



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

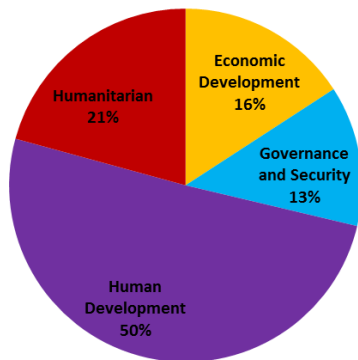
Planned Budget for 2017/18

£147m

Planned Budget for 2018/19

£147m

Sector breakdown of 2017/18 bilateral plans



Top 3 planned spending programmes in 2017/18 (as at June 2017)

Access to Health Care in the DRC	£42m
Humanitarian Needs of Affected Populations in the DRC	£35m
Increasing Sustainable Access to Water and Sanitation	£30.3m

Contribution to the Global Goals and other government commitments (achieved as at March 2017)*

21 thousand children supported to gain a decent education

1.9 million people with sustainable access to clean water and/or sanitation

4.3 million children under 5, women and adolescent girls helped through nutrition related interventions

Headline deliverables

- **Basic services:** We are improving health services for 9 million people. We will help 4.7 million children under 5, women and adolescent girls to have better nutrition. 3.7 million people will get sustainable access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene services. We will help 450,000 children get a decent education.
- **Economic development:** We will increase the income of over 1 million people by supporting entrepreneurs and small producers to improve their businesses.
- **Humanitarian:** We have helped 2.5 million people in emergency situations with food, water and safety (since 2012) and propose to support a further 3 million people over 5 years.

Why DFID is investing in the DRC

The DRC is one of the poorest countries in the world and will have 15% of the world's poor by 2030. A large number of people face exclusion and discrimination, particularly women and girls, people living with disabilities, and certain ethnic and regional groups. The DRC has also suffered from decades of conflict. The Congo wars, which ended in 2003, cost 5 million lives and drew in eight other countries. Violence and insecurity continue to displace 3 million people from their homes. The DRC is prone to large public health emergencies, including eight Ebola outbreaks since the 1970s, the latest this year, and a large yellow fever outbreak last year.

* Results less than 1 million are rounded to the nearest thousand. Results over 1 million are rounded to the nearest hundred thousand.

At the same time, the DRC has enormous potential for growth, trade and investment. It has enough fertile land to feed a billion people. Its forests are second in size only to the Amazon. Its hydroelectric energy resources could power most of Africa. It has an estimated USD 24 trillion of mineral wealth. Unlocking this potential will have huge benefits for the Congolese people and the region as well as increase commercial opportunities for UK businesses.

How will the UK respond to opportunities and challenges?

The UK responds to the challenges of poverty, instability and corruption in DRC. We work to improve services such as health, education, water and sanitation for the poor and raise incomes to lift people out of poverty. We address gender inequality and the exclusion faced by the most vulnerable people. We support efforts to mitigate conflict and respond to emergencies. We help people cope with natural or man-made disasters, thereby reducing the risk of migration. We work with partners, such as the UK National Crime Agency, to end impunity and reduce opportunities for corruption within the DRC and beyond its borders.

What is being achieved for the UK?

Our well-established UK aid programmes and relationships allow us to advance UK objectives, such as supporting the UK Trade Envoy and working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on returning Congolese offenders from the UK. The large mining sector is an emerging priority for tackling modern slavery, including child labour and exploitation. The UK has played an important role in maintaining regional stability. This includes the international pressure that recently nudged the DRC closer towards elections and the possibility of the first ever peaceful transition of power.

Instability in the DRC risks damaging UK interests in the country itself and in the region. Investing now is more cost-effective than dealing with the fallout from a possible return to civil war, widespread violence and health emergencies. The DRC receives very little aid per person compared with most other countries, so carefully managed help from the UK can make a big difference and contribute to the UK's reputation as a leader in global development.

Partners

- Our programmes are delivered by non-governmental organisations (60%), multilateral organisations (28%) and the private sector (12%). We select partners because they deliver value for money and have tried and tested experience of working successfully in countries like the DRC.
- Where appropriate, we work with other international donors (such as the US in the education sector) to ensure that we are able to maximise the benefits of our programme to the people most in need.
- To maximise value for money, we increasingly use payment by results contracts and close programmes that underperform. Our portfolio balances short-term support to meet people's basic needs for survival with long-term support to enable the DRC to prosper and look after its own people. We maintain flexibility to shift between these priorities.