Department
for International
Development

Single Departmental Plan - Results Achieved by Sector in 2016-2018

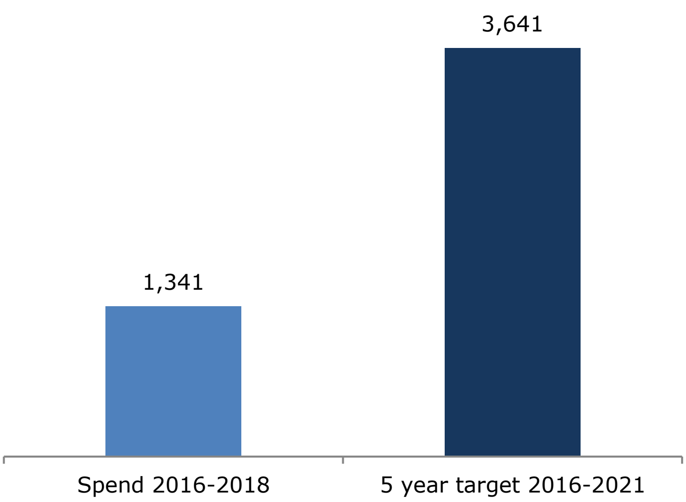
DFID Spend on Climate

Spend on building the resilience of poor people to the impacts of climate change and investing in low carbon development to avoid or reduce harmful greenhouse gases.

1. Finance and Results

In 2016-18, DFID spent £1,341 million on building the resilience of poor people to the impacts of climate change and investing in low carbon development to avoid or prevent harmful greenhouse gases. This Single Departmental Plan spend indicator contributes to the UK commitment to £5.8 billion over five years on tackling climate change, of which DFID intends to spend £3.6 billion.

Figure 1 : Progress against 5 year climate finance target £m



£1,222 million of DFID’s spend on climate in 2016-2018 was through bilateral programmes by DFID’s network of country offices, or by teams based in the UK whose programmes often operate across a range of countries. These programmes tackle climate change either as their main objective or alongside other development objectives such as economic development.

During this period, 25,800,000 people have been supported to cope with the impacts of climate change and 9,500,000 provided with improved access to clean energy as a result of DFID’s bilateral programmes.

DFID, alongside BEIS and Defra, make core contributions to specific multilateral organisations that tackle climate change, such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility. These organisations have greater reach across a broader range of countries and work with other donors to scale up climate finance faster and more effectively. DFID contributed £119 million to climate multilaterals in 2016-2018

2. Context

Climate change is a global challenge that affects us all and without concerted global action to limit and manage the impact of climate change, we could reverse the huge gains in global poverty reduction which the UK has helped achieve over the last three decades. The World Bank has estimated that 100 million people are at risk of being pushed into extreme poverty by rising temperatures and increasing floods by 2030, with impacts on political instability and migration flows.

Alongside other developed countries, the UK has committed to jointly mobilise $100 billion per year in climate finance to developing countries from public and private sources, and played a pivotal role in securing the landmark Paris Agreement, where the world came together to agree a plan to limit temperature rises to below 2 degrees.

As part of this commitment, the UK pledged to provide £5.8 billion of International Climate Finance (ICF) between 2016 and 2021 to build the resilience of poor people to the impacts of climate change and invest in low carbon development to avoid or reduce harmful greenhouse gases. DFID works jointly with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on delivering this commitment using the UK aid budget.

3. Programmes using DFID Climate Finance

Over 170 programmes contributed to DFID's climate finance spend during 2016-2018. The following are examples of some of the programmes addressing the challenges of climate change.

During 2016-18, DFID invested £79 million in the BRACED programme (Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters) which aims to assist up to 10 million people to become more resilient to climate extremes and disasters. Support provided to date includes infrastructure improvements in Senegal to reduce damage and health risks associated with flooding, and training in climate-smart agriculture techniques in South Sudan to provide long lasting sources of food in the face of flooding and drought.

Over this period DFID also invested £27 million in the Solar Nigeria programme, which supports the installation of solar photovoltaic systems in schools and health centres as well as mobilising additional private sector finance for the solar market. In the last 2 years it has provided 1.4 million people with improved access to clean energy and mobilised £24 million of private finance.

DFID spent £60 million during 2016-18 on the Forest Governance, Markets and Climate programme which works in over 20 countries to tackle illegal deforestation. It is contributing towards transformational change in at least 7 countries, by supporting governance and market reforms that improve the rights of poor people to manage and benefit from forests, prevent illegal trade, and increase the tax revenue to developing countries from legal trade.

Further information on UK International Climate Finance (ICF), including case studies.

4. Methodology summary

DFID climate finance is identified and approved as part of DFID's usual business case design and approval process. Programme teams are responsible for identifying the proportion of spend that can be categorised as climate finance.

For programmes that are categorised as 100% climate finance, the full spend of the programme is reported. A percentage of a programme can be scored as climate finance if the programme incorporates elements that address climate risks or promote low carbon approaches or technologies.

Expenditure can be either bilateral or core contributions to climate-specific multilateral organisations. Imputed shares of core contributions to the World Bank and Multilateral Development Banks are not included, which avoids double counting at an international level.

See the detailed methodology.

5. Data sources

Climate finance data is collected from DFID's central finance system, based on expenditure incurred during the financial year and which has been identified by programme teams as climate finance.

See the Dataset available here.

6. Data quality notes

DFID-wide guidance on climate finance is available to programme teams, as well as a network of climate advisers, to enable them to accurately estimate and record their climate finance. Some degree of judgement is required by programme teams, particularly where a programme is only partially climate change related. Climate finance data is also reviewed centrally and while is it possible that some errors in classification may occur, these should be minimal.