

Summary of DFID's work in Rwanda 2011-2015

Updated June 2012

Why we work in Rwanda

Rwanda has achieved tremendous progress since the devastating genocide of 1994. By 2020, the Government of Rwanda aims to complete the country's transformation from a poor, post-conflict nation to a thriving, middle income, regional trade and investment hub. Rwanda uses aid very well, both in terms of the results it achieves and accounting for its use.

The country, however, still faces huge challenges. 45% of Rwanda's people live in poverty, and those living in rural areas are extremely poor – partly because 86% of Rwanda's population still relies on agriculture for a living.

Although women are well-represented in government institutions (more than half of Rwanda's MPs are women), and girls' attendance at primary and secondary school exceeds that of boys, women are more likely to be extremely poor than men.



45 year old Vivianne Nyiramahigura heads a household of seven people (her mother, two sisters, and three children). Her husband died in the 1994 genocide. In 2008 Vivienne joined a UK aid-supported Government initiative paying poor people to carry out public works. She used her wages of just over £1 a day to pay for her family's needs, including food, health insurance, school costs, clothes and a goat to generate income. Vivienne says that before this, "there was nowhere to expect to get that amount of money. We could never afford to pay for such things".

What we will achieve

In the next four years UK support will help:

- 524,800 of the poorest people in Rwanda will be helped to get a job, or financial support to meet their basic needs;
- 118,000 more women to give birth under the care of skilled health personnel, dramatically increasing the chances that these births will be safe and successful;
- Distribute 1,250,000 bednets reducing the risk of malaria in children under five;
- 45,000 children to complete basic education and ensure it's of a quality which enables them to pass their national exam at the age of 14;
- 4 million men and women have their land registered so that they legally own it and are able to invest in it to improve its productivity and raise their incomes.

Who we will work with

The UK will provide funding and technical expertise to increase investment in Rwanda and invigorate the private sector, improve poor peoples' access to health and education, increase the accountability of the state to its people, and address potential causes of conflict and fragility.

Budget support is likely to represent approximately 65% of the UK's programme in Rwanda, with general budget support the bigger component, but an increasing proportion of sector budget support in health, education and agriculture. Budget support is an important mechanism for reducing poverty in Rwanda because it: i) improves delivery of key services, ii) reduces transaction costs for the Government of Rwanda and donors; iii) increases UK engagement in key budgetary and policy issues in Rwanda.

As well as working with the government of Rwanda, DFID works closely with the private sector and civil society organisations to increase their ability to engage directly with the Government of Rwanda on issues such as the allocation of public resources and the quality of the services they receive.



Esperance, 39, a mother of four used to be in constant dispute with her neighbours over ownership of the land she lived on. Through a DFID-funded land registration programme, the dispute is now settled and she is a proud landowner. Esperance says: "I will now work and invest confidently in my land to provide a better future to my four children as I now know that nobody can take my land from me."

How we will work

More than ever, in the current financial climate, we have a duty to show that we are achieving value for money in everything we do. Results, transparency and accountability will be our watchwords and we are determined to get value for money for every pound of taxpayers' money spent on development.

Transparency International judges Rwanda to be among Africa's least corrupt countries, while the 2010 'Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability Assessment' carried out by donors, documents an impressive and fast-improving public financial management system. But the well-monitored financial environment for aid co-exists with constraints on political rights and freedom of expression. The UK's political discussions with the Government of Rwanda will focus on ensuring the country's development becomes increasingly inclusive, so that Rwanda's success can be sustained.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of Rwanda's Operational Plan, please visit www.dfid.gov.uk/Rwanda

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