

DFID's work in Somalia 2011-15

Updated June 2012

Why we work in Somalia

After two decades of conflict, Somalia is the world's most fragile state. Security and basic services, such as health and education, are provided largely through informal community institutions. 2012 holds potential for Somalia. Managed the right way, progress made on improving the political and military arrangements for governing Somalia can build security. Both are essential for development.

The UK Government is committed to ensuring the best possible international support for Somalia. The international community agreed its approach and priorities for supporting Somalia at a conference hosted by the Prime Minister in London on 23 February 2012. The Conference focused on the underlying causes of instability, as well as the symptoms (including famine, refugees, piracy, and terrorism). The international community agreed to inject new momentum into the political process; to strengthen AMISOM and help Somalia develop its own security forces; to help build stability at the local level; and to step up action to tackle piracy and terrorism.



Secretary of State Andrew Mitchell admires a newborn in Hargeisa. In the last year 4,000 women have had a skilled birth attendant thanks to UK aid, reducing the risk of complications in childbirth. Photo: The Sun Newspaper

The political and security outlook is still uncertain. Development gains have been made but huge challenges remain. Over 2.3 million people are still in need of humanitarian assistance following the famine last year. Somalia is unlikely to meet any of the 2015 Millennium Development Goals. Instability in Somalia affects not just the Somali people, but the whole region, and the UK.

UK aid aims to help Somalia tackle poverty and conflict. Our programme focuses on governance and peace-building, wealth creation, child and maternal health, and humanitarian response.



UK aid has supported Somalia's bustling small and medium-sized enterprise sector. Photo: AET

What we will achieve

An additional 90,000 female contraceptive users supported.

45,000 people, including 15,000 women, helped to secure new private sector jobs after training.

An additional 89,000 people provided with improved local government services.

At least 61,000 children under five benefitted from acute malnutrition prevention programmes each year. In 2011/12, UK aid helped 0.5 million people, including 260,000 women, to resist malnutrition.

Who we work with

The UK government works with national, regional and local governments and authorities in Somalia to support peace-building and poverty reduction. We work with bilateral and multilateral partners, such as the UN and the World Bank, to develop a more coherent international approach to supporting Somalia's political process, security, development and humanitarian response. The UN and its agencies are important implementing partners – in particular, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, UN Development Programme, UNICEF, UN Population Fund and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. We also work with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Our support to Somali NGOs is largely through international NGOs such as Oxfam and ICRC.



UK aid has supported job creation for locals, which benefits the community, such as rehabilitating roads and irrigation canals, like this one in Beer, Somaliland. Photo: ILO

We leverage private sector investment through public/ private partnerships, and plan to improve methods of attracting diaspora remittances (estimated to total \$1 billion annually) for investments. At the London Conference on Somalia in February 2012 we committed to the multi-donor Stability Fund, a new funding mechanism to support more stable areas of the country where there is relative security and the government is providing services (such as healthcare) for the people. We are also exploring a Somaliland Development Fund, which would enable more coherent and coordinated support from donors in Somaliland.

How we work

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

DFID champions transparency on the use of international aid and its results. We help partners to conform to international standards of transparency. In line with the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee, DFID Somalia publishes its programme documents online and publishes key documents in Somali.

More information

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

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

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