



Summary of DFID's work in Afghanistan 2011-2016

February, 2015

Why we work in Afghanistan

Over thirty years of conflict have left Afghanistan one of the poorest countries in the world. Average life expectancy is just 49. More than a third of the population lives below the poverty line – the equivalent of 60p per day. The country will fail to reach any of the Millennium Development Goals before 2020. Women and girls still face enormous challenges, including their ability to participate in politics and decision making.

[image removed]

Afghanistan is one of the UK's top international priorities. A weak and politically unstable state fosters insecurity and holds back social and economic development. Poor governance and corruption hamper the delivery of basic services such as education and health, and undermine Afghan people's trust in their government. Tackling these issues will both reduce poverty and improve stability and security in Afghanistan, the region and beyond.

Our vision is a more peaceful, stable, viable and prosperous Afghanistan. This is a long term goal that requires DFID's presence well beyond the end of 2014, when UK combat troops are withdrawn. Our Operational Plan sets out how DFID will work to help put Afghanistan on a clear path towards this vision by focusing on three critical areas: supporting peace, security and political stability; promoting economic stability, growth and jobs; and helping the state to deliver improved services.

What we will achieve

Up to 2015/16, UK aid in Afghanistan will:

- Create jobs for 71,500 Afghan people
- Contribute to more than 5.4 million children attending primary school in 2013/14 – at least 40% of them girls
- Contribute to the rehabilitation of more than 2,400 kilometres of rural roads
- Encourage at least 4.3 million Afghans (1.7million women) to vote in 2014/2015 elections
- Help the Afghan government improve public financial management, address corruption and strengthen delivery of basic services
- Reduce the impact of conflict and natural disasters through effective humanitarian aid
- Develop new initiatives that significantly improve the lives of girls and women suffering violence in Afghanistan.

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Who we will work with

The UK is a long term partner for Afghanistan. DFID's approach is to work mostly with and through the government to enable the country to stand on its own feet and to improve how the state responds to the demands of the Afghan people. The Afghan government is increasingly taking the lead by working to create better opportunities and improve lives for Afghan men and women.

We work closely with other international donors and partners, such as the United States, the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Union and the Asian Development Bank. We work with the private sector, civil society and other development partners to support peace and prosperity. Our choice of partners and programmes is based on their efficiency and effectiveness in delivering results. DFID Afghanistan is located within the British Embassy in Kabul. We work closely with other UK government departments to achieve the UK's objectives in Afghanistan.

How we will work

More than ever, in the current financial climate, we have a duty to demonstrate our work is achieving value for money for the UK taxpayer. Results, transparency and accountability are integral to what we do. We are committed to channelling at least half our annual budget through Afghan Government systems since this is the most effective way of ensuring the state can deliver directly to its people. But we only do this when we can guarantee the right mechanisms are in place to safeguard UK taxpayers' money. We have a robust system of checks and balances to ensure UK aid helps those it is intended to.

We are fully committed to being transparent about DFID funds spent in Afghanistan whilst ensuring that this does not compromise the safety and security of our staff and partners. We will also encourage the government of Afghanistan and other partners to become more transparent and accountable to the public. DFID Afghanistan's programme budget is £178 million per year for the next two years (2014/15 and 2015/16) and will remain at current levels beyond political and security transition in 2014.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of Afghanistan's Operational Plan, please visit

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-afghanistan-operational-plan-2014>

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