



Summary of DFID's work in Burma 2011-2015

August 2012

Why we work in Burma

A resource rich Burma that is accountable to its people and open to responsible foreign investment has great potential to reverse years of decline. Our aim will be to harness this potential - to help create a better governed, more peaceful & prosperous Burma that uses its increased wealth to reduce poverty.

The remarkable process of change witnessed since November 2010 has given the UK a great opportunity to transform the lives of poor people in Burma. DFID is now able to work with new partners in new sectors to achieve a greater impact with British aid.



A Rural family in a Kachin Village, Burma
Photo: © DFID

Despite the political progress so far Burma remains one of the poorest countries in Asia. A quarter of the population do not have enough money to meet their basic food and living needs and the country is off track to reach many of the Millennium Development Goals. Its record on health is among the worst in Asia, and suffers amongst the highest rates of malaria, malnutrition (especially amongst children) and tuberculosis in the world. In the border areas of eastern Burma, more than six decades of political unrest and armed conflict has displaced an estimated 500,000 people, severely disrupting their livelihoods.



Pa O farmers supported by UK aid.
Photo: © LIFT/AZM, 2011

What we will achieve

To support Burma's transformation we will base our support around five pillars:

- Good governance and public financial management
- Promoting responsible investment
- Improving transparency
- Strengthening the work of parliament
- Helping the process of ethnic reconciliation.

Key results by 2015 include:

- Encourage at least 2 development finance organisations to commit capital or attract private investment into Burma.
- Increase political right and civil liberties
- Help local community groups to work together to give people more of a say in decisions that affect their lives.

- Support 110,000 women to access financial services
- Help to avert 153,000 unintended pregnancies.
- Ensure 500,000 women and men receive appropriate treatment to contain the spread of drug-resistant malaria.
- Help over 200,000 children to complete primary school by 2015,
- Provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by conflict in eastern Burma, and to Burmese refugees in Thailand.

Who we will work with

Partnerships are vital to DFID's effectiveness in Burma. The UK-led suspension in April 2012 of EU sanctions on aid allows us to start a new partnership and dialogue with the government. Yet none of our aid will be provided through central government, only through United Nations organisations, trusted international & local NGOs and, where circumstances allow, at the township level.

We have demonstrated that aid can deliver results for the poor people who most need it through these channels and remain in close touch with key stakeholders, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in developing our strategies.

The UK will continue to be one of the largest donors to Burma; committing £187 million (approximately \$300m) to support the people of the country over four years (2011-2015).



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on a visit to a DFID project, Myaing Township, Feb 2012. Photo: © LIFT

How we will work

We have a duty, to deliver and demonstrate value for money for every pound of taxpayers' money spent helping the people of Burma. We will continue to work only with local & international partners that have in place tested monitoring mechanisms to ensure our aid reaches Burma's poor. We will make our aid transparent to citizens both in the UK and in Burma: showing how we are improving the lives of some of the poorest people in Asia.

We will:

- Publish the updated DFID Burma Operational Plan, translating sections 1-4 into Burmese.
- Encourage our partners to meet the standards of the International Aid Transparency Initiative.
- Increase support to local Burmese organisations to promote greater accountability.
- Publish details of the work we support, but will not publish full details where it could endanger the safety and security of our implementing agencies or their beneficiaries.

More information

For more information on the full Operations Plan please visit www.dfid.gov.uk/Burma

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