

Summary of DFID's work in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) 2011-2015

May 2011

Why we work in DRC

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has enormous potential, but years of bad governance and civil war have seen it sink close to the bottom of the UN's Human Development Index. The DRC is off track to meet virtually all of its Millennium Development Goal (MDG) targets. Three out of five Congolese live below the international poverty line, on less than US\$1.25 a day. More than a third of children are out of school and a similar proportion are malnourished. One hundred women a day die of complications related to childbirth. Levels of sexual violence are among the highest in the world.

Under the right conditions, the DRC can become an economic powerhouse and be a regional and global force for peace and stability. It has enormous mineral wealth, unrivalled hydro power potential, rich agricultural land, and is well placed in the centre of Africa to develop vibrant trade links and attract local and foreign investment.

The DRC is significantly more stable than it was a decade ago, and its economy is growing. But armed conflict and banditry, particularly in the east, remain major challenges. Poor governance and corruption deter foreign investment and stifle economic growth. UK aid has already brought improvements to basic services and infrastructure, provided lifesaving humanitarian help, and improved the lives and livelihoods of millions of Congolese, but much remains to be done. Sound economic management and better governance, combined with further investments in infrastructure and basic services, could bring a stable and prosperous DRC within reach. This will bring enormous benefits for millions of poor people in the DRC itself, to its nine neighbours, and to the wider world. Helping turn it in that direction is a core goal of our new country programme.



DFID's new programme will bring benefits to women and girls through education, better family planning and maternal care services, increased economic opportunities, and political rights.



DFID will help 372,000 more Congolese children go to school and improve the quality of their education.

What we will achieve

- Clean water and sanitation for 6.2 million people
- 15 million adults and children protected from malaria
- Safer births and family planning choice for hundreds of thousands of women
- 372,000 more girls and boys in school
- 1,700 km of new and rebuilt roads
- Humanitarian aid for those who need it
- 31 million registered voters

Who we will work with

Our work in DRC will remain closely aligned to national priorities and the Government of DRC's development plans. While national ability to manage and deliver services remains weak, we will continue to deliver aid through international partners, such as the UN, the World Bank and tried and tested NGOs. This will ensure that UK support is directed to those who need it most. We will continue to provide humanitarian assistance where it is needed, through a multi-donor pooled fund run by the UN and through direct support to the Red Cross and NGOs.



DFID supported camp for internally displaced people, North Kivu, near Goma 2009. We will continue to give humanitarian aid for as long as it is needed.

Working closely with colleagues in the British Embassy in Kinshasa, we will ensure that the UK aid programme is central to British government efforts to bring peace and prosperity to DRC. Increased investment and trade will be key factors in driving DRC's recovery so supporting wealth creation through private sector development will be a major new component to our country programme. We will work closely with private sector partners in key areas, including promoting trade, reforms to the minerals sector and improvements to the wider business climate.

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 hard-earned taxpayer pound spent on development.

In DRC the costs of delivering aid are high, so we will work harder than ever to ensure value for money. We will be highly selective in our choice of partners. We will also apply rigorous analysis to achieve the best value for money from our investments, and strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of our projects and programmes.

As well as seeking to deliver tangible, value for money results for poor people, our programme will also build national capabilities to deliver services and promote economic growth. Wherever possible, when investing in health, education, better policing, roads, clean water and sanitation, business reforms and improved safety and security, we will also seek to improve public service institutions and accountability. Women will be at the heart of everything we do. We will be entirely transparent in making information about our spending and performance available to the public, and will expect the same of all our partners.

More information

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

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

DFID DRC, British Embassy, 83 Avenue Roi Baudouin, PO Box 8049, Gombe, Kinshasa

Enquiries: enquiry@dfid.gov.uk