



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.

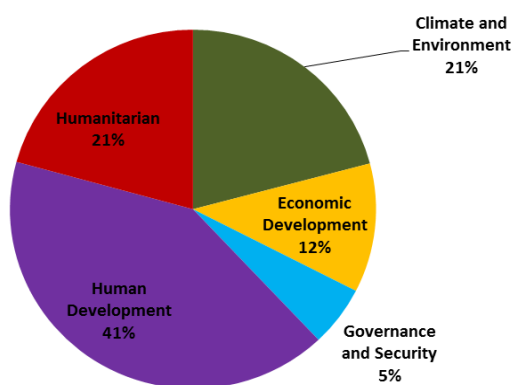
Planned Budget for 2017/18

£73m

Planned Budget for 2018/19

£83m

#### Sector breakdown of 2017/18 bilateral plans



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

Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters	£19.6m
Providing Humanitarian Assistance in Emergencies	£19.5m
Building Resilience in the Sahel through Adaptive Social Protection	£18.9m

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

In the Sahel region of Africa<sup>1</sup>, the UK has provided 30,000 children with access to better nutrition; and over 800,000 people with food assistance and emergency support (Global Goals 2 and 3).

#### Headline deliverables

- **Humanitarian:** To date, the UK has supported over 1.5 million people in the Sahel with life saving humanitarian aid; and over 1.8 million people to cope with the effect of climate change and other major shocks. By 2019, we expect to support countries in the Sahel to help up to 2.5 million people avoid the worst effects of shocks such as drought and insecurity and support up to 2.3 million people with food assistance.
- **Economic development:** We have supported agri-businesses in the Sahel to provide over 19,500 smallholder farmers with seeds, fertilisers and storage and to produce crops valued at over £1.5 million. In 2017/18, we expect the agri-businesses we support to increase the value of crops produced to over £4 million.
- **Women and girls:** By 2020, we will help 230,000 girls and women take control of decisions about when they have children and their family size.

#### Why DFID is investing in the Sahel

The Sahel is one of the most unstable regions in the world. Conflict, weak governance, organised crime and violent extremism are destabilising many of the countries in the region and have the potential to affect the UK. Extremist groups like Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and Boko Haram operate in the Sahel region and conflict, political crises and coups d'état have occurred frequently in the past decade.

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

<sup>1</sup> Covering Mali, Niger, Chad, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Senegal. Nigeria, South Sudan and Sudan covered in specific country profiles.

The Sahel is also the poorest region in the world. Over 78% of people in Niger, Mali, Chad and Burkina Faso live in poverty and the number of poor people in Niger and Mali is likely to increase in the next 20 years. 39% of primary school-aged children in Mali are out of school and Niger has the second highest mortality rate for children under five years old in the world. The region also has the highest population growth rates in the world: for example, women in Niger have an average of seven children and the population is projected to more than triple by 2030. With few jobs and many mouths to feed, climate change is likely to have a significant adverse impact.

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

The UK is increasing its investment in the Sahel region of Africa. Our focus is on tackling the root causes of poverty and instability. We will help prepare for, respond to, and mitigate humanitarian and climate shocks by delivering humanitarian aid and supporting better forecasting of when crises may take place. We will invest in jobs in agriculture, which is central to tackling poverty and boosting prosperity, and support women and girls to take control of decisions about when to have children. We will also increase our political engagement with governments and international partners, such as the United Nations and European Union, in the Sahel.

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

Poverty, unemployment, and weak governance have created an environment in which violent extremism and organised crime networks have taken root in the Sahel and pose a direct threat to UK interests, in the UK and in neighbouring countries such as Nigeria, Libya and Algeria. Left unchecked, terrorist groups in the Sahel could threaten Europe and the UK, as could organised crime groups, who kidnap for ransom and smuggle drugs, people and other illicit commodities to Europe. In addition, migration routes to Europe pass through the Sahel: up to 110,000 migrants crossed Niger in 2015 on their way to North Africa or Europe.

### **Partners**

- We will provide humanitarian aid and cash transfers through multilateral organisations, such as the United Nations and the World Bank, which have a strong presence in the region and a track record in ensuring that aid gets to those who need it most.
- We will support agri-businesses through a range of private sector and local partners.
- We will work closely with the European Union on migration.