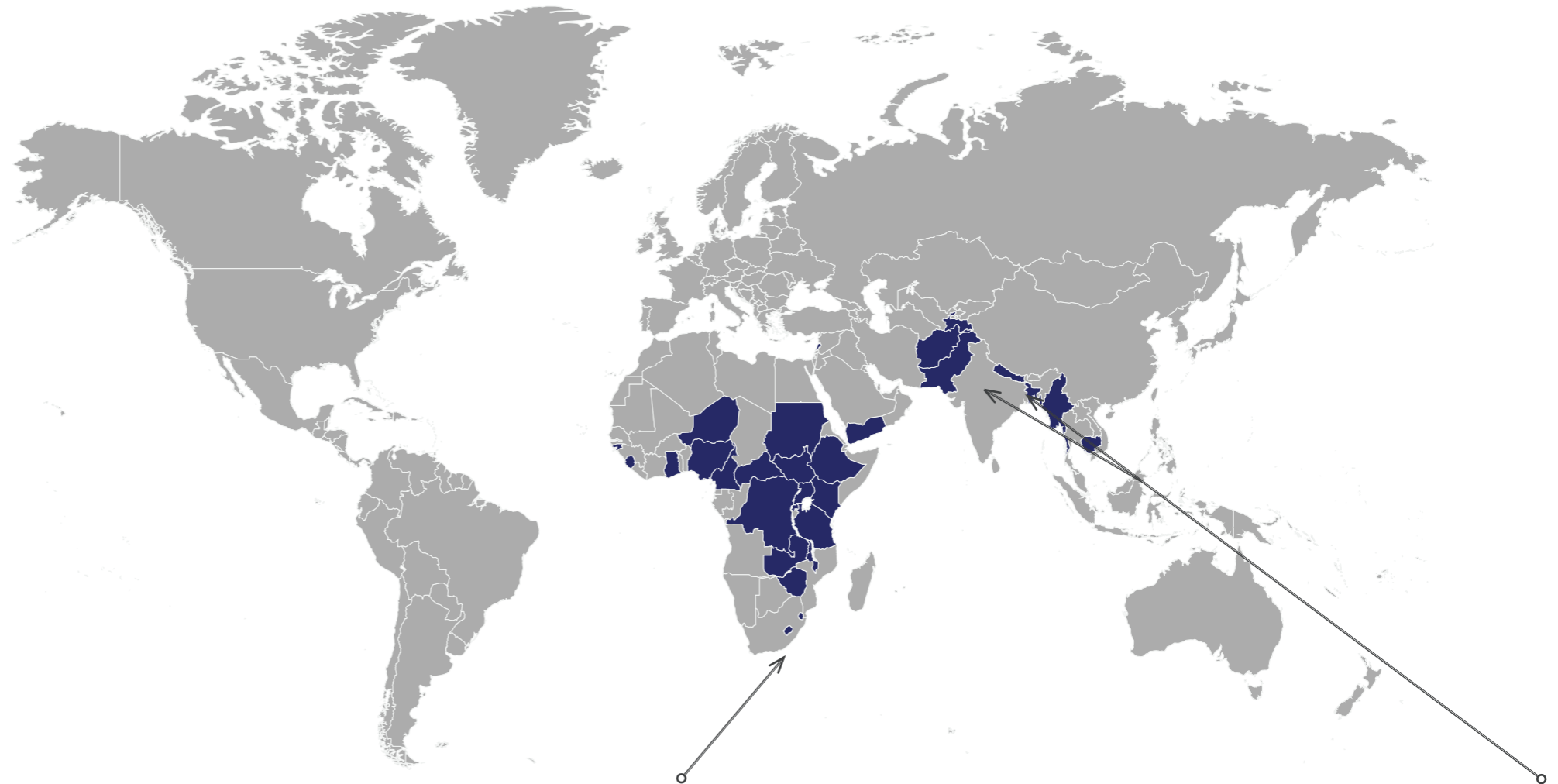


Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in March 2020, UK Aid Direct grant holders have been invited to adapt activities either by amending existing activities or pivoting to specifically respond to the COVID-19 crisis.

So far, this has led to 105 projects – 74% of the UK Aid Direct portfolio – in 25 countries adapting their approach in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Support has also been provided to grant holders through a dedicated COVID-19 resource library on the UK Aid Direct site and a weekly seminar series where grant holders share information, solutions and their own learning during these challenging times.

The UK Aid Direct team has also worked closely with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office to develop a 'Rapid Response Fund'. The priority of the fund is to focus on preparedness, mitigation, and response to the primary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. 33 grants in 16 countries have now been approved.



IN NUMBERS...

138

UK Aid Direct projects responding to COVID-19 (including Rapid Response)

29

Countries where UK Aid Direct projects are responding to COVID-19

Dolen Cymru

Overcoming barriers to hand-washing in Thaba Tseka, Lesotho



This project is working to teach communities about the importance of hand-washing and building sustainable hand-washing facilities in Lesotho.

Following the outbreak of COVID-19, the government of Lesotho instituted a lockdown, closing schools, restricting travel, and promoting social distancing measures.

To ensure the momentum of their project continued and to prevent the spread of COVID-19, Dolen Cymru has trained community volunteers in the provision of hygiene facilities and supported these volunteers to supply tippy-tap facilities, hand-washing products and train local people in the use and maintenance of these facilities. Dolen Cymru has also engaged in radio broadcasts to share key messages about the virus.

Ethical Trading Initiative

Increasing female voices within the ready-made garment sector in Bangladesh and Pakistan



This project increases the awareness of rights for workers within the garments sector in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The COVID-19 pandemic led to the closure of factories and a drop in orders from European and US retailers. Although the payment of wages is mandatory, many employers have not followed government guidelines and not all workers have contracts.

In response, ETI is working with key stakeholders to encourage continuous dialogue around COVID-19 related issues impacting the supply chain, ensuring workers continue to be employed and receive a wage, and has provided links with PPE manufacturers and suppliers.