



Department
for International
Development

Operational Plan 2011-2016

DFID CENTRAL ASIA

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Introduction

In 2013 the UK became the first G7 country to meet the United Nations target of spending 0.7% of gross national income on international development. The Department for International Development (DFID) uses that investment to help countries to lift themselves out of poverty and leave poverty behind. Operational plans set out to the public how we plan to deliver results across policy areas and for every country we work in. These plans clearly explain why, and how, DFID is targeting its resources and what we expect to achieve; covering the period up until March 2016.

DFID is focused on spending in the right ways, on the right things, in the right places. The portfolio of our projects is already shifting to deliver a more coherent, focused and ambitious approach to economic development. We are helping to build strong and investable business environments in developing countries and improving access to finance for entrepreneurs.

Improving the prospects for girls and women in developing countries is a priority. Investing in girls and women is the smart thing to do, as well as the right thing to do. By unleashing their potential, we see returns for girls and women themselves, their families and communities, and for their economies and countries. No country can successfully develop if it leaves half its population behind.

Life-saving humanitarian assistance remains one of DFID's most fundamental responsibilities. When disaster strikes or conflict erupts we are first on the ground to support the most vulnerable people. We are also increasing our efforts to help those countries that are at higher risk of natural disasters to become more resilient in the first place.

DFID continues to drive value for money in everything we do on behalf of the British taxpayer. We have improved our procurement and programme management, increased our internal audit oversight and we are ensuring that staff have the skills to deliver the Department's priorities.

On the international stage we are working hard to agree a new set of global development goals to replace the Millennium Development Goals when they expire next year. We are determined to secure a clear and inspiring set of goals for the post 2015 development framework that leave no one behind.

Increasingly we will take new and innovative approaches and we will work with new partners. This will include businesses who are increasingly major development players. During Secretary of State's time as co-chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, DFID played a key role in encouraging different development actors to work together and use internationally agreed principles for aid and development effectiveness.

As our operational plans set out, our approach to international development is ambitious and innovative. We are determined to ensure that every pound DFID spends has the biggest possible impact on the ground. Ultimately by investing in developing countries, we can end aid dependency for good and build a better, more prosperous world for us all.

Context

The Central Asia (CA) region comprises the former Soviet Union (FSU) states of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The region is geo-politically important, but increasingly fragile. It borders Russia, Iran, Afghanistan, and China, and is close to Pakistan. Authoritarian regimes have resulted in poor governance, weak institutions and endemic corruption. The loss of Soviet subsidies has resulted in a major deterioration in infrastructure, health and education services, and social protection. The civil war in Tajikistan disrupted traditional produce markets in the wider FSU and exports have not yet recovered. Discontent over these declining services and corruption triggered revolutions in Kyrgyzstan in 2005 and 2010.

Relations between the Central Asian states are fractious as leaders strive to forge national identities. Poorly delineated and contested borders generate regular conflicts between Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan. Tensions over the sharing and use of transboundary water resources, where Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan plan to tap key rivers for hydro-energy, are vociferously contested by downstream countries. The risk of instability from heightened unrest and state failures is significant.

DFID has programmes only in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, which are the poorest countries in the CA region and the 29th and 34th poorest countries in the world respectively (Tajikistan GNI per capita is \$872; Kyrgyzstan's is \$880). Both states are economically and politically fragile. They are still in transition from the former Soviet model to modern market oriented economies, with small private sectors as yet unable to drive growth or generate employment. The business environment is challenging with limited energy, poor international connectivity, unpredictable rule of law, cumbersome regulation and endemic corruption. Tajikistan is 143rd and Kyrgyzstan is 68th in the 2013 World Bank Doing Business rankings.

Growth has been driven in both countries by remittances, which in 2013 made up 49.7% of GDP in Tajikistan (the highest in the world) and 35% in Kyrgyzstan.² GDP growth has not kept pace with the rapid population growth (populations have nearly doubled since 1991), which is exacerbating the impact of declining services. Labour migration to Russia is the only option for the poorly educated youth, but opportunities are decreasing as the Russian economy slows. Nonetheless, some 25% of the populations of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (mostly male) are estimated to have migrated to Russia and Kazakhstan for work. As key socio-economic and governance indicators deteriorate, both countries are at risk from political instability and rising radicalism. Progress in delivering the benefits of growth to the poor needs to be accelerated.

In Tajikistan 37% of the population live below the national poverty line, with 7% in acute poverty. In Kyrgyzstan the figures are 38% and 7% respectively. Even though the situation has improved over the past decade in both countries, almost a quarter of children under five still suffer from chronic malnutrition and stunting and 22% of all deaths among children under-five in the Kyrgyzstan are still caused by under nutrition. The burden of under nutrition at national level is also substantial in economic terms, estimated to be US\$41 million annually in Tajikistan and US\$32 million in Kyrgyzstan.⁶ Neither country will achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

Most poor households in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan have a high number of children and are female-headed. With so many able-bodied men abroad, women make up the majority of agricultural workers in both countries. They bear increased responsibilities for child and elderly care and household subsistence while working in low paid and harsh conditions. Many women also face constraints in exercising their legal rights to land, property and money. A World Health Organization (WHO) Survey in Tajikistan found that approximately 50% of women aged 15 and older had experienced physical, psychological or sexual violence by a family member. In addition, 35 per cent of girls under 15 had reported physical violence.⁷

Both countries are particularly exposed to climate change, with sharp increases in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events. The region is also vulnerable to natural disasters: earthquakes, landslides and floods.

¹ World Bank, World Development Indicators, 2013

² National Bank of Tajikistan, National Bank of Kyrgyzstan

³ UNDP, National Human Development Report 2013

⁴ Maplecroft, 2010. Natural Disasters Economic Losses Index

⁵ National Statistics Committee "Living standards of the population in the Kyrgyzstan, 2005-2009"

⁶ UNICEF 2011

⁷ WHO Pilot Survey on violence against women in Tajikistan, 1999

Vision

Overview:

The UK government's goal in Central Asia is to strengthen stability and reduce fragility. Within this strategy DFID focuses on reducing poverty by promoting sustainable economic growth and better governance in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. Our work is focused around three pillars:

- Private sector and economic growth
- Promoting democracy and governance
- Regional trade and cooperation

These pillars directly address critical constraints to the development of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, particularly economic growth, and respond to the priorities in both countries' National Development Strategies. DFID's bilateral programme is currently £14m annually, rising to £16m from 2015/16. The bilateral programme is augmented by regional investments in energy and connectivity through DFID's Asia Regional Programme. The new UK cross-government Conflict, Stability and Security Fund will provide further complementary programming.

How we work:

We use our funding and networks to bring international partners together, pooling resources to deliver greater impact. For example, we have helped bring together the German development agency, GIZ, with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to ensure there is provision of both technical know-how and affordable financing for farmers. The successful model for this programme has now been adopted by the World Bank and the EU for their new rural growth investments. We are working with the International Organisation for Migration, UN Women and the World Bank in a joint initiative to help maximise development benefits from labour migration. Our programmes have been designed specifically to work with and through other partners, capitalising on the successes and strengths of established initiatives. This approach makes the best use of our available resources and helps reduce our administration costs, while retaining close oversight of how UK funds are spent and their impact.

All the programmes in our current portfolio will be completed by 31 March 2015, and we are in the process of developing new programmes that will start from April 2015 onwards. We will continue to promote democracy and governance, in particular in Kyrgyzstan, which is the region's only parliamentary democracy. Our priority will be to help make this democracy work effectively to deliver tangible benefits to citizens and to tackle the root causes of the ethnic tensions that contributed to the 2010 revolution. We will continue support for broader public service reforms, including improved management of public finances in both countries.

We will also continue our commitment to accelerate economic growth and improve the business investment climate in both countries. This will include continued support to rural businesses, but expand beyond the agricultural sector. We will explore opportunities in other sectors with particular attention given to businesses that will generate much needed jobs. Building on continued agrarian reform in Tajikistan, we will support inclusive rural economic growth by providing direct support to farmers and rural entrepreneurs, as well as by encouraging local governments to implement key central government policies. Within these investments we will maintain our focus on women's economic empowerment.

Our country work will support and complement centrally managed regional initiatives that address shared development challenges, for example in the areas of energy, water and connectivity, as well as trade and road and rail transport corridors.

What we will stop doing:

We have focussed our programmes to maximise their impact. Specifically, we will disengage from the following areas:

- Support to regional humanitarian disaster preparedness. Coordination has improved and a practical Emergency Preparedness Strategy is in place which other donors will continue to support.
- Technical advice to help Tajikistan secure finance from the global multi-donor Pilot Programme For Climate Resilience (PPCR) is complete and has enabled Tajikistan to access up to \$60m PPCR funding.
- Support to water and sanitation in Kyrgyzstan which will be completed at the end of 2014.
- Support to migrant labourers and their families will be completed in 2015 and key components are likely to be incorporated in our new livelihoods portfolio.
- Support for the development of the State Statistical Departments in both countries.

Results 2011/12-2015/16

Note: we will define results for 2015/16 and future years once our new portfolio has been designed and agreed.

Note: Where not specified, 50% or more of the result is attributable to DFID

Pillar/ Strategic Priority	Indicator	Baseline (including year)	Progress towards results (include year)	Expected Results (including year)
Governance and Security	<p>Level of Public Financial Management (PFM) Capacity in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan .</p> <p>This will be measured through the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) indicator, which has a direct correlation to DFID's support to PFM reform, which aims to improve technical aspects of state budgeting.</p>	<p>Tajikistan (PEFA 2007): B</p> <p>Kyrgyzstan: (PEFA 2009): B</p>	<p>Kyrgyzstan: Budget Code passed 1st reading in Parliament. Several line ministries produced budget performance report. PEFA assessment will start in October 2014.</p> <p>Tajikistan: PEFA Update will be completed in November 2014 and will assess progress. Next full PEFA planned for 2017. Baseline average PEFA score in 2007 was D, 2011/12 PEFA average score was C. Allocative efficiency of budget outturn in % (actual to planned): For 2012 implemented budget represented 88.2% of planned budget and 82.6% of updated (adjusted) plan. –</p>	<p>By 31/3/2015: Tajikistan (PEFA 2014): B+ Kyrgyzstan (PEFA 2014): B+</p> <p>DFID attribution Kyrgyz : 50% Tajikistan: 30%</p>
Governance and Security	Improved governance and security allows better access to social services which will be reflected in improved infant mortality rates.	Baseline 2009: 41.4 per 1,000 live births	14% reduction on child mortality as of March 2014.	<p>Target 31/3/2015: 29 per 1,000 live births (14% reduction as of March 2014)</p> <p>DFID attribution: 50%</p>

Wealth Creation	Reduced government regulation and improved private sector management leads to cost savings and greater investment of local firms and Public Private Partnerships	Baseline 2011: £15 million	Achieved: £21.1 million, of which £16.6m is cost savings £4.5m is new investment. This level of impact data will be recalculated at the end of the project by conducting a Compliance Cost Survey. Results due by March 2015.	Target 31/3/2015: £25.5 million DFID attribution: 60%
Wealth Creation	Number of new clients with access to finance (individual entrepreneurs and small/medium sized businesses) in Tajikistan	Baseline 2011: 1,313 new clients (574 female clients)	As of end of March 2014 the total number of new clients reached 23,112 with breakdown of: Male: 15,485; Female: 7,627	Target 31/3/2015: 12,000 new clients. (60% female). DFID attribution: 70%
Wealth Creation	Revenues from new road-side services along corridors and cross-border market activities	Baseline 2011: £600,000	On track to achieve target: as of March 2014: £394,000 month turnover on Cross Border market activities/month; - £41,000 revenue from transport corridor/month	Target 2015: £1.5million DFID attribution: 50%
Wealth Creation	Number of labour migrants (by sex) who are provided with specific advice (legal, health, social protection) in Information Centres run by the project	Baseline 2011: 34,137 (M:22,358; F:11,779) labour migrants from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan	As of end March 2014: the total coverage of migrant workers who received specific advice (legal, health and social protection) reached 678,592 (M: 437,351; F:249,241)	The Programme has been extended till end of March 2015, and the target is now 702,800 migrants (30% women) who will receive services from Information Resource Centres DFID attribution: 60-65%

Headline Results

Following decisions on future programme allocations, in August 2014 we began the design of a new portfolio that will start from April 2015 onwards. We will therefore provide future results projections at a later stage.

Evidence supporting results

Quality of existing evidence: The quality of evidence is strong. Our larger programmes draw on evidence from independent evaluations of predecessor programmes, and where necessary additional commissioned analysis and research. Programmes have been refined and improved following robust Annual Reviews, also undertaken by independent experts, with participation from DFID advisory staff based in other countries and regions. The design of the Growth in the Rural Economy and Agriculture programme in Tajikistan draws on an assessment of the perceptions of business environment in Sughd Province and an external assessment of our previous Rural Growth Programme. We have applied rigorous VFM analysis (technically robust economic and cost benefit analysis for each programme linked to partners' M&E framework) to ensure that the results agreed represent good impact and value for money. Jointly with our partners we seek to ensure that our assumptions are reliable and realistic using both Government statistics and project specific baseline information. Generating reliable evidence is relatively easier for wealth creation work, and more challenging in governance, where we are less ambitious and work towards long-term benefits. Finally, we require our partners to commit to measure these benefits by making VFM reporting a part of monitoring and evaluation.

Data sources: In wealth creation, key sources of data include the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Business Environment in Tajikistan (derived from an annual Small and Medium Enterprises Survey), the World Bank Doing Business Report, the EBRD Transition Report Indicators, and data from the State Statistical Agency.

We also use the GIZ annual Microfinance Impact Evaluation, the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) strategy under DFID's Rural Growth and Sustainable Economic Development Programmes, and the M&E plan of the Growth in Rural Economy and Agriculture of Tajikistan (GREAT) programme. The World Bank's Public Expenditure Financial Accountability Assessments (PEFA) gives data for establishing progress on wider public financial management and expenditure.

The infant mortality rate indicator uses the Multi Indicator Cluster Surveys' (MICS) data.

Delivery and Resources

Instruments of delivery

Our programme in Central Asia provides technical assistance and expertise for capacity building and skills/knowledge transfer. We do not provide capital or financial assistance.

Other Delivery Mechanisms and Partners

We partner with a range of organisations with a view to harnessing their expertise and experience, using DFID's comparative advantage to augment partner capacity and deliver better results and impact. Pooling technical and financial resources helps deliver more impact, and leverage greater change. Assistance is delivered through partners, within the framework of MOU arrangements with multilateral partners and bilateral partners (German GIZ, co-financiers and implementing agents for our Growth in the Rural Economy and Agriculture programme in Tajikistan). We also have one programme financed through an accountable grant with Save the Children – the Women's Wealth and Influence programme.

Multilateral Organisations

We are partners with the World Bank for public sector reform, particularly public finance management, alongside other donors such as Switzerland and the EU. We have partnered with the International Migration Organisation (IOM) and the World Bank and UN Women to deliver our Regional Migration Programme. Alongside Switzerland we also partner with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to deliver improvements to the investment climate.

Other Country Activity

Although we do not finance interventions directly addressing climate change, we maintain an overview of this and other cross-cutting issues. We remain engaged with the World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the European Bank For Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to monitor implementation of the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience and their use of DFID contributions to the Climate Investment Funds.

Planned Programme Spend

Pillar/Strategic	2011/12		2012/13		2013/14		2014/15		2015/16 (provisional*)
	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Resource £'000	Capital £'000	Total Resource and Capital £000
Climate Change	1		362						
Education	300		730		493				
Global Partnerships	1,447		1,486		952				
Governance and Security	3,738		4,226		4,845		5,320		
Health	3,182		854		68		600		
Humanitarian	12				220				
Poverty, hunger and vulnerability			860		990				
Water and Sanitation	517								
Wealth Creation	4,871		5,541		5,894		7,980		
Total	14,068		14,059		13,462		13,900		16,000

*Expenditure figures for 2015/16 are indicative. DFID works in a variety of challenging environments, including fragile and conflict affected areas. Humanitarian work is often reactive and can be scaled up or down. An element of flexibility within funding allocations is necessary to ensure that we can balance the need for long term planning alongside the ability to respond where necessary to changing requirements.

Planned Operating Costs

	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16 (provisional*)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Frontline Delivery Costs – Pay	508	412	500	435	
Frontline Delivery Costs – Non Pay	514	308	418	345	
Administrative costs – Pay					
Administrative costs – Non Pay					
Total	1,022	720	918	780	767

*Expenditure figures for 2015/16 are indicative. DFID works in a variety of challenging environments, including fragile and conflict affected areas. Humanitarian work is often reactive and can be scaled up or down. An element of flexibility within funding allocations is necessary to ensure that we can balance the need for long term planning alongside the ability to respond where necessary to changing requirements.

DFID Central Asia has taken the following steps to reduce costs:

- a) HCS housing provision in Dushanbe has been reviewed and staff have moved to cheaper accommodation, with less ongoing maintenance costs. This should deliver a net saving in 2014/15 of £14,000.
- b) From April 2014 an apartment has been rented in Bishkek for visiting DFID staff, delivering a net estimated saving of £5,000 per annum on hotel and subsistence costs.

Delivering Value for Money

Programme

The DFID programmes in Central Asia have integrated value for money (VFM) approaches in business cases. VFM features strongly under all our main areas of activity. Illustrations include private sector savings from reduced regulatory barriers (e.g. inspections, registration, tax simplification – IFC calculate this is already saving businesses \$18m annually in Tajikistan). Our analysis shows good results: the costs of creating one job in rural Tajikistan is much lower than standard IFC data for developing countries (\$500-600 compared with \$3,500 by IFC elsewhere). And through our public financial management work we are helping to establish more efficient and transparent systems to reduce the scope for leakages and more efficient public sector financial management at all levels of government.

We integrate VFM considerations and ensure partners consider them from the outset. We work with partners to ensure they apply rigorous economic appraisal including identifying the links between social, institutional and economic benefits, and where possible quantifying them.

We foresee the following key challenges to delivering VFM: (a) making sure that benefits are captured and estimated in monetary terms by our partners; (b) availability and quality of government statistics; (c) our ability to generate reliable VFM analysis for intangible long term results (especially in governance and security); (d) ensuring all DFID staff make VFM considerations a priority task in programme design and management; (e) adhering to commercial/procurement VFM considerations within a limited and non-competitive local market.

Management

We have a team of high performing staff, and will continue to invest in cost effective learning and development. In designing new work we have primarily worked through others, maintaining the quality of our programmes, while reducing delivery costs. The new British Embassy in Kyrgyzstan with the UKAid team is now successfully established and we will continue programme work from a strong platform of UK interests. In Tajikistan we will continue discussions with FCO on the best use of joint facilities. We are seeking to reduce our use of international consultants and engage more closely with local think tanks. In both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan local civil society organisations have conducted baseline survey work for our programmes as part of our monitoring and evaluation processes.

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Monitoring

How: We use a mix of national and project data for baselines and progress reports, financing research and analysis to provide baseline information and monitoring data when this is not readily available from official sources. We also ensure that our programmes report results disaggregated by sex. Programmes are monitored monthly with formal, robust, Annual Reviews providing in depth assessment and programming recommendations. For Annual Reviews we engage external expertise, either independent consultants or DFID advisers from other programmes.

Who: DFID staff ensure that adequate M&E frameworks for all large projects are in place and that these clearly set out processes and specify lead people for M&E activities. The main responsibility for routine monitoring falls to implementation partners. Partners, jointly with DFID, regularly monitor programme progress against logframes. Government partners participate in reviews and chair Steering Committees. Progress with the Operational Plan is discussed with the Regional Director formally at least twice a year.

When: Implementation partners continuously monitor progress and meet monthly to report to DFID against project milestones. Along with partners, DFID assesses progress against outputs and outcomes annually.

What: We will monitor programme progress against key deliverables and the results matrix as set out in programme logical frameworks.

Evaluation

Planned evaluations: Our large programmes have independent evaluations built in. Project evaluations are planned at a mid-point to help guide future implementation, or towards the close of a programme to inform successor programmes.

Budget, including staffing resource for evaluation: An evaluation plan for the whole CA programme has been prepared, with potentially 5% of the overall programme budget available for evaluation purposes. Large, innovative projects are prioritised for independent evaluations. Staff have been trained in evaluation principles.

Building capacity of partners

Our ongoing support to strengthen the national statistical system of Tajikistan has increased the Statistics Agency's capacity to provide reliable and timely data. In 2010 DFID also agreed to support a two year regional Participatory Poverty Assessment Programme which has established high quality household survey systems, strengthened analytical capacity and promoted greater awareness and use of data by policy makers. Tajikistan (2010) and Kyrgyzstan (2009) have recently carried out a population census. DFID provided support to the Kyrgyz census. Data from this work is now being used to inform the 2014 World Bank Country Strategy and the development of Tajikistan's next National Development Strategy 2016 – 2030.

DFID has embedded strong M&E mechanisms in the work of its partners in the Regional Migration Programme through monthly reports, an M&E internal policy document, independent collection of baseline data and planned independent impact assessment. In Kyrgyzstan our Public Financial Management Trust Fund partners worked with us to devise a monitoring and evaluation framework which followed the DFID logical framework template. This is now incorporated into the operational manual for the programme and is agreed by the Ministry of Finance. It has proved a valuable tool for policy dialogue between donors and with government partners. DFID will seek to promote better access to information in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan through material on DFID, FCO and local joint donor websites; and through project events and media briefings for local journalists.

Transparency

Transparency is one of the top priorities for the UK government. We will ensure that we continue to meet our commitments under the UKAid Transparency Guarantee, including publishing detailed information about DFID projects, programme documents and all spend above £500. We will continue to ensure that information is accessible, comparable, accurate, timely and in a common standard with other donors and that we provide opportunities for those affected by our projects to provide feedback. We will ensure that we fulfil commitments to the Aid Transparency Guarantee (ATG), Aid Transparency Challenge (ATC) and DFID's Open Data Strategy.

Actions to ensure DFID meets its commitments in the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee

Publication of information

We will support DFID's transparency commitments by:

- Ensuring that all project documentation is published on the Development Tracker (<http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/countries/TJ/> and <http://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/countries/KG/>)
- Ensuring that all information in the public domain is comprehensive, accessible, accurate, timely and written in plain English.
- Publishing a summary of this Operational Plan and all project summaries in English, Russian and Tajik.

Supporting transparency in our work

- We will promote Government-citizen accountability: our Public Financial Reform programme is helping develop local civil society so that it can understand and contribute to fair and transparent government budgeting; carry out independent analysis and communication of government budgets to make them more accessible by citizens; track expenditure to make sure resources go where they are intended; hold public officials to account for mismanagement and corruption; monitor government services to ensure quality and fairness; and scrutinise public procurement for corruption. The programme also supports the work of Parliamentary Committees, including the Budget Committees, building their capacity to better hold their governments to account.
- We will increase opportunities for those directly affected by our projects to provide feedback on project performance. This is included as standard as part of our Annual Review process for all of our projects.
- We will seek similar levels of transparency from our partners (CSOs, contractors, other donors).
- We will continue to help government and citizens access and use relevant information. Our support to the Statistics Departments in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (ending March 2015) includes provision for ensuring public access to government statistical data and organised events to disseminate key data to citizens.
- We will respond to all public enquiries on published data within ten working days.
- We will publish a 500 word summary of all new programmes in the national language. From 2011, translations of summary programme information for all new programmes are being published, allowing wide dissemination to the public.
- We encourage donor partners and non-state actors who receive DFID funding to adhere to the same transparency standards, in line with the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI). We encourage our partners in civil society, multilateral organisations and other donors to do the same.
- Through our bilateral programme, we are supporting the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's work in Central Asia which is aimed to improve the process of cross country peer learning in the areas of legal reform, investigation and prosecution of corruption crimes. We will continue to support interventions in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan which address specific aspects of anti-corruption. DFID is also co-chair of the joint donor-government working group on anti-corruption in Tajikistan.

Annex A: Changes to Operational Plan

No substantive changes have been made to the Operational Plan. There are no new programmes to record because design only began in August 2014, after Ministers agreed that the DFID programme in Central Asia would continue beyond 31 March 2015.

Page Number	Change made to operational Plan	Reason for change
4	Country context data has been updated	To reflect latest information from data sources
5	"What we will not do" updated	To reflect successfully completed, and closing, programmes.
6,7	Results updated	To reflect programme monitoring reports, Annual Reviews and Project Completion Reports

Annex B: Human Rights Assessment

DFID recognises that the realisation of all human rights underpins sustainable development. Through its development programmes, DFID aims to support civil society and governments to build open economies and open societies in which citizens have freedom, dignity, choice and control over their lives, and institutions are accountable, inclusive and responsive.

Human Rights Context

Economic and social rights: Tajikistan and the Kyrgyzstan are ranked joint 125th out of 187 countries in the Human Development Index (2013). Both countries are below the regional average for Europe and Central Asia and neither country is on track to achieve the MDGs. The right to an adequate standard of living is supported by reductions in the percentage of the population living below the national poverty line from 72.4% in Tajikistan in 2003 to 37% in 2013. Kyrgyzstan has also seen reductions in national poverty rates to 38% of the population in 2012 from 39.9% in 2006 (World Bank Poverty and Equity data, 2013). Rural poverty rates remain higher than in urban areas: 40% vs. 24% in the Kyrgyzstan and 54% vs. 49% in Tajikistan (latest data from World Development Indicators, 2012). There has been good progress on rights to health and education – net primary enrolment rates are currently 95% in the Kyrgyzstan and 98% in Tajikistan; by 2011, under-five mortality had fallen to 63 per 1,000 births in Tajikistan and 31 in the Kyrgyzstan from 70 and 114 respectively in 1990. However, the quality of services is declining as aging Soviet infrastructure decays without adequate re-investment. Despite improvements over recent years, the right to food in both countries remains a challenge, with around one third of the population food insecure. In Kyrgyzstan, 22% of all deaths among children under-five were caused by under-nutrition (UNICEF 2011). The Global Food Security Index (2012) ranked Tajikistan 84 out of 105 countries for global food security (data unavailable for Kyrgyzstan).

Non-discrimination: Women and girls continue to face gender-based discrimination at home in both Tajikistan and the Kyrgyzstan. Tajikistan scores 0.34 and the Kyrgyzstan 0.35 on the Gender Inequality Index (2013), better than the global average but below the regional average. In 2012, women constituted 19% of parliamentarians in Tajikistan and 23% in the Kyrgyzstan, comparing favourably with a regional average of 18% (World Development Indicators, 2012). In 2010, maternal mortality rates were 71 and 65 deaths per 100,000 live births in the Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan respectively, both being better than the global average but beneath regional performance (WHO 2012). Large scale migration from both countries has, however, increased the burden on the women who remain behind, without improvements in their access to land, property or money (IOM 2012). Despite a draft law prohibiting domestic violence being under discussion for many years in Tajikistan, the government has yet to adopt it.

Civil and political rights: According to Freedom House, in 2013, the Kyrgyzstan retained its 'partly free' status. Tajikistan continues to be classified by Freedom House as 'not free' due to assessed declines in civil liberties and restrictions to freedom of the media and freedom of religion.

The Universal Periodic Review for the Kyrgyzstan was held in 2010. The country accepted 152 recommendations and rejected three, all of which concerned the creation of a specific institution to ensure the implementation of measures related to gender equality and violence. Tajikistan was more recently reviewed in 2012 during which it adopted 107 recommendations and rejected 27. Those it rejected related to the ratification of a number of international conventions regarding torture, persons with disabilities, the abolition of the death penalty, and the status of stateless persons; granting full access to the ICRC to prisons and detention centres; and ensuring freedom of religious practice and civil society organisations.

Direction of travel

- Social and economic rights are moving on a slow upwards trajectory but remain vulnerable to the decline in infrastructure and basic services, increases in rates of contagious diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis, high migration rates and heavy reliance on remittances, and low rates of economic growth.
- Domestic and sexual violence remain a challenge to women and girls' human rights in both countries. Inequalities in the legal rights of men and women continue to exist.
- Civil and political rights are gradually declining in Tajikistan, and holding steady in the Kyrgyzstan (although the country has failed to address abuses in the south of the country).

UK approach and focus

- The UK will support positive trends on social and economic rights through programmes focusing on economic growth and livelihoods promotion.
- In all of its work DFID will take opportunities to do more for women and girls while also implementing programmes with the primary goal of women's social, economic and political empowerment.
- The UK will raise civil and political rights with the governments of Tajikistan and the Kyrgyzstan at all levels.
- DFID will strengthen voice and accountability in service delivery in the Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan through focused programmes with government institutions on public financial management and by empowering citizens and civil society organisations to engage effectively with the state.

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