

Statement of voluntary compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics for DFID's results estimates

The Department for International Development (DFID) publishes an annual set of headline results estimates, which monitor delivery of its [Single Departmental Plan \(SDP\)](#) and the [UK Aid Strategy](#). Although the results estimates are not official statistics or National Statistics, where possible DFID follows the UK's [Code of Practice for Statistics](#) in their production. The Code of Practice is framed around three pillars: Trustworthiness, Quality and Value. Table 1 explains how these pillars have been applied to DFID's results estimates in a proportionate way to demonstrate voluntary compliance, in line with the [Guide for Voluntary Application of the Code](#).

Table 1 – How DFID voluntarily complies with the pillars of the Code of Practice for Statistics

<p>Trustworthiness Confidence in the people and organisations that produce statistics and data</p>	<p>DFID's results estimates are produced by statistics advisers embedded in DFID departments who are members of the Government Statistical Service (GSS). They have a professional line of accountability to DFID's Chief Statistician who has a professional line of accountability to the National Statistician.</p> <p>The material made available through the DFID Results Estimates homepage has been enhanced to strengthen usability and transparency. It includes a set of generic technical notes; a results dataset in open document format; and a sector page and methodology note for each indicator.</p> <p>DFID has a revisions policy within its technical notes which sets out procedures in the event of revisions and corrections to results data.</p>
<p>Quality Data and methods that produce assured statistics</p>	<p>Information on DFID's results is collected from DFID country offices, central DFID departments and multilateral institutions. The data is collected from a variety of sources, such as representative sample surveys of households, management information systems held by partner country governments and individual project data generated from routine project monitoring by DFID's partners, often in challenging environments.</p> <p>Given the range of data sources used, the accuracy of the results data varies and is subject to the quality of the underlying data source. In many cases DFID uses data collected by others (e.g. partner country governments or international organisations) and therefore DFID has limited control over the quality of the data. Verifying the quality of the data provided by partners can be challenging in the places where DFID works.</p> <p>DFID's results estimates are produced in line with published methodology notes which set out the rules under which results can be counted for different sector-specific indicators.</p>

	<p>Statistics Advisers in DFID undertake quality assurance of the results data to minimise error. The types of error which DFID aims to minimise include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • double counting – identifying unique beneficiaries and avoiding duplication in reporting between partners, programmes and DFID departments • DFID attribution – accurately associating results with DFID interventions/funding. <p>A Data Quality Working Group in DFID has developed a programme of work that aims to improve the Department’s understanding and communication of the quality of DFID’s results data. This has had input from the Office for National Statistics Best Practice Team. DFID is working on new guidance and developing templates to standardise how data quality is communicated.</p>
<p>Value Statistics that support society’s needs for information</p>	<p>DFID’s headline results are designed to give an overview of the return on the UK’s investment in aid and enable DFID to report publicly on its achievements.</p> <p>DFID’s results are presented on a central DFID Results Estimates homepage. This presents all relevant material in one location, enhancing accessibility to data and supporting information for the latest year and all previous years.</p> <p>Each year, DFID publishes accompanying sector pages alongside the headline results. Since 2017, these documents have included: additional contextual information; data disaggregation; a methodological summary; and information on data sources, data quality, reporting lags and revisions. This information provides important background to enable users to understand the strengths and limitations of DFID’s results estimates and use and interpret them appropriately.</p> <p>A forum exists on StatsUserNet to allow users to contact DFID and learn more about Statistics in International Development and DFID’s results estimates.</p>