Department for International Development

Single Departmental Plan - Results Achieved by Sector in 2015-2017

DFID Spend on Climate

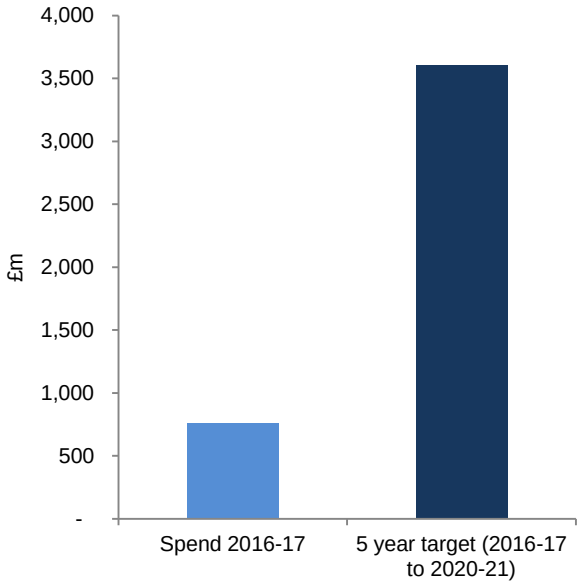
Spend on preventing climate change and building the resilience of poor people in the face of changing weather patterns.

1. Results:

In 2016-17, DFID spent £755 million on building the resilience of communities and economies in developing countries to climate change impacts and on low carbon development. This spend contributes to the UK commitment to increase spend on climate action by 50% to at least £5.8 billion over five years from 2016-17 to 2020-21. Of this, DFID intends to spend £3.6 billion.

This follows the UK Government's commitment to spend £3.87 billion in climate finance over the previous five years from 2011-12 to 2015-16. During this period, DFID spent £2.4 billion.

Figure 1: Progress against 5 year climate finance target



During 2016-17, DFID helped vulnerable people withstand, and more quickly recover from, climate extremes such as droughts and floods. Examples of support provided include sustainable water management, investment in climate smart agriculture to improve food security and access to insurance services.

DFID also invested in low carbon development programmes such as improved access to affordable, clean energy services for poor households and businesses by direct support as well as increasing private sector investment in renewable energy.

This climate finance was spent through programmes in individual countries, programmes working across a range of countries and through core contributions to climate-specific multilateral organisations such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF).

2. Context

Globally, climate change will most affect the poorest people who are least able to cope. The World Bank has estimated that 100 million people are at risk of being pushed into extreme poverty by rising temperatures and increasing floods by 2030, with impacts on political instability and migration flows.

As part of the historic global climate agreement struck in Paris in 2015, the UK committed to increase its international climate finance by 50% between 2016-17 and 2020-21, providing at least £5.8bn to build resilience to increasing climate risks such as droughts and floods, and to support sustainable economic growth and trade.

DFID, along with Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), has helped millions of the poorest and most vulnerable people, particularly women and girls, cope with the effects of climate change and has provided millions of people with electricity through marshalling clean energy from renewable sources.

In addition, the UK is reforming international organisations working on climate change, including the Green Climate Fund, to ensure they deliver tangible benefits for the poorest people.

3. Methodology summary

DFID climate finance is identified and approved as part of DFID's business case design and approval process. Senior Responsible Owners are responsible for identifying the proportion of spend that can be categorised as climate finance.

For programme budgets that are categorised as 100% climate finance, the full spend of the programme is reported. A percentage of a programme budget can be scored as climate finance if the programme incorporates elements that address climate risks or promote low carbon approaches or technologies.

Expenditure can be categorised as either bilateral or core contributions to climate-specific multilateral organisations depending on the delivery channel agreed by DFID.

4. Data sources

Climate finance data is collected from DFID's central finance system, based on expenditure incurred during the financial year and which has been identified by programme teams as climate finance.

5. Data quality notes

DFID-wide guidance on climate finance is available to programme teams, as well as a network of climate advisers, to enable them to accurately estimate and record their climate finance. Regular reviews of climate finance data are undertaken centrally and within spending areas and while is it possible that some errors in classification may occur, these should be minimal.