



Department  
for International  
Development



# Agenda 2030

The UK Government's approach to delivering the Global Goals for Sustainable Development - at home and around the world



## **THE GLOBAL GOALS** For Sustainable Development

March 2017

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# Introduction

The 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development (the Goals)<sup>1</sup> will shape the world's approach to growth and sustainable development until 2030. Building on the progress made by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) between 2000 and 2015, this ambitious agenda sets out the framework through which the world will work together to combat the most pressing challenges of our time, including eradicating extreme poverty, ending hunger, protecting our environment and breaking down gender barriers. The Goals were agreed by 193 member states of the United Nations (UN) in September 2015 and apply to every country.

The UK Government is firmly committed to delivering the Goals both at home and around the world. The UK was at the forefront of negotiating the Goals and will be at the forefront of delivering them. The underlying aims of the Goals are reflected in the UK Government's programme of work, and as such they are being embedded in Single Departmental Plans (SDP).

The primary purpose of the Goals is to eradicate extreme global poverty; therefore the Department for International Development (DFID) retains the policy oversight for the Goals. DFID's overarching strategic approach is set out in the recently-published Bilateral Development Review and Multilateral Development Review. Other departments across Government are responsible for their respective policy areas and the delivery of their commitments related to the Goals. Departments will report progress towards the Goals through their Annual Reports and Accounts, and Cabinet Office will continue to have a role in coordinating domestic delivery of the Goals through the SDP process. Integrating the Goals into the SDPs is a clear demonstration of the UK Government's commitment to this agenda. The report focuses on the UK Government's delivery of the Goals via commitments contained within SDPs. Other activities are also being carried out to deliver the Goals in the UK, in particular, the work being undertaken by the devolved administrations in their respective areas of responsibility. The devolved administrations are reporting separately on their actions to deliver the Goals.

The UK Government and the Office of National Statistics (ONS) will report progress against the Goals in line with the UN follow-up review process. ONS will provide available UK data against the global indicators to the UN for their annual progress reporting.

This document provides an overview and examples of how the UK Government is contributing to the delivery of each of the Goals.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

# Goal 1: No Poverty

## Ending poverty in all its forms everywhere



The UK Government is committed to building a world and a society that works for everyone, not just the privileged few. We are:

- supporting the poorest people around the world to ensure that every person can meet their basic needs, including prioritising the rights of girls and women and people with disabilities; and
- reducing poverty at home through our welfare reforms, including supporting people to find jobs, reducing the disability employment gap, and providing security in retirement.

## Around the World

### Tackling extreme poverty

Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable is an objective of the UK Aid Strategy, and we work with partners at home and around the world to achieve it. Between 2010 and 2015 this included helping 8.9 million people (including 4.6 million women) meet basic needs with cash transfers and providing 69.5 million people (including 36.4 million women) with access to financial services.

### Social protection

We currently support social protection systems to help reduce poverty and enhance human development and productivity. Our aim is to help increase the coverage, quality and sustainability of social protection systems, and we pay particular attention to reaching the poorest and most vulnerable.

### Disability

We will strengthen our work on disability and establish DFID as the global leader in this neglected and under-prioritised area. It is estimated that one billion people across the globe have a disability, 80% of whom live in developing countries. They are often the poorest in their community and face multiple challenges and significant levels of stigma and discrimination. Children with disabilities and adults with mental health conditions are almost four times more likely to experience violence than people who do not have a disability. For too long decision makers have overlooked people with disabilities – we will work to change this. By upholding our commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, we will ensure people with disabilities are systematically and consistently included in, and benefit from, international aid and humanitarian assistance.

### Land ownership

Securing land tenure is an essential building block for inclusive economic development and poverty reduction. We support land programmes that aim to improve poor people's tenure security, and work with governments, international organisations and private companies to promote

implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure, a globally negotiated minimum standard.

## **At Home**

### **Reforming welfare**

Work remains the best route out of poverty, in the UK just as elsewhere. We help the most vulnerable people in our society as we address the root causes of disadvantage and support them to turn their lives around. We will ensure that everyone who is able to work is given all the support they need to do so, while those who cannot are – quite rightly – protected. Through our Universal Credit programme we deliver a benefit system that provides the right incentives, ensures work always pays, and which supports people to both get a job and then to progress in employment. For the first time we also support Universal Credit claimants in work to help them increase their earnings and move towards financial independence.

### **Raising household incomes**

We are ensuring that families are able to keep more of their hard earned income. We will increase the tax-free personal allowance to £11,500 in 2017 and are committed to raise it further to £12,500 by the end of this Parliament across the UK. We have also passed a law that ensures that nobody working 30 hours on the Minimum Wage pays income tax on what they earn. In addition, we have introduced a National Living Wage of £7.20 an hour. This will rise to £7.50 in April 2017.

### **Disability employment gap**

We have pledged to halve the number of disabled people who are unemployed in the UK. Over the last three years, more than 600,000 people with disabilities have entered the workforce in the UK<sup>2</sup>. To help achieve this we are supporting employers to recruit and retain disabled workers through initiatives such as Disability Confident<sup>3</sup>. We are also providing in-work support for disabled people through the Access to Work service which can provide grants in certain circumstances to help pay for practical support for people with a disability, health or mental health conditions in England, Scotland and Wales. Access to Work helped 36,470 people in 2015/16<sup>4</sup>. Although we have made a start in tackling this issue we need to go further. The UK Government laid out in a recently published consultation document<sup>5</sup> our aims to:

- ensure that disabled people and people with long-term health conditions have equal access to labour market opportunities and are given the support they need to prevent them from falling out of work;
- help employers take action to create a workforce that reflects society as a whole;
- ensure people are able to access the right employment and health services, at the right time and in a way which is personalised to their circumstances and integrated around their needs;

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<sup>2</sup>

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/bulletins/uklabourmarket/dec2016>

<sup>3</sup> Disability Confident: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/disability-confident-campaign](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/disability-confident-campaign)

<sup>4</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/538443/access-to-work-statistics-march-2016.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/538443/access-to-work-statistics-march-2016.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> [www.gov.uk/government/consultations/work-health-and-disability-improving-lives/work-health-and-disability-green-paper-improving-lives](http://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/work-health-and-disability-improving-lives/work-health-and-disability-green-paper-improving-lives)

- more effectively integrate the health and social care and welfare systems to help disabled people and people with long-term health conditions move into and remain in sustainable employment;
- put mental and physical health on an equal footing, to ensure people get the right care and prevent mental illness in the first place;
- invest in innovation to gain a better understanding of what works, for whom, why and at what cost so we can scale promising approaches quickly; and
- change cultures and mind-sets across all of society so that we focus on the strengths of disabled people and what they can do.<sup>6</sup>

## **Security in retirement**

We are giving people greater security, choice and dignity in retirement with a safe and sustainable State Pension, and the independence of a well-earned private pension along with benefits that include Winter Fuel Payments, free bus passes, free prescriptions and TV licences.

We also support increased labour supply and retirement incomes through employer-led initiatives on fuller working lives, ensuring older people do not leave the labour market early through avoidable medical retirement; the inability to balance caring responsibilities with employment; and the need to re-skill or change occupations.

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<sup>6</sup> The welfare elements of the Green Paper are reserved, so the consultation covers England, Scotland and Wales, the health elements apply to England and there is no set demarcation for the employment elements where the consultation is asking what will encourage employers to employ and retain disabled people.

# Goal 2: Zero Hunger

## End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



The UK Government wants to contribute to a strong global economy and healthy environment that provides security and opportunity for all and will do this through:

- promoting better nutrition and inclusive agriculture growth that delivers poverty reduction in our partner developing countries; and
- ensuring a sustainable supply of food for the UK market and export; and promoting healthy, balanced diets both for the general population and particular at-risk groups.

## Around the World

### Agricultural growth and sustainability

Inclusive agriculture growth is essential for reducing poverty and for improving food security and livelihoods in many developing countries. Alongside this, investment in basic services that reach the poorest and most vulnerable is essential for preventing malnutrition.

We are scaling up our work to promote growth in commercial agriculture, including support for processing and other agribusiness development to create jobs and connect farmers to national, regional and global markets. The Policy Framework for Agriculture<sup>7</sup> sets out this approach including how we are delivering for small and family farms to better access markets, making agriculture more sustainable and inclusive for women. We will encourage responsible agribusiness investment building on our current work with specialised impact investors, challenge funds and Development Finance Institutions such as CDC. We are contributing to large multilateral funds including the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Bank Group Global Agriculture Food Security Programme. Research and innovation is critical to agriculture transformation and improved nutrition. That is why we are also investing in better evidence of what works, new technologies and the international agriculture research organisation, the CGIAR.

### Hunger and malnutrition

We have taken great strides to address hunger and malnutrition by reaching 30 million children under 5 and pregnant women through nutrition services between 2011 and 2015, and bringing food security to 3.7 million people (including 1.9 million women)<sup>8</sup>. Over the coming years we will focus on delivering the UK Government's commitment to improve the nutrition of 50 million people by 2020. This is being achieved through a range of programmes designed to address the key causes of malnutrition among the poorest and the most vulnerable. To sustain impact beyond 2020, we are strengthening the international architecture for nutrition and supporting countries to build their own

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-conceptual-framework-on-agriculture>

<sup>8</sup> DFID Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16 Results: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dfid-annual-report-and-accounts-2015-2016-results>

systems for addressing malnutrition. This includes helping countries to be better prepared to respond to shocks that increase the risk of hunger and malnutrition.

### **Fisheries productivity**

The UK is providing support to overseas territories, small island developing states and working with Regional Fisheries Management Organisations to attain sustainable fisheries through accreditation, capacity building, resource assessment and the UK's Blue Belt programme. We are also helping to develop sustainable and more productive aquaculture practices for shellfish which will enable year round harvesting.

## **At Home**

### **Sustainable supply of food**

A secure food and farming industry is an important component in a prosperous economy that works for all. Whilst it is not the UK Government's role to set retail food prices, we do work to promote transparency and open global markets internationally, as well as a competitive domestic market to help producers and retailers offer the best prices to consumers. Year on year, since 2014, food prices have fallen. Commodity prices, exchange rates and oil prices are known to be the most important drivers of retail good price inflation, and movement in exchange rates is likely to have an impact on prices. Future costs of food will also depend on negotiated trade deals following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union, in particular tariffs. We are also committed to promoting clear food information. The UK Government is working with the food and farming industries to develop a 25-year plan setting out our vision for the long-term future of our food and farming industries.

### **Promoting healthy and balanced diets**

We are working to reduce England's rate of childhood obesity. We know that the burden of obesity falls hardest on those children from low-income backgrounds; obesity rates are highest for children from the most deprived areas and this is getting worse. So in August 2016 we published a plan for action,<sup>9</sup> which aims to significantly reduce the rate of childhood obesity within the next ten years. This approach to reduce childhood obesity is balanced with respecting consumer choice, economic realities and, ultimately, our need to eat. Local authorities and businesses are working with families and schools to reduce childhood obesity.<sup>10</sup> In addition, the UK Government helps the most vulnerable through initiatives such as Healthy Start - helping some pregnant women and families with children under four years old buy basic food like milk, and fruit and vegetables and the wider Change for Life programme that encourages all to follow a healthy lifestyle, including diet and activity.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childhood-obesity-a-plan-for-action>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/childhood-obesity-plan-case-studies>



# Goal 3: Good Health

## Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



The UK Government is dedicated to providing the finest healthcare at home and tackling the global health challenges we face today. We are:

- investing in preventing and reacting to global health crises and in particular leading globally by promoting, protecting and supporting sexual and reproductive health; and
- creating the safest and highest quality healthcare services including through supporting research and innovation, ensuring mental healthcare and treatment and publishing annual personal well-being indicators.

## Around the World

### Tackling the spread of disease

Tackling the major health challenges of our time is firmly in our national interest; diseases do not respect borders. Healthier adults are more productive which results in the strengthening of a country's economy. Combating and preventing health crises allows people to live longer and with dignity, whilst protecting us in the UK from the spread of deadly diseases like Ebola. The UK has contributed to unprecedented improvements in global health. This included supporting 5.6 million births with skilled birth attendants and saving the lives of 103,000 women in pregnancy and child birth, immunising 67.1 million children and helping 9.9 million girls and women access voluntary family planning<sup>11</sup>.

The UK Government will continue to invest in preventing and reacting to health crises. As an outward-looking nation, we must take action to take these issues at the source. The UK Government has committed to saving 1.4 million children's lives by immunising 76 million children against killer diseases by 2020. We are leading a major new global programme to accelerate the development of vaccines and drugs to eliminate the world's deadliest infectious diseases, while investing to save lives from malaria and working to end preventable child and maternal deaths. We will continue to invest in the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria including providing enough lifesaving anti-retroviral therapy for 1.3 million people living with HIV. We will also continue to prevent avoidable disability, for example through our work to strengthen health systems and the control of neglected tropical diseases such as lymphatic filariasis and trachoma. We have led work with international partners, including through the UN and G20, to secure concerted global action on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)<sup>12</sup>. We will continue to support international cooperation to tackle AMR and other global public health priorities which are vital to future prosperity and security.

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<sup>11</sup> DFID Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16 Results: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dfid-annual-report-and-accounts-2015-2016-results>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-secures-historic-un-declaration-on-antimicrobial-resistance>

## Promoting sexual health

The UK is a key donor and leading voice in promoting, protecting and supporting sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). We are supporting 24 million additional users of voluntary rights-based modern family planning by 2020.

## At Home

### Safe and high-quality healthcare services

The UK has already met some the targets set by the Goals to reduce mortality rates. The UK maternal mortality rate currently stands at 9.02 per 100,000 in 2015 (Goal target was 70 per 100,000), making us joint-30th in the world<sup>13</sup>. The neonatal mortality rate for England and Wales in 2014 was 2.5 per 1,000 live births (Goal target was 12 per 1,000 live births), making it joint-10th in the world.<sup>14</sup> Finally, on infant mortality, the rate in 2014 was 3.6 per 1,000 live births (Goal target was 25 per 1,000 live births), making it joint-15th in the world<sup>15</sup>.

Whilst we may have mortality rates that are below the targets set by the Goals we can and should look to do more to provide the safest and highest quality healthcare services to our citizens. We are working to ensure that hospitals and GP surgeries are the safest in the world and to improve the standards in all areas of care. We are also ensuring that all hospitals in England are properly staffed so the quality of care is the same every day of the week.

### Research and innovation

Ensuring that our citizens have access to the latest advances in medical science is a top priority. We are continuing to support research to improve the diagnostics and treatment of rare diseases and cancers. We are also increasing the use of cost-effective new medicines and technologies and encouraging large-scale trials of innovative technologies and health services, such as through the Francis Crick Institute. In addition, we are continuing to invest in the Cancer Drugs Fund, and have recently published a new framework and operating model<sup>16</sup>. We are also supporting world-leading research on genomics, working towards sequencing of 100,000 whole genomes of patients with rare diseases and cancer. 19,072 genomes have been sequenced up to 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017<sup>17</sup>.

### Mental health

We are determined to ensure that those suffering from mental ill-health receive the support and treatment that they need. We are providing significant support and increasing funding for mental healthcare in England, with £1 billion of funding to be allocated by 2020/21.<sup>18</sup> We are ensuring that there are mental health therapists in every part of the country providing treatment for those who need it through the Improving Access to Psychological therapies (IAPT) scheme, and we are

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<sup>13</sup> <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.STA.MMRT?locations=GB>

<sup>14</sup>

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/childhoodinfantandperinatalmortalityinenglandandwales/2014>

<sup>15</sup>

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/bulletins/childhoodinfantandperinatalmortalityinenglandandwales/2014>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/cdf-sop.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.genomicsengland.co.uk/the-100000-genomes-project-by-numbers/>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spending-review-and-autumn-statement-2015-documents/spending-review-and-autumn-statement-2015>

enforcing the new access and waiting time targets for people experiencing mental ill-health, including children and young people.

### **Personal well-being Indicators**

ONS publish well-being data<sup>19</sup> on an annual basis based on 10 aspects of life that people have said are important to their well-being. During 2016 the ONS have published an interactive tool, which allows people to see how personal well-being has changed in geographic areas over a five-year period, and to compare local areas to the UK as a whole.

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<sup>19</sup>

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/bulletins/measuringnationalwellbeing/localauthorityupdate2015to2016#main-points>

# Goal 4: Quality Education

## Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



The UK Government has a comprehensive framework of legislation, policy and accountability that provides the basis for overall governance and delivery of education. Key components of this include:

- helping children in the poorest countries gain a decent education, and promoting girls' education; and
- ensuring the expansion of good schools, delivering three million new apprenticeships, and making improvements to the higher education system.

## Around the World

### Improving access to education

We must make serious global improvements in education if we are to win the fight against poverty. Improving education increases wages, improves the life chances of people and their families and provides economies with skilled labour forces. Improving education not only improves people's lives, but is good economics. Since 2010 we have supported 11.3 million children in primary and lower secondary school (including 5.3 million girls) and worked through global partners to train 380,000 teachers<sup>20</sup>. We have supported education for the most vulnerable, including through the Syria Conference we hosted in February 2016 where global commitments were made to ensure vulnerable and refugee children have access to quality education.

The UK Government will continue to contribute to Goal 4 by helping 11 million children gain a decent education from 2015-2020 and supporting 6.5 million girls in school. We recently announced additional investment in the Girls Education Challenge (GEC) to help a further 175,000 of the most marginalised girls in the world to get an education, in addition to the up to one million girls already being supported through the programme. We are also the biggest funder to the Education Cannot Wait fund which aims to reach 13.6 million children in the first five years who are living in emergency and crisis affected countries.

### Supporting children with disabilities

We will continue to take concrete steps to identify and support children with disabilities. We are also working with UNICEF and the Global Partnership on Education to increase the international focus on disability and have made commitments on classroom construction and improved data for children with disabilities. This should encourage investment in accessible classrooms, train teachers in inclusive approaches and sensitise community leaders and parents to tackle discrimination.

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<sup>20</sup> DFID Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16 Results: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dfid-annual-report-and-accounts-2015-2016-results>

## Education research

The UK Government has a growing education research programme, including the flagship Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE). RISE will deliver world-class evidence on how education systems can deliver better learning outcomes for all.

## At Home

### Early years

Every child deserves the best possible start in life. That's why we have extended access to 15 hours a week of high-quality early education to all 3 and 4-year-old children in England and the least advantaged 2-year-olds, to prepare them for school and improve their life chances. 93% of 3-year-olds and 97% of 4-year-olds were taking up a funded childcare place in January 2016, and take-up for eligible 2-year-olds rose from 58% in 2015 to 68% in 2016<sup>21</sup>.

This UK Government is proud to be building further on this highly successful programme, doubling free childcare for 3 and 4-year-olds of working parents in England.

Moreover, we are improving the quality of early years providers. The proportion of childcare providers judged good or outstanding is at its highest ever, at 91%<sup>22</sup>.

### Schools

It is the UK Government's belief that all our children, regardless of where they live, should have a place in a great school, and learn from a great teacher. That is why we are committed to creating new, high-quality school places in England through the free schools programme, and why we are continuing to support a self-improving school system by enabling high-performing schools to become academies, and high-performing academy trusts to expand.

The measures we have taken have helped to raise standards to new highs. There are now almost 1.8 million more children in good or outstanding schools compared to 2010<sup>23</sup>.

We have improved the education and prospects of millions of children, but we are committed to driving further improvements, which is why we are introducing fair national funding formulae to match funding to children's needs and the schools they attend. Areas and schools across England that have been underfunded will begin to see increases that will help them achieve more for their pupils. Moreover, the pupil premium provides additional funding for publicly funded schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities and to close the gaps between them and their peers.

On top of that, we are investing more in Opportunity Areas, where there are the largest social mobility challenges, with £60 million of funding to ensure local children have the opportunity to reach their full potential. At the same time, we are investing to build the capacity of the teaching profession in England, including by setting up the College of Teaching, and establishing a teaching

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<sup>21</sup> Education provision: children under 5 years of age, January 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/education-provision-children-under-5-years-of-age-january-2016>

<sup>22</sup> Childcare providers and inspections as at 31 August 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/childcare-providers-and-inspections-as-at-31-august-2016>

<sup>23</sup> Ofsted Annual Report 2015/16: education, early years and skills

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ofsted-annual-report-201516-education-early-years-and-skills>

and leadership innovation fund, worth £75 million over 3 years, focused on supporting teachers and school leaders in challenging areas to develop.

### **Post-16 skills**

We want young people to leave school ready to succeed, to be able to get a job and to contribute to the security of our country's economy. To achieve this, we are simplifying the post-16 education and training landscape, establishing clear, high-quality technical routes to skilled employment for all young people in England, following the recommendations of the expert panel chaired by Lord Sainsbury. These routes will prepare individuals for skilled employment that requires technical and practical skills valued by industry.

Furthermore, we are supporting the creation of 3 million new apprenticeships by 2020, so that more young people can access high-quality employment and training. During 2015/16 there were 503,700 apprenticeship starts and 904,800 funded apprentices participating on an apprenticeship during the same period<sup>24</sup>.

### **Higher education**

Record numbers of students secured university places in 2016, and disadvantaged young people are now more than a third more likely to enter higher education than they were in 2010<sup>25</sup>.

But we can achieve more, so we are strengthening higher education, ensuring the system remains financially sustainable, allows new entrants to the market and is open to people from all backgrounds. To achieve this, we are currently taking the Higher Education and Research Bill through Parliament.

We are driving up teaching quality in England through the Teaching Excellence Framework and improving choice in Higher Education to ensure students and employers get the skills they need. We are also boosting social mobility, life chances and opportunity for all, including through a "transparency revolution", giving students more information than ever before, so they can make the choices that are right for them.

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<sup>24</sup> Further education and skills: statistical first release June 2016

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/further-education-and-skills-statistical-first-release-june-2016>

<sup>25</sup> UCAS Undergraduate End of Cycle Reports

<https://www.ucas.com/corporate/data-and-analysis/ucas-undergraduate-releases/ucas-undergraduate-analysis-reports/ucas-undergraduate-end-cycle-reports>

# Goal 5: Gender Equality

## Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Gender parity is one of the key commitments in the UK Government's agenda to tackle injustices at home and around the world. To achieve this, we are:

- enabling girls and women to live free from violence and exploitation and prioritising the needs of girls and women in our development spend; and
- increasing equality for women in the workplace and seeking to safeguard a secure environment for women and girls to live in the UK.

## Around the World

### Supporting gender equality

Gender equality is at the heart of the UK Aid Strategy, prioritised in the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) and enshrined in the Equality Act 2010, which requires all UK development and humanitarian programmes to consider gender. We have been global leaders for gender equality, including supporting the UN's High Level Panel on Women's Economic Empowerment to tackle the barriers women face in getting jobs and improving their life opportunities, hosting the Girls' Education Forum to galvanise global action, and promoting the rights of women in peace and security through UN Security Council resolution 1325. We have led international action to tackle challenging issues including Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Child, Early and Forced Marriage.

At the UN's Commission on the Status of Women, the UK continues to push for an ambitious agenda and the adoption of Agreed Conclusions that challenge discriminatory social norms and gender stereotypes, that promote equal access of girls and women to high-quality education at all levels, that strengthen the prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, violence in public spheres and at the work place; that diminish the gender pay gap, and that promote equality between women and men in regard to voice, participation, decision making and leadership at all levels in political, economic, public and private spheres.

### Tackling violence against women and girls

The UK Government will maintain its commitment to achieving this Goal including through providing women with access to finance, schooling and family planning services. We will also contribute to ensuring women can live free from violence in all its forms in all settings, focusing on prevention as this is the main route to delivering transformation and sustainable change. We are scaling up efforts as a global leader in the fight to address violence against women and girls (VAWG). We have recently set out a new package of additional support to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women which will benefit over 500,000 women. In addition, we are adding to existing support to Amplify Change, a multi-donor fund working for universal sexual and reproductive health and rights, including supporting the work of 40 grassroots organisations with the local knowledge and expertise to address FGM and child, early and forced marriage.

Our work to end the use of sexual violence in conflict remains a UK Government priority. Since the launch of Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) we have pursued a strong programme of practical action. This includes sixty deployments by the UK Team of PSVI Experts to a wide range of countries to help train health, legal and law enforcement professionals to investigate sexual violence crimes through the documentation, collection and preservation of forensic evidence; working with human rights defenders and NGOs on projects to help survivors access justice, legal advice and psychosocial support as well as to challenge the stigma associated with being a victim of these crimes; and developing and providing training on the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict - a set of practical guidelines for actors working to document incidents of sexual violence in conflict-affected areas.

The UK has also provided training for thousands of military and police personnel from other countries to increase their awareness and understanding of conflict-related sexual violence issues. We will continue to do so.

### **Women, peace and security**

The UK is an international leader on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. In 2006 we developed a National Action Plan (NAP) – one of the first countries to do so – to determine how we would implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on WPS. Our current work is guided by our third NAP, launched jointly by the FCO, DFID and MOD in 2014, as well as the eight ambitious commitments we made at the UN Security Council’s High Level Review (HLR) in 2015, which marked the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325. Women in Peacekeeping was one of the three core themes of the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial, held in London in September 2016, which marked a real step change in international engagement on, and support for, this issue. The Communiqué, signed by 63 countries, included strong calls for action to increase the numbers of women both in peacekeeping more broadly and also in senior leadership positions.

### **Land rights**

We support efforts to ensure women’s land rights are recognised and protected by promoting programmes that map and document their rights, and ensure women have an equal say in negotiations on the use of communal land.

## **At Home**

### **Gender equality in the workplace**

The UK Government has a strong track record on women’s economic empowerment – we have more women in work than ever before, and we are continuing to work to remove the barriers that stop women participating in our workforce, for example through initiatives such as extending the right to request flexible working (in England, Scotland and Wales), introducing Shared Parental Leave (throughout the UK) and doubling free childcare in England – from 15 to 30 hours, which will come into force in September 2017. We are also bringing in tax-free childcare to further support mothers back into work. This will be available to 2 million households across the UK in early 2017.

In addition to these measures, we are introducing mandatory reporting of gender pay gaps and bonuses for voluntary and private sector employers in England, Scotland and Wales with more than 250 staff. We expect all large employers to publish this information every year from April 2017. We are also supporting and promoting the government-commissioned Hampton-Alexander Review’s targets for 33% of FTSE 100 senior executive leaders and 33% of FTSE 350 board directors to be women by 2020.



## Safeguarding security for women and girls

The UK Government is working to challenge the stereotypes and gendered norms that underpin inequality. We support industry-led approaches to address stereotypes and encourage more positive and diverse representations of women, empower consumers to take action against offensive or illegal content, and support the development of young people's media literacy. We have funded Media Smart, the education charity at the Advertising Association, to update and relaunch their media literacy resource for parents and teachers of Key Stage 2 pupils. The resource, published in July, supports young people to be more informed and resilient consumers of media content, and to recognise and understand the stereotypes they may see in advertising.

In addition to this, we have launched "Disrespect Nobody", the second phase of the teen relationship abuse campaign, encouraging teens to rethink their views on violence, controlling behaviour and consent (Following on from the 'This is Abuse' campaign).

Through our UK-wide Ending Violence against Women and Girls strategy, we seek to make violence against women and girls 'everybody's business' in order to change attitudes, prevent violence and where possible, rehabilitate offenders. We have committed £80 million to tackle violence against women in the UK until 2020<sup>26</sup>.

We are taking similar action on forced marriage. A Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) operates both in the UK and internationally providing assistance and support related to a possible forced marriage. The FMU gave advice or supported 1,220 cases of possible forced marriage in 2015 and, to date, over 1,000 Forced Marriage Protection Orders have been made to prevent people from being forced into a marriage and to assist in repatriating victims. This work is supported through extensive outreach and training, with the FMU contributing to around 100 events a year, targeting specialists and potential victims.

In addition, the UK Government has a strong legal framework to tackle the exploitation of female workers through the implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015.

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<sup>26</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/80-million-to-stop-violence-against-women-and-girls>

# Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

## Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



The UK Government has a strong commitment to invest in cleaner water. To achieve this, we are:

- helping the poorest people get access to clean water and sanitation, to stop terrible diseases around the world; and
- continuing to invest in cleaner water here in the UK.

## Around the World

### Increasing access to water and sanitation

We have a strong track record of delivering water and sanitation facilities and access to services around the world. Between 2011 and 2015, the UK ensured that 64.5 million people gained access to these services<sup>27</sup> which are essential for reducing domestic and caring responsibilities of girls and women, enabling them to get jobs and attend school.

We will continue to contribute to delivering Goal 6 by helping at least 60 million people gain access to clean water and sanitation by 2020. This includes ensuring that these services are sustainable and are resilient to future climate change, and that no-one is left behind in their provision. We will ensure our programmes build capacity in national and local authorities in a way that helps us reach the most vulnerable and marginalised. Alongside our programming, we will continue to work hard to mobilise more finance towards water and sanitation.

In particular, we are working to ensure that girls and women continue to be prioritised in the design and delivery of water and sanitation programmes. We also prioritise girls and women in our existing water and sanitation programmes, for instance by using women's membership of local water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) committees to ensure that their needs for safe facilities are met and their voices in local decision-making strengthened.

### Supporting innovation and research

We support innovative new research and help shape the international system to provide better coordination and ensure high quality data is available, for example through the Sanitation and

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<sup>27</sup> DFID Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16 Results: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dfid-annual-report-and-accounts-2015-2016-results>

Hygiene Research for Equity (SHARE) and the Improving Water Security for Poor People (IWSP) programmes.

## At Home

### Cleaner water

We have a successful system for the provision of clean water and sanitation services which, in England and Wales, are mostly provided by utility companies and regulated by Ofwat and the Drinking Water Inspectorate. According to the World Health Organisation and UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation, 100% of the UK has access to safe water<sup>28</sup>.

Despite these strong foundations, we continue to be committed to further investment in cleaner water. We published in February 2016 updated River Basin Management Plans covering all of the UK. In England the Plans build on work over the last five years to improve over 9,300 miles of our rivers<sup>29</sup>.

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<sup>28</sup> <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SH.H2O.SAFE.ZS>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/river-basin-management-plans-2015>

# Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

## Ensure access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services



Secure, affordable and clean energy supplies provide the backbone for economic success at home and economic prosperity around the world. The UK Government will deliver an energy infrastructure that is fit for the 21st century. This means energy that is both cheap and clean. We are doing this by:

- helping developing countries use clean energy through our development programmes;
- supporting and encouraging energy efficiency, and providing funding for new renewable energy technology.

## Around the World

### Investment in energy generation

We support a range of initiatives to help developing countries make progress towards Goal 7. This includes support to increase investment in on-grid and decentralised (off-grid) electricity generation in developing countries, as well as a move towards a cleaner energy mix and improved efficiency. For example, Energy Africa is a campaign to accelerate the expansion of the household solar market in Africa, helping increase energy access for people in Africa. Green mini-grids programmes in Tanzania and Kenya facilitate investment and operation of renewable energy in local communities that can increase access to electricity for people and businesses.

We work alongside partner governments to build stronger legal and regulatory frameworks for investment in cleaner energy, through programmes like the Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility and the Ethiopia Investment Advisory Facility.

### Private sector finance

We mobilise private sector finance through platforms such as the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) and UK's Development Finance Institution, CDC, which provides project development support and long-term capital across the energy value chain. We are also transforming the private equity space for climate investments.

We will continue to work in partnership through the multilateral system to help achieve Goal 7 - including through major multilateral funds such as the climate investment funds (CIFs), using public finance strategically to unlock multiple flows of private finance.

## Energy innovation

Mission Innovation - a group of 23 international members aims to accelerate clean energy investment and innovation in order to provide reliable and affordable energy for all. The member governments represent more than 80% of global clean energy investment, and have pledged to double their clean energy research and development funding over five years.

The UK Government joined Mission Innovation at the COP21 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris. This demonstrates our commitment to international research and innovation efforts to reduce the costs of low carbon energy, strengthening collaboration and transparency in clean energy research, development, and demonstration.

The UK is now assisting countries to implement their Nationally Determined contributions to reduce their Greenhouse Gas Emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. The Energy Catalyst and Newton programmes fund projects that provide clean, affordable and secure energy innovations to developing countries.

## At Home

### Energy innovation support

The UK Government's and regulated companies' investment, available for energy research and innovation will be circa £2 billion over the 5 years to 2020/21. This spend will support innovations across the energy sector, including smart system technologies, nuclear innovation, and cross-cutting initiatives including the Energy Entrepreneurs Fund.

### Energy efficiency

We are supporting low-cost measures on energy efficiency, with a goal of insulating one million more homes across England, Scotland and Wales over the next five years. We also want to ensure that every home and business in England, Scotland and England is offered a smart meter by the end of 2020, delivered as cost effectively as possible. By September 2016, nearly 5 million smart meters were operating in smart mode in homes and businesses<sup>30</sup>. The introduction of smart meters will ensure that, by 2020, 26 million households in England, Scotland and Wales will be able to work out where they can save energy, cut their bills and therefore do their bit for the environment.

We have continued to work hard to ensure that our domestic energy system is affordable. Our energy policies will take an average of £30 off projected energy bills for 24 million households from 2017/18<sup>31</sup> in England, Scotland and Wales. The UK Government has also committed to keeping the Winter Fuel Payment for the lifetime of this Parliament and it is payable to everyone across the UK who has reached women's state pension age (both men and women).

### Funding new renewable technology and research

We are also committed to providing start-up funding for promising new renewable technologies and research, and we are already on track to deliver 35% of our electricity from renewables by 2020-21, exceeding the 30% ambition.

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<sup>30</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statistical-release-and-data-smart-meters-great-britain-quarter-3-2016>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spending-review-and-autumn-statement-2015-documents/spending-review-and-autumn-statement-2015>

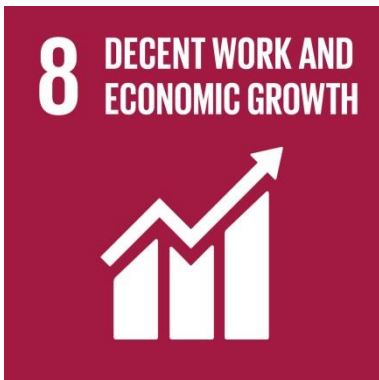
The UK is committed to energy technology and research in support of clean, secure and affordable energy. Reflecting the diversity of sector needs, public funding is structured, steered, or delivered through a range of organisations, including the Department for Business Energy and Skills (BEIS), Innovate UK, the Research Councils Energy Programme, the Devolved Nations, local authorities, ETI, Catapults, and OFGEM. The recently created Energy Innovation Board<sup>32</sup> will seek to coordinate cross-government initiatives building on the success of the Low Carbon Innovation Coordination Group. Critically the majority of funding schemes leverage private sector resources and/or the UK's world-class science base.

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<sup>32</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/energy-innovation-board>

# Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

**Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all**



A strong and healthy economy that works for everyone is the UK Government's first priority. We are delivering on this goal by:

- supporting growth and sustainable economic development in many of the poorest developing countries; and
- investing in research and innovation, supporting businesses with competitive taxes and adequate financial support, and increasing employment across all sectors of UK society.

## Around the World

### Economic prosperity

Economic growth and job creation, including through increasing opportunities for trade and private sector investment is essential for overcoming poverty and alleviating aid dependency. No country can prosper or move from being aid dependent without it. This is why economic development is a top-priority for the UK Government and Departments are working together, with multilateral and other development partners, to deliver shared economic development priorities.

Ensuring global prosperity will continue to be a UK Government priority. We will do this whilst supporting inclusive growth to help ensure the very poorest benefit and remove the barriers that prevent excluded groups (particularly girls and women; youth and people with disabilities) from participating and benefiting from economic growth.

### Private sector investment

We will continue to use the UK's Development Finance Institution, CDC, as a mechanism for encouraging private sector investment in developing countries and, through CDC's own investments, creating direct and indirect jobs in these countries. CDC invests in businesses in Africa and South Asia, which, combined, are home to 80% of the world's poorest people. In 2015, 66% of CDC investments were disbursed to the poorest and most difficult countries<sup>33</sup>. The businesses CDC invested in created over one million jobs in Africa and South Asia in 2015 alone<sup>34</sup>. We will also continue to invest in the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG) which has

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<sup>33</sup> CDC Annual review 2015, <http://www.cdcgroup.com/Documents/Annual%20Reviews/CDC%20Annual%20Review%202015.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> CDC Annual Review 2015 <http://www.cdcgroup.com/Documents/Annual%20Reviews/CDC%20Annual%20Review%202015.pdf>

helped mobilise almost \$20 billion of private investment into some of the world's poorest countries.<sup>35</sup>

## **Modern slavery**

The UK Government is strongly committed to eradicating modern slavery in the UK and around the world. This includes tackling exploitation and use of child labour in the workplace. The UK Modern Slavery Act (2015) makes an important and exemplary contribution by requiring large UK companies address and report on what they are doing to ensure there is no modern slavery in their overseas supply chains. Several countries are assessing how the Modern Slavery Act can inform similar legislation in their own jurisdictions. The UK will continue to encourage global commitment to achieving SDG 8.7 which targets modern slavery; and to use this Goal to raise levels of ambition in the fight against modern slavery, as well as to secure the necessary coordination within international organisations.

## **At Home**

### **Long-term economic approach**

We are taking a long-term view by fostering research, innovation and jobs in the life science industry. We are supporting modern industrial strategies, to help people compete and win in the intense global race for high value, high knowledge jobs. We are supporting the strength of the Midlands in advanced manufacturing, engineering and science and are supporting the creation of new jobs by backing the East of England's strengths in agri-tech, high tech businesses and energy business.

### **Supporting businesses**

Business is the primary source of prosperity for any country. As such, we are supporting businesses in a number of ways. We have a stable tax environment. The UK Government is cutting corporation tax from 18% to 17% in 2020 and delivering the biggest ever cut in business rates in England worth £6.7 billion. We are also making it easier for people to get the finance and support they need to start up and grow their business through Start Up Loans which have issued over 44,000 loans worth over £276m<sup>36</sup> in the UK.

We will work collaboratively with UK businesses, to understand the barriers to accessing developing markets and work to make it easier for them to undertake responsible business, and facilitate inward and outward investment, that reduces poverty.

We are also continuing to support the credit union movement in making financial services more accessible and are helping new challenger banks to inject new competition into the market, including through the British Business Bank.

### **Increasing employment**

Increasing employment is the cornerstone of our long-term economic plan. We have an ambition to achieve full employment in the UK with the highest employment rate in the G7, and to halve the disability employment gap. By continuing to provide support to 16-24 year olds not in education, employment or training we aim to abolish long-term youth unemployment in the UK.

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<sup>35</sup> PIDG Annual report 2015 <http://www.pidg.org/resource-library/annual-reports>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.startuploans.co.uk/achievements/>



# Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

## Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation



The UK Government is working hard to:

- support growth and sustainable economic development in many of the poorest developing countries by unlocking private and public investment in energy and infrastructure; and
- upgrade and expand the rail network and road network, and seek to achieve near-universal coverage of broadband and mobile phone signal.

## Around the World

### Improving infrastructure around the world

Improved and expanded delivery of infrastructure services is central to the delivery of the UK's international development objectives. Reliable, accessible transport and energy promote growth and prosperity by increasing productivity, facilitating trade and creating an environment in which business can flourish. Access to infrastructure enables people to take advantage of economic opportunities and access markets, jobs, information and training. Low-carbon, resilient infrastructure is critical to meeting the challenge of climate change.

Examples of UK Aid programmes on infrastructure include:

- We are the largest funder of the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), which mobilises private investment in infrastructure in to help promote economic development and alleviate poverty in the world's poorest countries. Since 2002, PIDG has supported 133 infrastructure projects to financial close, of which 56 are fully operational. These have or are expected to provide 265 million people with access to new or improved infrastructure. The \$1.2 billion committed by PIDG donors since 2002 has mobilised almost \$20 billion in private sector investment and almost \$9 billion from other development finance institutions.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> <http://www.pidg.org/resource-library/annual-reports>

- DFID's Pakistan Economic Corridors programme will improve transport infrastructure in Pakistan along with enhanced private sector involvement leading to increased trade and economic growth in Pakistan.
- DFID's Transforming Energy Access programme will support early stage testing and scale up of innovative technologies and business models that will accelerate access to affordable, clean energy services for poor households and enterprises, especially in Africa.

## Research

The UK will continue to be a global leader on transport research in low and middle income countries. Over the past four years we have broadened our portfolio from rural roads to include programmes on Road Safety, high volume transport and transport impact evaluations.

## At Home

### Upgrading and expanding the rail network

The UK Government is investing £100 billion over the Parliament to improve and modernise infrastructure for the benefit of all. We have a number of rail infrastructure programmes that are both ongoing and planned for the future. Good progress is being made towards the delivery of the Crossrail programme, with services expected to start in December 2018. Plans are also in place to deliver the High Speed 2 rail line, with phase 1 connecting Birmingham and London on track to being delivered between 2017 and 2026. We are also delivering on our plans to extend the electrification of the rail network to the North, East Anglia, and the South West.

### Investing in England's road network

The UK Government is investing over £15 billion in England's strategic road network between 2015 and 2021, including investments in over 100 major schemes, as set out in the Road Investment Strategy published in December 2014. Good progress is being made up and down the country and recently the £1.5 billion upgrade to the A14 between Cambridge and Huntingdon started construction. The UK Government is also giving local authorities around £6 billion for highways maintenance.

### Increasing the UK's digital infrastructure

We are also committed to ensuring that the UK has appropriate digital infrastructure for the future, especially in isolated rural areas. We will achieve this by ensuring that ultrafast broadband is available to nearly all UK premises as soon as practicable; securing the delivery of superfast broadband in urban and rural areas to provide coverage to 95% of the UK by the end of 2017; ensuring that seizes the chance to be a world leader in the development of 5G, playing a key role in defining industry standards;

### New research and innovation body

The UK Government is establishing UK Research and innovation (UKRI) as a single strategic body that will bring together 7 Research Councils, Innovate UK and research funding from Higher Education Funding Council for England with a combined budget of more than £6 billion. UKRI will be a major voice for UK research and innovation in the UK and globally.

# Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities

## Reduce inequality within and among countries



We are committed to ensuring that the UK is an inclusive society for all, building a country and economy that works for everyone and reducing inequalities through our development programmes. We are achieving this by:

- targeting the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, the most excluded, those caught in crises, and those most at risk of violence and discrimination with our aid spend; and
- promoting economic growth and participation by all, empowering and legislating against discrimination and devolving greater powers to the regions and constituent nations of the UK.

## Around the World

### Leaving no one behind

The UK Aid strategy outlines the UK's ambition to be a world leader on delivering the promise on Leave No one Behind. It commits the UK to prioritise work that targets the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, the most excluded, those caught in crises and those most at risk of violence and discrimination.

We will support countries and partners to increase their capacity to leave no one behind. For example; by understanding more about those who are excluded or discriminated against through support of the generation and use of disaggregated data and evidence; by empowering and giving voice to people through inclusive development of policies and programmes, monitoring and shared learning on good practice; and by including people in our targeted programming, trialing innovative approaches, and interventions that work at scale, such as social protection. We are also stepping up specific action for different social groups to tackle inequality and exclusion.

### Disability

We will maintain our commitment to be a global authority on disability data so that every person counts. We will drive action to improve the lives of people with disabilities. We will ensure people with disabilities access a quality education and productive employment and we will work with national governments and the private sector towards eradicating the stigma and discrimination people with disabilities face. We will also continue to support disabled people's organisations around the world to help disabled people participate fully in society and enjoy equal opportunities.

## At Home

### Empowering and legislating against discrimination

The UK Government has already enacted some of the strongest equality and non-discrimination legislation globally, but we are committed to taking further action. We are seeking to introduce legislation that will pardon outdated same-sex convictions and we will continue to champion

equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people. We are halving the disability employment gap; and ensuring greater parity between men and women in the workplace.

### **Racial inequality**

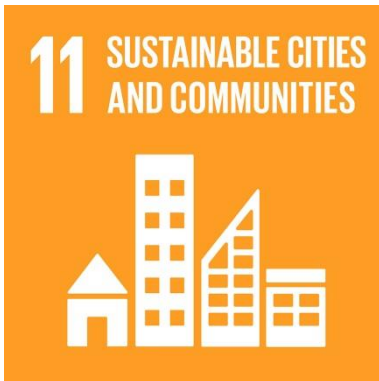
On 27 August 2016 the Prime Minister announced an audit to look into racial disparities in public service outcomes. The audit will review UK Government data to identify racial inequalities in outcomes from contact with all public services, and any gaps in data collection. It will publish all data in a single place so that the public can search the data to show inequalities in outcomes by geography, age or social-economic category.

### **Economic growth and participation by all**

In October 2016 the UK Government launched a consultation 'Improving Lives' to look at how we can make progress on our ambition to halve the disability employment gap in the UK and, whether or not they have a long-term health condition or disability. It is fundamental to creating a society based on fairness: people living in more disadvantaged areas have poorer health and a higher risk of disability. It will also support our health and economic policy objectives by contributing to the UK Government's full employment ambitions, enabling employers to access a wider pool of talent and skills, and improving health.

# Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

## Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



The UK Government is working hard to:

- support growth in some of the poorest countries through promoting urban development that is resilient and sustainable, and;
- ensure that public transport is accessible to all and increase housing supply.

## Around the World

### Sustainable urbanisation

We are supporting urbanisation that is resilient, sustainable and drives economic development. We are promoting awareness with partner governments of the role of urban development in contributing to national growth and development.

We are committed to supporting growth in cities across Sub-Saharan and Southern Africa and South Asia, and in particular in emerging intermediate towns and cities. We will do this by supporting improved finance, investing in infrastructure, creating jobs for the urban poor and promoting climate smart urban planning and design.

We have set up the Infrastructure and Cities for Economic Development (ICED) facility to scope and design urban and infrastructure programmes in partner countries with a focus on economic development. ICED will also focus on generating critical knowledge and evidence on the best approaches to supporting inclusive and sustainable urban development. We are also working with a range of partners on urban development, including with the World Bank to invest in improved urban resilience and new programming to enhance the economic performance of African cities.

### Research

The UK is a global leader for transport research in low and middle income countries. We are expanding our research portfolio to include work on urban transport to build the evidence in this important area.

## At Home

### Public transport

On transport, in England, for the term of this parliament we are capping annual rises of regulated rail fares at the Retail Price Index and remain committed to improving access to transport services for disabled and older passengers and to support sustainable transport. An Accessibility Action Plan is being drafted with input from the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee to ensure the disabled passengers have accessible transport in England. We are aware that access to transport is important to allow people to access education, to get to work, to see family and friends, and to enjoy leisure activities. The Plan seeks to address the barriers faced by disabled people accessing public transport and brings together a range of actions from across different modes of transport with the aim of increasing disabled people's access to public transport.

### Air quality

Air pollution can have a significant impact on human health. Tackling air pollution is a priority and that is why we have agreed legally binding UK targets to reduce emissions of key air pollutants by 2020 and 2030. We are actively engaging at local, national, and international level and working closely across the UK Government to create a cleaner, healthier environment to benefit people and the economy through a new programme of Clean Air Zones. The Zones will support targeted action to improve air quality and ensure resources are prioritised and coordinated in order to shape the urban environment.

### Housing

Driving up housing supply is essential – the UK Government is aiming to deliver one million new homes across England by 2020. We are committed to providing safe and affordable housing whilst supporting sustainable urbanisation. To achieve this we are aiming to deliver 400,000 affordable housing starts by 2021 and we are focused on accelerating housing supply by ensuring more land is made available for housing where it is needed most, speeding up development, and diversifying the market. We are making sure that local communities are fully informed about new infrastructure, such as roads and schools that will be provided when new homes are granted planning permission. The Government published a Housing White Paper in February 2017 that sets out plans to reform the housing market and boost the supply of new homes in England.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-white-paper>  
28 | Agenda 2030

# Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

## Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



The UK Government is working hard to:

- engage internationally to promote sustainable consumption globally and;
- reduce waste in the UK, and ensure the sustainable management and efficient use of the UK's natural resources.

## Around the World

### Engaging through international fora

We work towards Goal 12 primarily through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), to influence both the consumer and producer end of supply chains.

The UK is a key player in identifying and implementing the most effective strategies to engage consumers in sustainable consumption. We are working to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production through engaging in the wider work developed under the UNEP 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production. We have funded, with UNEP, the Global Industrial Symbiosis Programme which will help participating countries increase their ambition in reducing emissions and help deliver actions under the UNEP 10 Year Framework Programme.

## At Home

### Waste reduction

We have put Waste Prevention Programmes across the UK in place as required by the Waste Framework Directive. These include a range of measures, which can be applied by government, businesses, third sector, consumers and others to prevent and reduce waste, and encourage greater reuse.

As part of this, the UK has voluntary agreements, delivered through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to reduce waste and encourage greater resource efficiency for key sectors, namely food and packaging, clothing, and electronic and electrical products. This voluntary approach is effective and allows businesses to reduce waste whilst becoming more efficient and competitive. Signatories in the grocery sector reduced supply chain food and packaging waste by

7.4% between 2009 and 2012 and by a further 3% by 2015. Household food waste was reduced by 12% between 2007 and 2015<sup>39</sup>.

We want to go further and are now working with WRAP as part of Courtauld 2025 towards ambitious targets, including a 20% reduction in UK food and drink waste by 2025.

We are also working to reduce energy waste, supporting low-cost measures on energy efficiency, with the goal of insulating a million more homes over the next five years, supporting our commitment to tackle fuel poverty. We remain on track to meet this target, with around 276,000 homes since the start of May 2015 to end July 2016 having had at least one insulation measure installed<sup>40</sup>.

### **Sustainable management and use of the UK's natural resources**

We are also committed to ensuring sustainable management and efficient use of the UK's natural resources. We have made good progress in: increasing the number of fish stocks of interest to the UK which are exploited at or below their maximum sustainable yield; rebalancing quota to provide extra help to small-scale inshore fishing communities; supporting the safe development of shale gas; and working with the farming industry to develop a 25 year plan. The UK's withdrawal from the European Union offers opportunities to manage fish stocks and support local fishing industries.

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<sup>39</sup> [http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Courtauld\\_Commitment\\_3\\_final\\_report\\_0.pdf](http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Courtauld_Commitment_3_final_report_0.pdf) and <http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Courtauld%20Commitment%202020Final%20Results.pdf>

<sup>40</sup> [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/554417/Headline\\_Release\\_-\\_HEE\\_stats\\_22\\_Sept16\\_final.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/554417/Headline_Release_-_HEE_stats_22_Sept16_final.pdf)



# Goal 13: Climate Action

## Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



The UK Government is working at home and around the world to adapt to the effects of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by:

- building resilience and responding to crises in fragile and conflict affected states that are particularly vulnerable to climate change;
- investing in low-carbon energy sources, improving fuel standards in cars and increasing energy efficiency wherever possible.

## Around the World

### Climate change

Climate change is one of the biggest global challenges that will affect all countries. Many fragile and conflict affected states are particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events, and increasingly frequent floods and droughts. When combined with other pressures this can overburden countries leading to social upheaval, conflict, and forced migration. Lack of access to energy is a major barrier to economic and human development and worldwide an estimated 1.2 billion people currently have no access to electricity. Since 2011 our International Climate Finance (ICF) funding has already had a significant impact. For example, we have helped over 21 million people to cope with the effects of climate change, and improved access to clean energy for over six million people<sup>41</sup>.

The UK is playing a leading role in addressing these challenges. The UK Government has increased its funding through our ICF. Through over 200 programmes we are helping developing countries to manage the risks associated with increasing weather extremes, and to maximise the opportunities for more sustainable markets and infrastructure. The UK played a key role helping secure the successful outcome to the Paris Summit on Climate Change in December 2015 and the global agreement in October 2015 to phase down hydrofluorocarbon greenhouse gases. The UK is now assisting countries to implement their Nationally Determined contributions to reduce their Greenhouse Gas Emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

## At Home

### Climate Change Act

The UK Government is meeting this goal through the requirements set out by the Climate Change Act (2008). The Act introduced a target for the UK to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050, on a 1990 base year and covers emissions across the economy. We remain

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<sup>41</sup> 2016 UK Climate Finance Results: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2016-uk-climate-finance-results>

committed to meeting this target while keeping our energy supply secure and low cost in the interest of bill payers, hardworking families and businesses.

The Act also established a framework for identifying and tackling the risks posed by climate change. Every five years the UK Government prepares an assessment of the risks and opportunities of climate change for the UK. This assessment is based on national projections of climate change, and includes a programme to tackle those risks. The UK risk assessments consider the indirect effects on the UK of the global impacts of climate change including risks from increased migration and conflict and on food supply.

## **Climate science**

The UK provides world leading weather forecasting and climate modelling through the Met Office Hadley Centre and shares this expertise with countries around the world by contributing to international initiatives including the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. UK science supports country capacity building projects and a range of other international programmes and initiatives like the Newton Funded Climate Science for Services Partnerships.

The UK Government's Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science's (Cefas) Marine Climate Change Centre is a world class facility dedicated to providing cutting edge science to understand the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification.

## **Investing in low carbon energy sources**

We are using carbon budgets to successfully lower emissions. The UK met the first carbon budget and the latest projections show that we are on track to over deliver against the second and third. We are working to publish our Emissions Reduction Plan that will set out our proposals for meeting the fourth and fifth carbon budgets and decarbonising through the 2020s.

## **25 year-plan for the environment**

We will work with the Natural Capital Committee to develop a comprehensive 25-year plan for the environment in England. This will help ensure the environment is appropriately maintained and improved, and remains resilient to the impacts of climate change, so that it flourishes and continues to underpin our economic success and well-being. Through the plan we will:

- develop the structures and tools to draw together economic, social and scientific evidence and provide practical approaches to enable people to value nature systematically and fully when they are making decisions on the ground, and to ensure we get the greatest value from both public and private investment;
- integrate delivery and decision-making on environmental quality by using catchments as the building block, driven by local join-up, organisational reform and robust action at local level; and
- bring together business, environmental non-governmental organisations and others to deliver improvements to the environment, harnessing people's enthusiasm and connecting people with nature.

## **Investing in infrastructure**

We are upgrading the electricity infrastructure in England, Scotland and Wales, replacing power stations reaching the end of their natural lives with a more diverse, more secure, and cleaner mix. Our aim is to keep the lights on, and decarbonise in the most cost effective way possible.

The UK has a modern approach to energy monitoring. The UK's smart meter rollout will help hardworking families and businesses take control of their energy use; bringing an end to estimated bills and helping bill-payers to become more energy efficient.

# Goal 14: Life Below Water

## Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development



The UK Government has a strong commitment to marine conservation and ensuring that UK waters are managed and used in a sustainable way. We are doing this by:

- working internationally to manage ocean change sustainably and providing modern, accurate marine data and developing the skills needed to manage and protect critical marine ecosystems; and
- developing and encouraging sustainable fishing regulations, reducing water contamination and protecting a healthy UK marine biodiversity.

## Around the World

### Biodiversity

We are contributing towards Goal 14 through the implementation of Aichi Biodiversity Targets. These include targets to conserve 10% of coastal and marine areas by 2020.

Through the Darwin Initiative Fund and the Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund, also known as 'Darwin Plus', we are committed to funding projects that aim to achieve Goal 14, including projects that enhance the extent and management of protected areas in the marine environment.

### Managing ocean change

The UK is working with G7 partners to develop a global system to observe ocean changes to ensure that we have the knowledge necessary to manage ocean change sustainably and in a timely manner. The UK also jointly leads the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network initiative, which aims to improve understanding of global ocean acidification conditions and exchange information to better respond to its impacts.

### Marine pollution

We are working towards the Oslo and Paris Conventions for the protection of the North-East Atlantic to address contaminants, eutrophication and litter in regional seas. For example, we have developed a Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter and are working in partnership with other countries to implement actions relevant to our seas.

### Sustainable use of oceans

We are committed to the development the new internationally legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond national jurisdiction. Once agreed, this instrument will make a major contribution to the delivery of Goal 14.

## Commonwealth Small Island Developing States

Through the Commonwealth Marine Economies (CME) Programme we are providing Commonwealth Small Island Developing States with the modern, accurate hydrographic and marine sciences data they need to manage and protect critical marine-ecosystem services and realise the economic potential of their national waters.

This includes:

- providing assessments on the impact of ocean acidification and is monitoring sea level rises in the Pacific, Indian Ocean and Caribbean.
- providing data and training for Commonwealth Small Island Developing States to monitor and mitigate the effects of pollution on their coastal environments, enabling them to make informed policy choices and facilitating clean-up activities.
- enabling the sustainable use of marine resources including fisheries and aquaculture and providing data and training to support sustainable tourism in Commonwealth Small Island Developing State.

## At Home

### Maritime conservation zones

We have been working hard to complete a network of Maritime Conservation Zones (MCZ and their MPA equivalents in Scotland). 23 new areas along the UK coast were designated as MCZs in January 2016 bringing the total of UK MCZs to 82. Approximately 17% of UK waters are now protected<sup>42</sup>. This Blue Belt of protected marine areas coverage exceeds the 10% target for coastal and marine areas set out in the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi targets.

We are also committed to working with our Overseas Territories to create a Blue Belt around their coastlines in order to protect the globally significant biodiversity found there. Significant progress is being made towards meeting this Goal. Half of Ascension Island's maritime zone has now been closed to commercial fishing<sup>43</sup>.

### Sustainable fishing

The UK Government has been a central partner in the development of sustainable fishing regulations, playing a key role in securing radical reform of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). The reformed CFP is the most significant change to fisheries management in a generation. We have developed a robust and well-tested system for detecting and punishing infringements of fisheries legislation.

### Water contamination

We are committed to reducing the contamination in our water. For example, Under the OSPAR Convention for the Protection of the North East Atlantic, the UK aims to prevent pollution of the OSPAR maritime area by continuously reducing discharges, emissions and losses of hazardous substances and has a number of measures through which we are aiming to achieve this goal as set out in the UK Marine Strategy.

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<sup>42</sup> <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-4549>

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.ascension-island.gov.ac/government/conservation/marine/>

## **Marine biodiversity**

Further, by 2021 the UK will have in place Marine Plans for each of its marine planning regions. Marine plans will contribute to achieving healthy marine and coastal habitats, which are able to support strong, biodiverse biological communities that are healthy, resilient and adaptable. Under these plans human activity must be kept to a level that enables good environmental status to be achieved.

# Goal 15: Life on Land

**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**



The UK Government is working hard to achieve this Goal through:

- promoting effective use of natural resources and the environment through our development programmes; and
- promoting conservation and sustainable management of UK habitats, including forests and woodlands and protecting important sites, such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest and our Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

## Around the World

### Deforestation

Poverty reduction and protection of ecosystems are closely linked, with the poorest often relying most heavily on natural resources for their livelihoods. Addressing deforestation and supporting the sustainable management of forests is vital to meeting both the sustainable development and global climate Goals. Forests improve people's lives, both directly and indirectly, by delivering a range of economic, social, and environmental benefits, including biodiversity, pollinators, carbon storage, clean water, and enhancing climate resilience.

The ICF has been developed to support initiatives that: incentivise action to reduce deforestation and forest degradation; support forest management, governance and market reforms; stop illegal and unsustainable use of forest resources; and promote investments in sustainable forestry, agriculture and land management.

The UK engages in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the main international forum devoted to the conservation, and sustainable use of the world's biological diversity and actively contributes to the global delivery of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, for example, through:

- contributions to the Global Environment Facility;
- the Darwin Initiative, which since 1992 has supported 997 projects in 159 countries to help those countries rich in biodiversity but poor in financial resources to conserve, and sustainably use, their natural resources<sup>44</sup>;
- the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, which provides financial support to practical projects around the world that develop sustainable livelihoods for communities affected by illegal wildlife trade; reduces demand for the products of the illegal wildlife trade; and strengthens law enforcement and the role of the criminal justice system;

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<sup>44</sup> <http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk>

- investing in projects around the world to tackle the illegal wildlife trade, as well as supporting international capacity building and expertise sharing in this area;
- hosting a fourth high level meeting on the illegal wildlife trade in 2018, which follows the ground-breaking London conference in 2014 and subsequent conferences in Kasane and Hanoi, to press for delivery of commitments agreed in this area; and
- our proposed ban on sales of worked ivory items produced between 1947 and the present day, putting UK rules on ivory sales among the world's toughest.

### Promoting programmes on sustainability

We will continue to contribute towards this Goal by promoting effective economic stewardship of natural resources and the environment through programmes that support the link between poverty and sustainability, including:

- the World Bank Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystems Services (WAVES programme), supporting partner governments to consider the value of their natural resources in national accounts and policy making;
- the Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation programme – to improve understanding of the way ecosystems function and support the poor;
- the UN Poverty and Environment Initiative helps governments to integrate sustainability into national planning;
- KNOWFOR provides policy makers and decision takers with reliable, high quality forest research and knowledge;
- Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) supports governance and market reforms to reduce the illegal use of forest resources and benefits poor people who depend on forests.

### Global environment facility

The UK will continue to fund the Global Environment Facility which, as the financial mechanism for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the Convention on Biological Diversity, funds projects and programmes to address global environmental challenges.

## At Home

### Protecting and conserving UK nature

The UK's prosperity, security and well-being depend on a healthy natural environment including our landscapes, forests, soils and the habitats and wildlife they support. We want every family to have the opportunity to enjoy and benefit from these. We have long been committed to responsible forest management, working hard to conserve and expand our woodland areas, whilst collaborating with the EU to prevent illegal logging. We are working to ensure that public forests and woodland are kept in trust for the nation. We also have a long history of conserving our rare and threatened species and habitats and have been in the forefront of developments in this area, particularly through legislation and the extensive uptake of our agri-environment schemes. Biodiversity has been – and continues to be – the principal objective of our schemes but they also contribute significantly to improving water quality as well as securing benefits for a range of other environmental objectives such as landscape character, the historic environment, natural flood risk management, conservation of rare breeds, woodland management and access to the countryside by school children and young people. The biodiversity strategies in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland seek to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of our nature. We are also developing a new plan to protect and enhance the natural environment in England over the next 25 years.

On top of this, the UK is increasing its woodland management capacity. For example, in July 2015 the Countryside Stewardship Scheme in England was launched, supported by £31 million of funding per year to be spent on forestry programmes. Part of this funding will contribute to the creation of over 10,000 hectares new woodland during this Parliament. From April 2015 to September 2016, 1,353,000 new trees were planted in England. 58% of woodland in England is now actively managed.<sup>45</sup>

We are also committed to maintaining national protections for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, National Parks, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and other environmental designations.

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[http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCE\\_headline\\_performance\\_indicators\\_30sep16.pdf/\\$FILE/FCE\\_headline\\_performance\\_indicators\\_30sep16.pdf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/FCE_headline_performance_indicators_30sep16.pdf/$FILE/FCE_headline_performance_indicators_30sep16.pdf)



# Goal 16: Peace and Justice

**Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels**



The UK was at the forefront of pushing for Goal 16 and is committed to delivering it at home and around the world. We are:

- working to address the causes of instability, insecurity and conflict, tackling crime and corruption through our aid spend and promoting and protecting international human rights obligations;
- tackling violence towards women and children at home and around the world; and
- providing fair access to the justice system and reforming government and public services at home so as to increase accountability and transparency.

## Around the World

### Corruption and serious organised crime

The UK is committed to building peaceful societies and strong institutions globally. Supporting developing countries requires tackling many of the challenges that affect us at home – such as corruption, money laundering and tax evasion, serious organised crime and irregular flows of migration. The UK Government supports work in the UK to tackle corruption affecting developing countries, by funding dedicated law enforcement teams to recover and return assets stolen from developing countries. We take action against British companies and nationals who bribe in developing countries.

In May 2016, the London Anti-Corruption Summit brought international partners together to set out concrete actions to fight corruption. The UK committed to develop a cross-government Anti-Corruption Strategy, which will set out our vision for tackling corruption, including how we will implement our Summit commitments.

### Good governance, peace, security and justice

The consequences of weak governance impact us all. That is why the first objective of the UK Aid Strategy is to strengthen global peace, security and governance. The UK's role as a member of the P5 in the UN Security Council and our membership of the Human Rights Council support Goal 16 objectives by leading action in some of the world's most vulnerable countries. The UK Government also contributes to delivering Goal 16 through Strategic Programme Funds, including the Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy and the Rules Based International System Fund. Between 2010 and 2015, the UK supported peace, inclusive societies and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions by:

- supporting millions of people to vote in freer and fairer elections in 13 countries;
- improving access to security and justice for over 10 million women and girls;
- helping over 6.1 million people to improve their property rights;

- supporting over 100 million people to have choice and control over their own development<sup>46</sup>.

The UK Government has committed to spend at least 50% of its overseas development budget in fragile states and regions in every year of this Parliament. For example, we have increased our funding in Syria and the region to help build stability through creating job opportunities for refugees and host country citizens alike.

Through our efforts on Women, Peace and Security, we are working to ensure gender equality and women's empowerment are central to peace, justice, and inclusive governance. Equal access and full participation of women in power structures and efforts to prevent and resolve conflict are essential for promotion of peace and security. Research has shown that peace processes in which women are meaningfully involved are 35% more likely to last for at least fifteen years<sup>47</sup>.

## **Violence against women and children**

We will continue our strong leadership on the violence, abuse and exploitation of children agenda. This includes doing everything possible to inject new energy and vitality into tackling modern slavery and child exploitation, by tackling these problems at source. For example, through our membership of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, we focus international attention on child exploitation and build consensus for change. The UK Government's International Modern Slavery Fund will also support work to end this terrible exploitation of vulnerable people including women and children.

The UK is also proud to be the first donor to the Partnership's sister organisation, the Global Fund to End Violence Against Children, and is contributing funds to tackle online child sexual exploitation. We will continue these activities as part of the UK's ambition to support the most vulnerable children in the most hard to reach places.

We are significantly scaling up our programme work, as well as building the global evidence base on what works to tackle violence against women and girls (VAWG). The UK currently provides £13.25 million to UN Women. We have VAWG programmes in 20 developing countries and we work in an additional 22 countries, through UN Women and civil society.

## **Tax**

In support of building effective and accountable institutions, we have committed to double our spending on improving tax systems and to help developing countries to tackle tax evasion and avoidance. We will build on the UK's existing reputation as a global leader on anti-corruption and transparency. We work with other G7 and G20 members and through the UN to strengthen the international architecture on corruption and illicit financial flows and to ensure that citizens in countries where we work have means to report and tackle corruption. We are continuing to build partnerships with UK institutions and their counterparts in the developing world, including through the new international anti-corruption unit, the Crown Prosecution Service and the UK's National Crime Agency, which will be working to recover stolen assets over the coming years.

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<sup>46</sup> DFID Annual Report and Accounts 2015-16 Results: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/dfid-annual-report-and-accounts-2015-2016-results>

<sup>47</sup> "Statistical analysis by Laurel Stone, as featured in O'Reilly, Ó Súilleabháin, and Paffenholz, "Reimagining Peacemaking," 12-13"

## Human rights

The UK is a recognised leader in the promotion of human rights and the rule of law, both at home and abroad. The UK Government ensures respect for human rights in the UK and works internationally to urge universal respect of human rights obligations by other countries.

UK is a leading player in all international fora where human rights issues are debated and discussed, including the United Nations (UN), the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe.

We will work to support the successful mainstreaming of human rights across the UN system; and will continue to take a leading role in UN fora on combating Child Early and Forced Marriage, Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, combating Modern Slavery, protecting freedom of Religion or Belief, and countering extremism. We will uphold the full mandate of the UN Human Rights Council; support the independence and work of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and his Office; and promote the role of the independent UN human rights Treaty Monitoring Body system in the protection of human rights globally. We will encourage ratification of UN human rights instruments and their successful implementation by governments. We will maintain a standing invitation to and cooperation with the UN Special Rapporteurs who wish to visit the UK and will encourage other countries to do the same. We will maintain our commitment to the success of the Universal Periodic Review process and will assist others by sharing our experiences and offering advice and support.

We will continue to work to promote democratic participation and challenge attempts to restrict civil society, including through our membership of organisations such as the Community of Democracies, the Freedom Online Coalition and the Equal Rights Coalition as well as our work through the UN. We will seek to involve civil society in decision-making and policy development at the national level. Internationally, we will advocate the preservation of civil society space, including through supporting freedom of expression and assembly. The UK recognises the importance of civil society and individual freedoms for the achievement of the Goals

The UK was the first country to produce a National Action Plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. We have taken concrete measures to promote business and human rights, including through the Modern Slavery Act 2015, amendments to the Companies Act 2006, and the provision of guidance to specific sectors. We will continue to encourage wide adoption of the Guiding Principles, and collaboration between government, business, and civil society organisations in that process. We have assisted, and continue to assist, several international partners in their progress towards adoption of National Action Plans.

Human rights is one of the cross-cutting areas of work in the UK's Conflict Stability and Security Fund. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Magna Carta Fund promotes and protects human rights, supports democracy and promotes the rule of law. At the FCO, the Magna Carta Fund for Human Rights and Democracy is used to promote and protect human rights, democracy and rule of law. The Rules Based International System Fund helps reform international institutions, and to step up work such as on Women, Peace and Security. Through grant-in-aid finance, the UK Government funds the Westminster Foundation for Democracy which works to help countries improve the way that their democracies and parliaments function.

## **At Home**

### **Violence against women and children**

We are seeking to reduce violence towards women and children through our commitments to ensure a secure future for specialist FGM and forced marriage units, refuges and rape crisis centres, and to overhaul how police, social services and other agencies work together to protect vulnerable children. £40 million of funding was agreed during the 2015 Spending Review for the Violence Against Women and Girls Programme and an additional £200 million of funding was announced for the Innovation Programme.

### **Access to the justice system**

The legal aid scheme plays a vital role in providing access to justice, and is targeted to ensure access to public funds to those cases that most require it. We also enable effective access to courts and tribunals through a fee remissions system, so that those unable to afford fees are not denied access. The remissions scheme is targeted towards those in vulnerable households on low incomes who are in receipt of certain state benefits.

### **Accountable and transparent government**

The UK Government is working to become the most transparent government in the world. A National Action Plan on transparency and open government was published in May 2016 and work is being done to implement these recommendations which amongst other things, includes a revised Freedom of Information Act code of practice and the further development of the Anti-Corruption Strategy developed with civil society.

We are also seeking to increase accountability and trust in public institutions and increase public participation in the decisions that matter to them. We are seeking to agree a comprehensive package of party funding reform and ensuring citizens can access full information about the safety record of their hospitals in England. We are also giving more people the power and support to run a school, start their own social enterprise and take over their own local landmarks, local parks and pubs.

# Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

## Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



The UK Government is committed to strengthening and developing sustainable partnerships for development overseas.

We are committed to meeting the UN target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on international development. In 2015, Parliament enshrined the 0.7% target into UK law. The UK will continue to be a world leader in sustainable development overseas and trade following our withdrawal from the European Union.

The Department for International Trade (DIT) will work closely with DFID to deepen the UK's trade relationships with developing countries. We will continue to open all our markets to the world's poorest countries, bringing trade opportunities to those that need it most

Through the Trade for Development Team which is a joint DIT and DFID team, DFID also works closely with the FCO and BEIS supporting growth in the UK and in the developing world.

The UK has been at the forefront of international partnerships' work to promote a strong Agenda 2030, and is an active and influential member of many international forums through which the Agenda will be taken forward. Exporting economic prosperity, security and stability is firmly in the national interest. However, it is clear that traditional approaches to international development will not be enough to deliver the Goals.

The UK is one of the largest bilateral donors in statistical capacity building. It will continue to invest in the capacity of partner countries to produce and disseminate data more efficiently using digital technology, and to exploit new data sources from the private sector and civil society. In addition, the UK will take a leading role in the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to mobilise and coordinate the institutions and actions required to allow data to play its full role in achieving the Goals.

We are upholding our commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, at the July 2015 UN Financing for Development Conference, the Addis Tax Initiative (ATI) which commits us to doubling support for tax reform in the developing world by 2020. We have been actively encouraging others to join the initiative, including through the G20.

We are promoting a universal, open, and multilateral trading system through our work at the World Trade Organisation and are fostering partnerships between the UK and least developed countries to tackle trade barriers.

We will continue to look for new global partnerships for sustainable development, including through forging stronger links with the private sector and targeting aid spending in ways that unlock additional funds.

# Conclusion

As the examples suggest, the UK Government is proud of its work to achieve the Goals at home and around the world. But we cannot be complacent. The prospect that in a few short years we can end extreme global poverty, hunger and many other evils should motivate us all. For its part, the UK Government will continue doing all it can to deliver the Goals in partnership with all those who share our ambition to make the Goals a reality.

The Department for International Development:  
Leading the UK Government's fight against world poverty.

Department for International Development  
22 Whitehall  
London  
SW1A 2EG  
UK

and at:

Abercrombie House  
Eaglesham Road East  
Kilbride  
Glasgow  
G75 8EA  
UK

Tel: +44 (0)20 7023 0000

Fax: +44 (0)20 7023 0016

Website: [www.dfid.gov.uk](http://www.dfid.gov.uk)