**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*](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 [name of constituency] constituency. I am writing to ask you, as my Member of Parliament, to support the [Small But Mighty campaign](https://smallbutmighty.co.uk/). 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
* 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?]

Small international development charities are often the first responders when crisis strikes. During this pandemic they’re a lifeline that is keeping hope for a better future alive.

But despite nearly three-quarters of these charities seeing demand for services increase, their fundraising has borne the brunt of the limits on social interaction needed to keep us all safe. Nine out of ten small international development charities haven't received any support through the furlough scheme. They’re also ineligible to apply for the Government's current charity support package, and many funders have amended their giving criteria to only support UK-based projects. **Without support 45% of small UK charities working overseas will close, affecting thousands of jobs and development progress in key areas such as education and women’s rights**. With the announcement of a second period of national lockdown, the already bleak picture for these charities is becoming increasingly desperate.

**The Small But Mighty campaign is calling on the UK Government to commit to a £50 million package of support over two years** (2020 & 2021), funded from the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) budget. This would ensure these charities’ future, and protect their ability to help communities throughout 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 1.5K members, and backed by a range of sector bodies, including ACEVO, 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, working with a spirit of enthusiasm and personal commitment that allows them to make the most of their limited resources. Collectively, they support thousands of jobs and volunteer opportunities in the UK, and tens of thousands of employees, partners and beneficiaries overseas. They build and sustain unique interpersonal and community-to-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 the House of Commons, and in any committees in which you sit

Yours sincerely

**[Name]**

[Email]

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