

# DFID 2016-2017 Results Technical Notes

## Data sources

The information on results is collected from DFID country offices, central DFID departments and multilateral institutions. The data is collected from a variety of sources, such as representative sample surveys of households, management information systems held by our partner country governments and individual project data generated from routine project monitoring by our partners.

## Reporting

### Single Departmental Plan (SDP) Results

SDP total results achieved since 2015 up to March 2017 are presented. Results may vary across country and indicator reflecting the latest data available at the time. The results are disaggregated by sex where relevant, subject to data availability.

### General reporting

The results estimates are either cumulative indicators or peak year indicators:

- cumulative indicators take the sum of the results achieved across the various years to measure performance.
- peak year indicators aggregate results for each programme in the particular year for which the programme achieved the greatest results. This ensures we measure the number of unique individuals reached and avoids any double counting.

The aggregate figures for each indicator may be a combination of peak year for some programmes and cumulative for others, depending on the quality of data available. Peak year measures are generally used where it is not possible to differentiate between individuals in different years. In these cases we take the year with the most individuals the number of individuals in the

The sum of the country/department results have been rounded down to the nearest 100,000, and all other results have been rounded to the nearest 1,000. Multilateral results are rounded in the same way except in cases where the multilateral institution uses a different rounding practice. Sex disaggregated results may not sum to the total due to rounding.

### Timeliness

The results presented represent the latest data available, and generally represent results as at end March 2017 (unless otherwise specified).

- there are time lags associated with obtaining confirmed results figures in many countries, and some results delivered have yet to be confirmed and/or fully available. Therefore, the results reported here may not represent all results achieved up to March 2017.
- when results estimates are published, they are updated to take account of any further information which has become available for earlier years.

## **Accuracy**

Given the range of data sources used, the accuracy of the results data varies and is subject to the quality of the underlying data source. In many cases DFID uses data collected by others (e.g. partner country governments, international organisations) and therefore DFID has limited control over the quality of the data.

Statistics Advisers in DFID undertake quality assurance of the results data and attempt to minimise the source of any errors although there is a risk that errors may still exist. The types of errors which DFID attempts to minimise include:

- double counting – identifying unique beneficiaries and avoiding duplication in reporting between programmes
- attribution – measuring the results which can be associated with DFID interventions/funding.

Coverage: to ensure the results are representative there is sometimes a need to overcome challenges in collecting data such as security challenges. This can sometimes jeopardise the completeness and the accuracy of the results estimates.

## **Coherence and Comparability**

DFID has developed and published methodological guidance on each indicator to help ensure consistency of measurement across countries and permit meaningful aggregation of results. Where possible, indicators use internationally agreed definitions as outlined in the methodology notes.

## **Revisions**

This policy covers scheduled revisions, unscheduled revisions including corrections, and other changes to the Department for International Development's (DFID) results estimates.

### **Scheduled revisions**

DFID publishes its results estimates at least once a year in summer. Due to long data lags between results being delivered and obtaining confirmation of results figures, revisions are common and expected. Revisions will be published at the next update of our results data.

### **Unscheduled revisions, errors and corrections**

Occasionally, errors will occur in our statistical processes. We do everything we can to minimise these errors and continually review our processes and procedures to minimise this risk. These are considered to be non-scheduled revisions and the Chief Statistician or Head of Profession for Statistics will make a decision on whether to correct and republish the figures immediately or wait for the next scheduled publication depending on the significance of the error found. Unscheduled revisions will be highlighted and clarified when they occur.

### **Changes in statistical methodology or source systems**

Results estimates methodologies are reviewed annually. When there are changes in the methodologies we will inform users before the next publication of our results estimates.