

The Department for International Development (DFID) leads the UK's global efforts to end extreme poverty, deliver the Global Goals for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and tackle a wide range of global development challenges. The UK's focus and international leadership on economic development is a vital part of Global Britain - harnessing the potential of new trade relationships, creating jobs and channelling investment to the world's poorest countries. Throughout history, sustained, job-creating growth has played the greatest role in lifting huge numbers of people out of grinding poverty. This is what developing countries want and is what the international system needs to help deliver. Whilst there is an urgent need for traditional aid in many parts of the world, ultimately economic development is how we will achieve the Global Goals and help countries move beyond the need for aid.

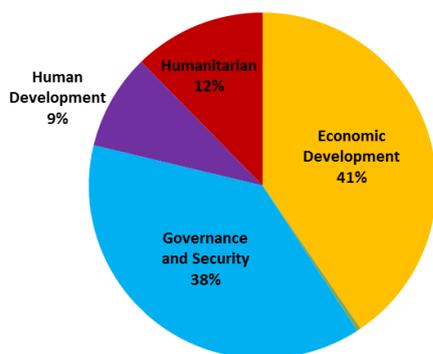
Planned budget for 2018/19

£155m

Planned budget for 2019/20

£155m

**Sector breakdown of 2018/19 bilateral plans**



**Top 3 planned spending programmes in 2018/19 (as at 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018)**

Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund	£100.1m
Multi-Year Humanitarian Support to Afghanistan	£20.4m
Bilateral Support to Education in Afghanistan	£13m

**Contribution to the Global Goals and other government commitments (achieved as at March 2018)**

UK support is helping to build a more stable Afghanistan that is less dependent on external support over the long term. The UK is supporting the Afghan people by helping to provide them with greater access to healthcare, education, and safe drinking water, as well as helping to create jobs, boosting economic development, and tackling corruption. To this end, the UK has pledged to spend up to £750 million in aid to Afghanistan between 2016 and 2020, depending on security conditions and Afghan government performance.

**Headline deliverables**

- Economic development:** We will create more than 35,000 jobs by 2023 and generate \$600m of new private sector investment. We will improve land productivity and create jobs by clearing over 100 km<sup>2</sup> of land by 2020, made unusable by mines and explosives (equivalent to over 14,000 football pitches).
- Basic services and humanitarian:** We will help poor people, including girls and women, access essential services such as healthcare and education. We will help 1.7 million more people, half of whom will be women, to have access to agriculture or irrigation services by 2019. We will continue to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to an estimated 1 million people a year, including refugees or people who have fled their homes due to conflict or disasters.
- Building institutions:** We will support the development of more transparent and accountable institutions through, for example, support for the delivery of upcoming elections and electoral reform, and supporting the government's ability to fight high level corruption. UK support has helped the Afghan government establish the Anti-Corruption Justice Centre to investigate and bring to trial high level corruption cases. We will continue to support efforts to address corruption and to encourage greater transparency.

**Why DFID is investing in Afghanistan**

Almost 40 years of conflict has left Afghanistan one of the poorest and most fragile countries in the world. Creating a more stable environment will help reduce poverty and make progress towards the Global Goals. It will also reduce threats to the UK from violence and extremism, and discourage illegal migration. The

challenges are acute, with more than half of all Afghans living below the poverty line and over 2.5 million returning refugees or internally displaced people expected in 2018. High poverty rates reflect the challenges of limited economic growth, an increased population and deteriorating security, alongside decades of poverty, conflict and instability.

### **How will the UK respond to opportunities and challenges?**

UK aid will aim to build stability in a number of ways. Our efforts include: improving the ability of the Afghan government to function and provide essential services, such as health and education to its people; strengthening private sector led growth and trade and delivering humanitarian assistance including emergency food and services for the most vulnerable. Addressing corruption is central to our efforts to help ensure aid reaches those in need.

### **What is being achieved for the UK?**

UK aid helps to tackle major causes of instability, thus reducing the threat of violence and extremism, and discouraging migration. By creating jobs, improving access to essential services and leading the international effort against corruption, we reduce conditions that allow extremism and terrorism to grow. By making Afghanistan more prosperous, we will also help it to become gradually less dependent on aid.

### **Partners**

- As well as our country programme, global and regional programmes managed from DFID's headquarters support activities in Afghanistan. This includes the UK Aid Direct Fund, the Girls Education Challenge, UK Support to Polio Eradication, Climate Proofing Growth and Development in South Asia.
- We work closely with other government departments like the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence, Home Office, National Crime Agency and the Cabinet Office to achieve results. We also coordinate with other international donors, working with them on programmes on anti-corruption, education and economic development to achieve greater impact.
- Over 50% of our annual bilateral spend is through the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, administered by the World Bank. This pools funding from 15 donors, meaning we can provide large-scale, predictable and co-ordinated support. Pooling resources also reduces risk, providing donors with a common system for addressing fraud and corruption, and monitoring results.
- Approximately 24% of spend is humanitarian aid (£35 million in 2017/18). This is also delivered through multilateral partners, who have the best access on the ground, and existing systems for managing risk.