

# UK's Voluntary National Review on the Global Goals: Emerging Findings and Further Engagement

*Seeking views and input to inform the UK's forthcoming Voluntary National Review*



# Overview

- Introduction
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- Questions
- Next steps



# Introduction



# Global Britain delivering the Global Goals

- **If the UK is to deliver the Goals, we must:**
  - **Act** now to fully embed the Goals in our thinking and actions. Government can catalyse, but it cannot alone deliver such an ambitious and comprehensive agenda. This is about everyone pooling their efforts, at home and abroad.
  - **Speak** up visibly and proactively to promote and share widely the Goals and the actions being taken. Every day individuals, civil society organisations and businesses are helping to make progress towards the Goals and a brighter future for all.
  - **Join** forces to create Great Partnerships, supported by Government, and make the connections, create the opportunities, and leverage all that our nation has to offer: its talents, expertise and resources.

# The Global Goals and the Voluntary National Review

- The UK was at the forefront of negotiating the 2030 Agenda and the Global Goals (also known as the Sustainable Development Goals), and we are determined to be at the forefront of delivering them too.
- The Global Goals work firmly for the national interest as well as for people and communities around the world. They embody the principles of security, freedom, prosperity and opportunity – principles that are key to addressing injustices at home, as well as some of the most pressing global challenges of our time.
- As we leave the European Union, we are committed to an open, inclusive and outward facing Global Britain, playing a leading role on the world stage and promoting the best of Britain to the world. In the UK we have embarked on an ambitious journey; nurturing British talent, supporting British institutions, and driving the British economy – reflecting the aspiration of the Global Goals to deliver a world that works for everyone, everywhere.
- The forthcoming Voluntary National Review is an important moment to take stock and is also a stepping stone en route to 2030, to galvanise this action and activity. It will aim to take stock of the progress the UK is making towards delivery of the Global Goals, to identify any gaps, and to find new ways to tackle challenges and unlock opportunities. It will highlight the contributions across the UK, from Government to civil society, businesses and beyond towards delivery of all 17 Goals. It will also be evidence-based and incorporate data, illustrating both the UK's domestic and international activity.

***“We will not falter in our delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals”***

***Prime Minister, August 2018***

# Developing the UK's Voluntary National Review

**The Global Goals are for everyone, and everyone has a role to play in contributing to their delivery.**

- The Department for International Development (DFID) is leading co-ordination of the Voluntary National Review.
- Within the UK Government, lead departments have been identified to produce and develop chapters for each of the Goals, working across government (see full list on slide 8).
- We have carried out wide-ranging outreach across different regions and sectors to understand the breadth of activity taking place and to encourage participation in the Voluntary National Review.
- We have received 200 case studies from organisations, businesses and civil society illustrating how their work is contributing to the UK's delivery of the Global Goals. Some of these case studies can be found in the goal-specific slides and a summary of the types of organisations that have submitted case studies so far is available at Annex A.
- This Emerging Findings and Further Engagement document is the next step in our engagement journey.

## **Devolution**

- Matters of devolved competence are not covered in this Emerging Findings and Further Engagement document. The Devolved Administrations are undertaking their own stakeholder engagement.
- We are working collaboratively with the Devolved Administrations and the Voluntary National Review will tell the story of activity across the whole of the UK.

# Lead Government Departments for the purposes of the Voluntary National Review

| Goal   | Lead UK Government Department                           | Goal   | Lead UK Government Department                           |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Goal 1: No Poverty</b>                              | Department for Work and Pensions                        | <b>Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities</b>                   | Government Equalities Office                            |
| <b>Goal 2: Zero Hunger</b>                             | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs      | <b>Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</b>     | Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government   |
| <b>Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being</b>              | Department of Health and Social Care                    | <b>Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production</b> | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs      |
| <b>Goal 4: Quality Education</b>                       | Department for Education                                | <b>Goal 13: Climate Action</b>                         | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy |
| <b>Goal 5: Gender Equality</b>                         | Government Equalities Office                            | <b>Goal 14: Life Below Water</b>                       | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs      |
| <b>Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation</b>              | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs      | <b>Goal 15: Life on Land</b>                           | Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs      |
| <b>Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy</b>             | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy | <b>Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</b> | Home Office   |
| <b>Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</b>         | HM Treasury   | <b>Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals</b>             | Department for International Development                |
| <b>Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</b> | Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy |  |   |

*To further inform the development of the Voluntary National Review, we want to hear from a wide range of people and organisations from across different sectors. You can get involved by discussing this document and sharing feedback with us. Or, join one of our sector-specific engagement events. Further details are available at: [www.gov.uk/sustainabledevelopmentgoals](https://www.gov.uk/sustainabledevelopmentgoals)*

# How you can help





# How to contribute

This document is a tool to support further reflection and stakeholder engagement as we work to produce the UK's Voluntary National review. We want to hear from as many different people as possible. Here are some of the groups and organisations we would particularly like to hear from:

We will continue to post information on our [Voluntary National Review website](#), including details on how to provide feedback on this document. The deadline for submitting feedback is **Friday 22 March**.

If you have any questions, please email us at [sdgs@dfid.gov.uk](mailto:sdgs@dfid.gov.uk).



# Sector-specific engagement events

DFID is also organising a series of sector-specific engagement events, which will provide an opportunity for individuals and organisations to discuss UK progress on the Global Goals and provide feedback to DFID to inform the Voluntary National Review. These engagement events will complement detailed Goal focused engagement being undertaken by Lead Government Departments. More details on the sector-specific events below and how to join them can be found on our [Voluntary National Review website](#).

| Sector / Group            | Location | Date     |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|
| Parliamentarians          | London   | 11 March |
| International Development | London   | 13 March |
| Inclusive Civil Society   | London   | 14 March |
| Local Delivery            | Leeds    | 15 March |
| Local Delivery            | Bristol  | 18 March |
| Private Sector            | London   | 19 March |
| Faith groups              | London   | 20 March |

# Questions



This  
document  
is framed  
around  
four high-  
level  
themes...

**Partnerships and shared endeavour** – This theme reflects that the Global Goals are for everybody and a wide range of actors, including business and civil society, will help achieve them. It also looks at the role of partnerships working across sectors to create positive impact and support progress.

**Data and measurement** – This theme explores the data that is currently available and how that can be improved to help better understand the impact of activity on progress towards the Global Goals. Due to the large number of Global Indicators (244) we have not been able to cover all available data in this document.

**Interlinkages** – This theme is about the interlinkages across the Global Goals, how impact in one area can have an impact on another area, and how best to take account of this in order to maximise progress towards the Global Goals.

**The Global Goals** – This theme considers emerging messages on the Global Goals and the UK's progress towards them more broadly en route to 2030.

# Partnerships and shared endeavour

Collaborative and innovative partnerships between a range of organisations and sectors are key to ensuring the Global Goals are realised in all areas of life. Not only do partnerships combine the strengths of public and private sectors to deliver sustainable solutions to social, environmental and economic issues, they are also essential to ensuring that those who are most affected by these issues are included in the decision-making process.

In October 2018, we launched a website calling for people and organisations across the UK to tell us how they and their partners are helping to deliver the Global Goals. We have received two hundred case study submissions so far, some of which can be seen in the Goal-specific slides. A summary is provided at Annex A and below are a few more examples;

- A university in the East Midlands is working in partnership with the local authority, local football club and a leading cancer charity to implement the Global Goals on campus. Initiatives include providing staff and students with reusable mugs (Goal 12) and funding 20 asylum seeker scholarships (Goal 4). *Case study no.25*
- A regional learning partnership in collaboration with a local neighbourhood organisation, a local youth organisation, a social enterprise and the UK's leading drug, alcohol and mental health charity is running awareness raising events and training to give adult learners a better understanding of how to manage finances, improve mental health, and consume sustainably (Goal 1, Goal 3 and Goal 12). *Case study no.56*
- Work by a UK environmental organisation in partnership with the UK government and French conservation and rehabilitation groups is enabling local communities in Congo to reclaim ownership of local forests in the Congo Basin (Goal 1 and Goal 15). *Case study no.105*

# Partnerships and shared endeavour

How are partnerships across sectors improving outcomes or realising new potential for delivering the Global Goals?

Which changes do you think are most important to enable partnerships across different sectors to have more of an impact?

How could these changes be implemented today?

How could these changes be implemented in the next 11 years – up to 2030?

What action will you be taking?

# Data and measurement

The UK is committed to producing a VNR that is underpinned by data and evidence.

Data enables the measurement and tracking of progress towards the Global Goals. For the first time, developed and developing countries are working towards the same set of global goals, targets and indicators.

The Global Goals promise to “Leave No One Behind”. To realise this promise, we need data that is timely, comprehensive and disaggregated (broken down) so we can make the invisible visible.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) is responsible for finding and collating UK data for all of the UN’s Global Indicators. These were introduced in the 2030 Agenda and aim to track progress towards the Goals and targets worldwide. The ONS is committed to sourcing data that gives us the best and clearest picture of the UK contribution to the Global Goals. The ONS stated in its annual report on progress that it is committed to reporting on 70% of the Global Indicators by April 2019.

The ONS is reporting data for 67% of Global Indicators (163 of 244 indicators) on the [UK’s National Reporting Platform](#).

We are aware that the Global Indicators do not cover all data that is relevant to UK’s progress towards the Global Goals. For instance, the Gender Pay Gap is not a Global Indicator. To make sure that the Voluntary National Review reports on a complete UK picture, it is important that we draw on other data sources.

# Data and measurement

What data is available to capture UK contributions from a range of different sectors towards delivery of the Goals?

What actions can be taken to improve data to provide meaningful information on UK progress towards the Goals?

How could these actions be implemented today?

How could these actions be implemented in the next 11 years – up to 2030?

What action will you be taking?



# Interlinkages

From delivering economic growth and jobs to investing in girls and women and tackling inequality, the 17 Global Goals represent a framework for addressing the cross-cutting challenges facing the UK and the world today. The interlinkages between the Global Goals mean that progress in one area, such as education or gender equality, will have a direct or indirect impact on others, such as poverty, justice and decent work.

By recognising interlinkages, government, business and civil society can collaborate to develop holistic long-term solutions that benefit multiple groups of people and contribute to several goals at once.

More information on key interlinkages between the Global Goals within the UK context can be found in the Goal-specific slides.

# Interlinkages

Which interlinkages do you think are most important to enable greater progress on the Goals within the UK and globally?

What actions can be taken to encourage more people/organisations to take more account of the interlinkages between Goals?

How could these actions be implemented today?

How could these actions be implemented in the next 11 years – up to 2030?

What action will you be taking?

# The Global Goals

- The 17 Global Goals were adopted by 193 member states attending the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in New York in 2015. All member states are responsible for implementing the goals at home and contributing to global progress.
- The Goals comprise of a total of 169 targets, which seek to tackle a wide range of issues facing both developed and developing countries. These issues include extreme poverty, inequality, climate change, inclusive societies and access to health and education.
- The Global Goals are for everyone, and everyone has a role to play in contributing to their delivery. More information on current progress towards the Global Goals within the UK can be found in the Goal-specific slides.
- A full list of the UN's Goals, targets and indicators can be found at:  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

# The Global Goals

What other key activity is taking place to help the UK deliver the Goals and ensure nobody is left behind?

What actions can be taken to accelerate UK progress towards the Goals?

How could these actions be implemented today?

How could these actions be implemented in the next 11 years – up to 2030?

What action will you be taking?

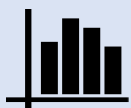


## Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

### Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** Tackling poverty is complex and requires a multi-pronged approach. Income transfers alone do not move families out of long-term poverty or break the cycle of inter-generational disadvantage. The UK is part-way through the biggest welfare reform programme for a generation, working together with the tax system and labour market strategies to support employment and higher pay as the best route out of poverty. These are reinforced by the National Living Wage and the Personal Tax Allowance, which work together to promote independence from benefits.

**International:** Independence from state funded support also helps countries stand on their own two feet. The UK Aid Strategy commits the UK to tackling extreme poverty and improving the lives of the world's most vulnerable people by promoting inclusive economic growth, quality jobs and trade alongside investment in social protection programmes and initiatives. We have made good progress in Africa where social protection systems are still in their infancy, and are also supporting countries to raise and use their own taxes to fund their own programmes, thereby reducing aid dependency.



### The Data Picture

- The Global Goals aim to **eradicate poverty for all people, everywhere**. In 2016 15.9% of people in the UK were living in households at risk of poverty, down from 16.6% in 2015. The percentage of individuals in relative low income remained stable over the same period.
- **Reducing poverty applies to people of all ages**. The proportion of children in relative low income households (before housing costs) decreased from 20% to 19%, between 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- **Reducing poverty in all its dimensions** includes in-work poverty. In 2016/17 57% of adults living in relative low income households were in working families.

Lead Department: Department for Work and Pensions  
Key Supporting Departments (non-exhaustive list): HMT, MHCLG



### The Activity Picture

- The **labour market is performing well** with the employment rate at 75.8%, the joint-highest since comparable estimates began in 1971.
- Major **reforms to the welfare programme are supporting full-time work** by incentivising entry into work and encouraging part-time workers to take on more hours.
- Eight strategic partnerships between Homes England and Housing Associations were launched in July 2018 to **deliver an additional 14,280 housing starts on top of existing plans**.
- British support and expertise is **helping severely disabled artists in Burkina Faso to enable them to make a living from their artwork**.  
*Case study no.68*
- UK international NGOs have created an **online platform to encourage young people around the world to take action** to end extreme poverty. *Case study no.181*

### Key areas for further work

- Tackling working patterns and work intensity as key drivers of in-work poverty.
- Completing the implementation of Universal Credit, including the smooth transition of households currently on the existing benefits and tax credit systems.
- Improving the supply and affordability of housing in order to support a reduction in working-age and child poverty.

### Key Interlinkages:



## **Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture**

### Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** The UK has a strong commitment to tackling malnutrition and promoting healthy balanced diets for both the general population and vulnerable groups. The Healthy Food Schemes are helping more than 3 million children get access to nutritious food, supporting the national Childhood Obesity Strategy and helping to reduce health inequalities. The 25 Year Environment Plan, published in 2018, proposes a new environmental land management system that will support farmers adopt long term sustainable practices that also protect habitats.

**International:** Poor nutrition keeps people in grinding poverty and prevents countries from moving on from aid dependency. The economic consequences of undernutrition can represent losses of national GDP of 10%, year-on year. In contrast a 40% reduction in stunting, by 2025, could add \$83 billion to national incomes in Africa from 2035 to 2060. UK interventions are helping to deliver results in inclusive growth, nutrition, and research. At the UK-hosted Nutrition for Growth Summit in 2013, the UK committed to significantly scaling up its nutrition investments to increase the nutrition impact of sectors such as water, sanitation, health and agriculture by £604 million.

### **The Data Picture**

- All people having **access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round** is key to ending hunger. In 2015/16, the median calories consumed per UK adult aged 19-64 each day were 1,810. UN FAO state the prevalence of undernourishment in the UK was less than 2.5% in 2015.
- It is important that the **nutritional needs of all** are addressed, including being overweight. In 2017/18, 22.4% of children in Reception (aged four to five years) in England were overweight or obese, while 1% were underweight.
- The **genetic diversity of seeds, plants and animals** should be maintained. In 2017, the UK Cumulative Enrichment Index (a measure of genetic diversity in plants) was 151,000. This is up from 145,000 in 2015.

Lead Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Key Supporting Departments (non-exhaustive list): DHSC, DWP



### The Activity Picture

- The UK Government is working with the Food and Drink Federation and other industry bodies to **develop a sector deal – an industry-led partnership – to deliver focused interventions.**
- **Soft drinks companies are investing in reformulating their products to reduce sugar content and help tackle obesity** following the introduction of the Soft Drinks Industry Levy in April 2018.
- University students in the South East are working with local businesses in Canterbury to **produce local beer by planting hop vines through sustainable food production methods** based on monastic traditions. *Case study no.67*
- British expertise is helping to **improve the agricultural productivity of small scale farmers, in particular women and family farmers in Nepal**, by encouraging them to switch from growing tobacco to growing vegetables for sale in local markets. *Case study no.77*

### Key areas for further work

- Childhood obesity saw an increase of 3.2% between 2015/16 and 2016/17. We are working to better understand the needs of families with children in the most deprived areas.
- Development and implementation of a new Environmental Land Management system will reward farmers and other land managers who improve the environment to the wider public benefit.

### Key Interlinkages:



## Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Lead Department: Department for Health and Social Care  
Key Supporting Departments (non-exhaustive list): DFID

### Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** Most people in the UK are now living for longer, and the UK Government aims to help people live these lives more independently for as long as possible. We are global leaders in the work to unlock the potential of genomic medicine and are working towards scientific advances that could see life-threatening viral outbreaks stopped before they start, including artificial intelligence. The Government will continue to focus on the prevention of illness and transforming cancer and mental health services. Such work will depend on technological innovation and an increasingly skilled and capable workforce.

**International:** Strengthening health security including the prevention of anti-microbial resistance is a global issue. UK expertise is helping to improve public health around the world and tackle the outbreak of disease e.g. ending the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, to prevent their spread. We are working to help deliver strong health systems that deliver better reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health outcomes, and target specific diseases such as malaria, TB, and Neglected Tropical diseases. The UK Government also hosted the first Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit in 2018 which developed a global declaration to achieve equality for mental health, including addressing suicide.



### The Data Picture

- The global **maternal mortality ratio should be reduced**. Between 2015 and 2016, the proportion of women giving birth in a medical facility in England and Wales increased from 97.5% to 97.7%.
- Global progress must be made to **end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria and other communicable diseases**. The number of incidences of TB in the UK has been falling over the last six years and in 2017 there were 8.4 cases per 100,000 people.
- **Tobacco Control should be strengthened further**. While rates are falling, over six million adults still smoke. In 2017, 15.1% of people in the UK smoked (down from 17.2% in 2015).



### The Activity Picture

- A joint programme by NHS England and the charity Diabetes UK has **helped 10,000 people reduce their risk of developing Type 2 diabetes** and now covers 75% of England.
- Dementia Friends, carers, healthcare workers and a range of others are working to ensure **local initiatives flourish and help deliver the Government's Challenge on Dementia 2020**.
- A consortium of organisations including the NHS has rolled out 13 **specialist mental health services to support vulnerable children and young people with complex needs** in England. *Case study no.29*
- A website developed by a UK student is acting as a **single-source of information, providing the latest updates on international malaria research, policy and funding**. *Case study no.67*

### Key areas for further work

- Whilst rates are falling, over six million adults still smoke. As the top cause of ill health and early death, stopping smoking is major priority.
- Tackling a range of health conditions such as obesity, mental illness and dementia, as well as responding to the needs of a growing ageing population living with multiple, chronic conditions like asthma, arthritis and diabetes.
- Exploring preventative strategies to promote the health of the whole individual and prevent them from becoming patients in the first place.

### Key Interlinkages:





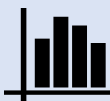
## Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Lead Department: Department for Education  
Key Supporting Departments (non-exhaustive list): DWP

### Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** We are aiming for a world class education system, and the vast majority of children are offered a high-quality education in schools that have been judged as 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted, the schools' inspectorate body. Progress has already been made in raising standards, ensuring schools have high levels of accountability and introducing data monitoring and tracking to identify those who are being left behind by the education system. The focus is now on closing the attainment gap between disadvantaged young people and adults as well as raising the quality and status of technical education.

**International:** Education can unlock individual potential and benefits all of society, powering sustainable development. As a global leader and education donor, the UK supports 12 years of quality education and is focusing on the basics of literacy and numeracy, driving quality teaching, reforming education systems and protecting children from violence. We also help young people as they transition into adulthood, including through further education and vocational training, and through our leadership on research, training and science, creating trade and investment opportunities in education sectors overseas.



### The Data Picture

- The majority of children in England, but not all, achieve **minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics**. Three quarters of pupils aged 11 reached expected standards in reading and mathematics in 2018, with both subjects showing increases on 2017.
- Every child should have **access to quality early years learning**. In England 94% of three and four year-olds are participating in funded early years learning. 71.5% of children achieved a good level of development in 2018, with attainment increasing each year since revised assessments were introduced in 2013.
- The Global Goals aim to **end disparities in education**. The disadvantaged pupils attainment gap has narrowed by 3.1% since 2015 and 9.5% since 2011.



### The Activity Picture

- 2018 saw a **record rate of disadvantaged 18 year-olds entering full time Higher Education**, with the entry rate at 20.2%.
- A **UK university has developed a full undergraduate degree in Global Sustainable Development** - the first course of its kind - and encourages students to run sustainability campaigns on campus. *Case study no. 183*
- A UK civil society coalition of NGOs, teachers unions and charities is delivering campaigns across schools in the UK to **teach children about Goal 4 and encouraging them to present to their MPs**. *Case study no. 90*
- A collaboration between a faith organisation and international technology company is **offering digital and business skills workshops to Black and Ethnic Minority groups** in the Bexley area and in Lagos, Nigeria. *Case study no. 8*

### Key areas for further work

- Narrowing the attainment gap; in July 2018 DfE analysis showed that year 11 pupils eligible for Free School Meals were 23% less likely to be in sustained employment at the age of 27, compared to their peers.
- To tackle issues with teacher recruitment and workload, the Government has just launched, in January, its new strategy to recruit, develop and retain the next generation of teachers.
- Elevating the status of technical education to that of academic education through Technical Level qualifications and wider reforms to deliver an army of skilled young people for British business.

### Key Interlinkages:





# Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Lead Department: Government Equalities Office  
Key Supporting Departments (non-exhaustive list): Home Office

## Progress so far and key strengths

Domestic: The UK's commitment to 'Leave No One Behind' is reflected in a record high female employment rate, a strategy for violence against women and girls that includes a forthcoming Abuse Bill to support and protect victims of domestic violence, and a higher percentage of women on the boards of the UK's largest private companies than ever before. Following ground-breaking legislation on the gender pay gap, the focus is now on accelerating the pace of change.

International: The UK is an international leader on women and girls' empowerment. We fought successfully for the inclusion of Goal 5 in the Global Goals and were instrumental in ensuring targets on gender equality were included across the other goals. UK aid is helping millions of women and girls globally to achieve their potential, and tackles the barriers that prevent them from doing so. It is creating opportunities for girls and women to enjoy their rights and to contribute to their country's growth and economy, to shape their communities and their countries' futures. This will build new markets and trading partnerships for the Global Britain of the future.



## The Data Picture

- **Eliminating all forms of gender discrimination** is at the heart of Goal 5. The UK gender pay gap is the lowest on record at 8.6% but more progress can be made.
- Harmful practices such as **Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Under Age Marriage should be eliminated**. In 2017, there were still 220 newly reported cases of FGM per 1 million women aged 15-49 in the UK.
- **Equal opportunities for leadership at all levels** should be available to women. In 2017, 33% of all managerial positions were held by women, this was up from 29% in 2015.



## The Activity Picture

- **Laws on violence against women and girls have been significantly strengthened.** For example, legislation now targets those who fail to protect girls from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and provides lifelong anonymity for victims of FGM.
- A range of **UK partners including technology specialists are working to develop customised mobile applications and online learning platforms to support women entrepreneurs** to access the skills and technologies they need to become successful business owners. *Case study no.12*
- A joint project between two UK charities is helping young girls and women up to the age of 25 to **access and afford sanitary products in England to help end period poverty**. *Case study no.139*

## Key areas for further work

- Time out of the labour market still has a substantial impact on women's salaries and women earn around 2% less on average for every year spent out of paid work. Tackling this is critical to the pace of change on the Gender Pay Gap.
- Women remain under-represented in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) industries, despite an increase in the number of women doing STEM subjects at undergraduate level.
- Supporting low paid women and women with multiple barriers to reaching their potential.

## Key Interlinkages:



## Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** The UK has a successful system for the provision of clean water and sanitation services, including national legislation requiring employers to provide adequate facilities for workers. Public health problems related to water supply and sanitation are now a rare event, and UK law prevents water companies from being able to cut off customers’ supplies. River Basin Management Plans covering all of the UK were published in February 2016, helping to safeguard and improve the quality of surface and ground waters. We are also working to encourage resilient, sustainable, affordable water and sewerage services to homes and businesses in England through a strategic framework, including regulation and development of further market reforms.

**International:** UK programmes in developing countries focus on those people who continue to lack access to water and sanitation, with a focus on the poorest in order to Leave No One Behind. UK funded water security and transboundary water management programmes are helping people become more resilient to climate change by improving sustainable access to water resources of appropriate quality and reducing water-related risks such as floods and droughts.

### The Data Picture

- **Integrated water resources management at all levels** should be implemented. In 2016, the degree of integrated water resources management implementation in the UK was 77%.
- Goal 6 highlights that **integrated water resources should be managed through transboundary cooperation**. In 2016, there was 11,100km<sup>2</sup> of surface area of the transboundary basin with an operational arrangement for water cooperation.
- **International support in water and sanitation related programmes** can increase access to safely managed water supplies and sanitation facilities in developing countries. In 2016, the UK contributed £357,000 ODA to water and sanitation sectors, up from £350,000 in 2015.

### The Activity Picture

- The 25 Year Environment Plan commits the Government to **achieving clean and plentiful water by improving at least three quarters of our waters to be close to their natural state**.
- Through Catchment Sensitive Farming, **farmers are helping to improve the quality of England’s waters** by addressing diffuse water pollution from agriculture.
- **Children in Solihull are learning about the importance of saving water** through an initiative developed by a charity and a British bank working in partnership with a local primary school. *Case study no.63*
- A UK organisation is working to **empower local communities in rural Nepal to sustainably manage their water**, increase awareness on sanitation and provide training on good hygiene practices. *Case study no.185*

### Key areas for further work

- Improving knowledge and information through the Digital Economy Act 2017 to enable water companies to develop targeted support for those who need help with their water bills.
- England now has the cleanest bathing waters since records began and rivers that were biologically dead are reviving. These improvements have not continued at the same pace in recent years and challenges remain to improve water quality of rivers and lakes.

### Key Interlinkages:



## Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

### Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** By setting clear long-term ambitions, supported by strong policy action, the UK has shown that clean growth is possible. Since 1990, the UK has reduced emissions by over 40 per cent while growing the economy by more than two thirds - and our commitment to clean energy and efficiency has made energy more affordable for consumers across the country. We have delivered record levels of renewable energy and driven innovation in the low carbon economy, which now supports hundreds of thousands of jobs. We have introduced a price cap to address affordability issues, and we have galvanised action and initiatives across the UK and internationally, including helping secure the landmark Paris Agreement in 2015.

**International:** The UK's International Climate Finance (ICF) helps deliver the UK's commitment as part of the Paris Agreement: we pledged to provide at least £5.8 billion of ICF between 2016 and 2020 to support both mitigation and adaptation. This places us among the world's leading providers of climate finance and has helped millions of people in developing countries gain access to clean energy and cope with the effects of climate change.

### The Data Picture

- Every person living in the UK **should have access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services**. According to statistics released by World Bank, 100% of the UK population has access to electricity.
- The **share of renewable energy in the global energy mix** should continue to increase. In 2017, 10.2% of UK energy was from renewable energy, almost a threefold increase since 2010 and up 1.0 percentage point since 2016. Renewable energy accounted for 3.8% of all UK energy in 2010.
- With developing countries energy use growing it is important that Official Development Assistance (ODA) programmes support **clean energy research and development and renewable energy production**. In 2016, £463 million of the UK's ODA contributed towards these aims.

Lead Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
Key Supporting Departments (non-exhaustive list): MHCLG



### The Activity Picture

- Affordable Warmth and the Carbon Savings Community obligations have **delivered around 1.38 million energy efficiency measures in over 1 million low income and vulnerable households**.
- The Energy Price Cap, introduced in January 2019, will **save typical customers around £76 per year on average** and those on the most expensive tariffs £120 per year.
- Local authorities and academic institutions, led by a social enterprise, are **working to grow Oxfordshire's low-carbon economy**, mapping Oxfordshire's housing stock and identifying streets and neighbourhoods suitable for particular energy saving measures. *Case study no.96*
- Children in the North East are learning about their industrial mining heritage through a programme run by a charity in the North East **to inspire the next generation of innovators and engineers**. *Case study no.7*
- UK organisations are **helping to deliver pay-as-you-go solar home systems** for rural off-grid homes in the remotest parts of sub-Saharan Africa. *Case study no.34*

### Key areas for further work

- Replicating the success of efforts around decarbonisation of the power and waste sectors in 'harder to reach' sectors such as transport, business and industry.
- Ensuring competitive energy costs through the Energy Price Cap Act 2018, the Energy Company Obligation scheme and the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund announced in the Budget 2018.
- Establishing a post-EU emissions and environmental framework that is at least as beneficial as current arrangements.

### Key Interlinkages:



## Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** The UK is delivering sustained economic growth and shared prosperity. The economy has grown every year since 2010. Exports have risen to a record high. Our unemployment rate is near its lowest since 1975 and wage growth is at its strongest for a decade. Through our Industrial Strategy the UK is supporting innovation, acting to boost productivity and backing businesses, including SMEs and entrepreneurs. Key steps have also been taken to improve and strengthen the financial services system.

**International:** The UK is taking action at home and overseas to eradicate forced labour and exploitation. The Prime Minister launched the Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The UK is supporting the World Trade Organisation's Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF), to increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries.



## The Data Picture

- **Per capita economic growth helps to ensure decent work for everyone.** While the UK's annual growth rate of GDP per capita fell from 1.5% in 2015 to 1.0% in 2016, an average growth rate of 1.2% has been maintained since 2010.
- **Decent employment for all women and men, including young people and those with disabilities should be available.** The UK unemployment rate fell to 4.1% in 2018, its lowest rate for over 40 years. Average unemployment rates also continued to fall for men, women, young people and those with disabilities
- The proportion of **young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) should be reduced.** In 2018 Q3, 10.9% of young people were still NEET, a decrease of 0.9 percentage points since 2015.



## The Activity Picture

- The **National Retraining Scheme** will help workers develop the skills that they need to compete in the modern economy.
- **British retailers are working together to meet some of the biggest global challenges of the coming decade**, using the UN SDGs as a framework. These challenges include modern slavery and decent work, sustainable economic growth, and responsible consumption and production.
- Charities are working to **encourage employers to remove the box asking about criminal convictions in job application forms** to help ex-offenders secure employment and turn their lives around. *Case study no.46*
- A UK think tank is working with 14 partner organisations to **build a global centre for knowledge to support long term economic transformation.** *Case study no.141*

## Key areas for further work

- Productivity growth has slowed globally since 2008. The UK Government is taking steps to address this challenge, including by investing £37 billion through the National Productivity Investment Fund, to support investment in key infrastructure and research.
- Delivering meaningful and fulfilling work for all workers is a key priority for the UK. The Government is taking forward the recommendations of the Taylor Review, and published the Good Work Plan last year.
- We are committed to doing even more to support women in the labour market. We are increasing childcare support to £6 billion per year by 2019/20 and are also launching a review into the barriers to female entrepreneurship.

## Key Interlinkages:





## Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Lead Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
Key Supporting Departments (non-exhaustive list): DfT, DCMS

### Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** The UK's Industrial Strategy sets out how we will build on our existing strengths and embrace new technologies with the aim of improving living standards and encouraging economic growth. Infrastructure spending is growing steadily, and there is a growing pipeline of projects which will improve access to homes, roads, schools and hospitals throughout the UK. We are supporting our science, technology and industrial sectors through record levels of Research and Development funding, improving sector capabilities by reforming technical education and apprenticeship schemes.

**International:** Promoting shared global prosperity is one of the core objectives of the UK's Aid Strategy. DFID's Invest Africa programme aims to generate 90,000 jobs and support £1.2 billion in foreign direct investment in Africa by 2027, creating even more opportunities for the UK in the future. The UK is also a founding member of the Private Infrastructure Development Group which brings together a coalition of partners to encourage private sector investment in infrastructure development in Africa and Asia. The Prosperity Fund Global Infrastructure Programme aims to improve the provision of sustainable and resilient infrastructure, which can act as a critical enabler for economic development in middle income countries.



### The Data Picture

- The development of **quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure** is central to Goal 9. The number of UK air passengers increased from 231 to 247 million between 2015 and 2016, and UK air freight increased from 2,250 to 2,350 thousand tonnes between 2015 and 2016.
- **Upgrading infrastructure and retrofitting industries to make them sustainable** is important to Goal 9. UK industry CO<sub>2</sub> emissions decreased from 0.278 kilotonnes per GBP of output in 2010 to 0.218 in 2015.
- The Global Goals highlight the need to **enhance scientific research**. UK research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP increased from 1.54% in 2010 to 1.67% in 2015.



### The Activity Picture

- Development of ambitious missions to tackle the **four Grand Challenges facing the UK's industrial future** - namely, clean growth, our ageing society, AI and data, and mobility.
- Work is underway to **improve the UK's digital infrastructure**, including ensuring full fibre broadband for rural areas.
- Students in London are designing and completing STEM projects, including **developing an award-winning mosquito repellent using basil**, to help solve global issues. *Case study no.64*
- British manufacturers are working to identify **examples of Britain's circular economy to raise awareness and promote sustainable business practices**. *Case study no.81*
- A British organization is working with textile artisans and SMEs in South Asia to **adopt eco-friendly processes and technologies**, e.g. use of natural dyes and energy efficient fuels. *Case study no.132*

### Key areas for further work

- The UK has among the highest disparities in regional productivity in Europe. The Industrial Strategy is focussed on reducing this through its place agenda for improving skills, digital infrastructure and local economies.
- Ensuring our infrastructure investments actively support long-term productivity, providing greater certainty and clear strategic direction.

### Key Interlinkages:



## Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** The UK is committed to creating a fair society where no one is left behind, people are valued, able to participate fully and realise their potential. We have some of the strongest equalities legislation in the world, including the Equality Act 2010 which provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals, prevent discrimination, and advance equality of opportunity. More recently, the Government has committed to 'explain or change' disparities between ethnic groups highlighted by an unprecedented audit of government data.

**International:** Tackling inequality is essential to help reduce extreme poverty and deliver sustainable development for all. The UK is supporting countries that want help to repeal discriminatory laws via a £5.6m civil society led programme to advance the rights of women, girls, people with disabilities, and LGBT people in the Commonwealth. We have also signed up to the Inclusive Data Charter to better understand the situation of the poorest and most marginalized, so that we can work to empower them to enjoy their rights and to contribute to their country's growth and economy and help build new markets and trading partnerships for the Global Britain of the future.



## The Data Picture

- Goal 10 focuses on **progressively achieving and sustaining the income growth of the poorest** (bottom 40% of the UK population) at a rate higher than the national average. The five year annualised average income growth rate (for the period ending 2016/17) was 2.5% for the poorest and 1.9% for all households.
- Fiscal, wage and social protection policies help to achieve greater equality.** The labour share of UK GDP in 2017 was 49.5%, and changed little between 2010 and 2017.
- Official Development Assistance (ODA) should be spent where it is most needed.** In 2016, Least Developed Countries received £4.1 billion accounting for 31% of total UK ODA spend.



## The Activity Picture

- The **Public Sector Equality Duty** is a world leading approach that **places a statutory equality duty on public bodies**, and those exercising public functions, to consider the potential effects of key decisions on groups with protected characteristics.
- A charity is working with communities in Brighton and Hove to set up **support groups to tackle the specific needs of different groups** such as Black and Ethnic Minority, older people, and LGBTQI. *Case study no.121*
- A business working in partnership with charities has adopted a **strategy to attract people from a diverse range of backgrounds** by offering structured programmes for school leavers, apprentices and trainee engineers. *Case study no.160*

## Key areas for further work

- 108,000 people responded to the UK's world-leading national survey on LGBT people's experiences of accessing services. The results will inform the Government's approach to tackling LGBT inequality and delivery of our Action Plan.
- Overseeing progress on a number of areas through the Race Disparity Unit, including the consultation on ethnicity pay reporting, and David Lammy's 2017 review into disparities in the treatment of, and outcomes for, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic offenders.
- The UK Government announced a £250,000 interim fund to increase the representation of disabled candidates running for political office.

## Key Interlinkages:



## Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** The Government is focused on building the homes the country needs, making these affordable, and ensuring no one is left behind through an unprecedented focus on ending rough sleeping. The Rough Sleeping Strategy sets out a vision to support every person who sleeps rough off the streets and into a home. Significant progress has been made to help first time buyers into the housing market, improving the delivery rate of affordable homes, and ensuring social homes provide a well-managed service for all. Safe and stable accommodation is at the heart of all communities, but it does not create communities and more interventions are needed to ensure everyone can benefit from all that their community has to offer.

**International:** The UK worked with China to establish smart-cities standards in their compulsory "Smart Cities Evaluation Indicator". The Global Future Cities Prosperity Fund programme encourages sustainable development, for example through funding technical assistance to use 'Big Data' to improve resilience in Cape Town as part of the response to the City's recent once-in-300 years drought.

## The Data Picture

- **Adequate, safe and affordable housing** should be available to all. In 2015, 23% of houses failed minimum standard decent homes criteria (ONS). Between 2017-2018, over 220,000 new homes were delivered.
- The Global Goals highlight that **inclusive and sustainable urbanisation should be enhanced**. In 2016, Great Britain's land consumption rate was greater than population growth.
- **Access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces** is also important. In 2017, 5% of urban areas in Great Britain was publicly accessible green space. Between 2015-2016, the UK Government also awarded £1.05 million funding to create 87 pocket parks out of neglected urban spaces.



## The Activity Picture

- **Over 169,000 households bought a new-build home** through the Government's 'Help to Buy scheme: Equity Loan' from its launch in spring 2013 until March 2018.
- The Access for All programme has invested more than £500 million to provide **step-free accessible routes at around 200 stations**.
- Local authorities and organisations in York are working together to assess how the city's strategies and plans align with the Global Goals and make **recommendations on how to strengthen delivery at a local level**. *Case study no.42*
- British experts are working with academic, public and civil society partners in Asia to improve resilience and **support effective urban planning through better subsurface management**. *Case study no.125*

## Key areas for further work

- Despite the increase in new housing being built, development needs to pick up pace.
- On rough sleeping, the challenge is building up a full picture of all the issues affecting vulnerable individuals and ensuring a joined-up service provision to help them.
- Building on the Integrated Communities Strategy consultation which sets out Government proposals to strengthen communities and identifies factors affecting integration, including migration, labour market disadvantage and language barriers.

## Key Interlinkages:



## Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Lead Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Key Supporting Departments (non-exhaustive list): BEIS, MHCLG

### Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** The UK Government is committed to leaving a lighter footprint on the environment by reducing consumption, reusing and redistributing products and materials, and facilitating better management and recycling to minimise environmental impact. The Government is leading by example, including through the Greening Government Commitments and government procurement standards, as well as helping others to make the right choices. The UK's work on natural capital is helping to ensure that the value of our biodiversity and ecosystems is mainstreamed into decision-making, while the introduction of the carrier bag charge and landfill tax have already had significant impacts on behaviour.

**International:** The UK is establishing a Global Resource Initiative to drive work on establishing zero deforestation supply chains and remains firmly committed to halting illegal logging and combating deforestation. In recognition of growing global production and use of chemicals, the UK is helping to develop a post 2020 framework under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management. The UK has signed up to the G7 Alliance for Resource Efficiency and G7 Ocean Plastic Charter to share best practice and commit to a more resource efficient and sustainable economy.



### The Data Picture

- **Natural resources should be sustainably managed and used efficiently.** In 2013, the UK's material footprint was 10.3 tonnes per capita and 379 tonnes per £1 million of GDP, and was broadly unchanged between 2009-2013.
- **Achieving sustainable use of resources** includes domestic consumption. In 2015, the UK domestic material consumption was 8.85 tonnes per capita and 315 tonnes per GDP (million £s).
- **Waste generation should be reduced.** In 2016, the national recycling rate for the UK was 44.6%, a slight increase on 2015 (44.2%).



### The Activity Picture

- The UK is working to **improve supply chain sustainability, reduce deforestation and set up international partnerships for the sustainable use and production of chemicals.**
- Organisations in the UK have launched a campaign to **raise awareness of unsustainable consumption patterns in the beauty industry** to encourage positive change in consumer behaviour. *Case study no. 10*
- An initiative in London is encouraging Londoners to **pass on unworn clothes and bring them back into use** by providing a free home collection service. *Case study no. 1*
- UK universities in the North West are working with local authorities to **encourage reuse among the student population by distributing donation packs** for items such as crockery, clothing and stationary which are given to local charities. *Case study no. 11*

### Key areas for further work

- The Government has developed a new Resources and Waste Strategy for England that will look ahead at opportunities to enhance our way of doing things domestically as well as the opportunities outside the EU.
- Environmental impacts, such as carbon, water and waste, are often hidden in the supply chains of commodities produced overseas. The UK is working to tackle these through a Global Resource Initiative.

### Key Interlinkages:





## Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

### Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** The UK was the first country in the world to introduce legally binding emissions reductions targets under the Climate Change Act 2008, which has been used as a model around the world. The Act legally requires the UK to reduce emissions by 80% by 2050 and to set 'carbon budgets' which cap greenhouse gas emissions during a five-year period. The Clean Growth Strategy is the UK's long-term emissions reduction strategy and sets out how the UK will help improve the energy efficiency of homes and businesses, support the transition to clean transport and deliver smart and flexible green energy. The Clean Air Strategy shows how the UK will tackle all sources of air pollution, making air healthier to breathe, protecting nature and boosting the economy.

**International:** The UK continues to demonstrate international leadership on reducing emissions, and as part of the work to deliver the UN Secretary General's Climate Summit in September 2019 our Prime Minister has committed the UK to leading international efforts on climate resilience. The UK played a critical role in securing the 2015 Paris Agreement where 195 countries committed to limit global temperature increases to 'well below 2 degrees' and to review progress every five years, mirroring the UK's process. The UK's International Climate Finance (ICF) helps developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change, reduce deforestation and pursue clean economic growth. Our Prosperity Fund is helping to tackle sectors like the Chinese power sector which is currently responsible for 11% of global emissions.



### The Data Picture

- Goal 13 encourages developed countries to **mobilise the funding commitment to the Green Climate Fund**. The UK has committed to scale up its International Climate Finance (ICF) by providing at least £5.8 billion between 2016 and 2020, including £720 million to the Green Climate Fund.
- Additionally, the Global Goals highlight a need to specifically **strengthen resilience to climate-related hazards and natural disasters**. Between 2011/12 and 2017/18 it is estimated that the UK's ICF programmes supported 47 million people across the world to cope with the effects of climate change.
- Integrating climate change measures into national policies** is important to achieve climate action. Total UK greenhouse gas emissions decreased by 5% between 2015 and 2016.

Lead Department: Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
Key Supporting Departments (non-exhaustive list): DEFRA, DfT



### The Activity Picture

- The Landfill Tax is helping to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill sites.**
- The ICF has supported 47 million people around the world to cope with the effects of climate change** and provided 17 million people with access to clean energy.
- Together with UK local authorities, an organisation has **developed a global platform on which UK cities can disclose their climate data** in order to measure and manage their emissions and learn best practice on climate action. *Case study no.174*
- A UK based charity is working with global partners to **collect and publish data on vehicle emissions in cities such as London to improve understanding of air pollution** and the effectiveness on initiatives such as Low Emission Zones. *Case study no.120*

### Key areas for further work

- Progress with decarbonisation has been largely driven by achievements in the power and energy sectors. We need to replicate this across the economy, including in transport and industry.
- Further support for breakthroughs in clean technologies through Government funded research and support for innovative solutions.
- Additional support for climate resilience in fragile and conflict affected states.

### Key Interlinkages:



## Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Lead Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Key Supporting Departments (non-exhaustive list): DfID

### Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** The UK Marine Strategy provides the main framework for delivery of marine environment policy in the UK. We have made real progress in the reduction of marine pollution, with the UK achieving Good Environmental Status for eutrophication and contaminants, long-term decreases in concentrations of hazardous materials with levels expected to be non-detrimental by 2020, and sustained action to tackle marine litter. UK fish stocks are also showing signs of recovery from previously overexploited levels. The 25 Year Environment Plan and future legislation seek to improve the state of the natural environment, and tackle those human pressures creating most harm.

**International:** The UK is a global leader on ocean acidification and is committed to increasing cooperation. As a part of our commitment to the Commonwealth Blue Charter, the UK, with the Republic of Vanuatu, is leading efforts to reduce marine plastic pollution through the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance working closely with our waste management experts to strengthen global practices under the Basel Convention. The Blue Belt Programme is driving progress in marine protection in our Overseas Territories and, through smaller programmes such as the Blue Ventures mangroves project, we are taking steps to protect marine ecosystems around the world.



### The Data Picture

- **Marine pollution should be prevented and reduced.** Since the introduction of the plastic bag charge, the seven key UK retailers had distributed around 15.6 billion fewer bags.
- Bringing overfishing to an end is key to **restoring fish stocks**. Of the quotas that the UK has a direct fishing interest in, and which were set for 2019 using the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea maximum sustainable yield (MSY) approach, 59% were set in line with MSY (29 of 49).
- **Coastal and marine areas should be conserved and protected.** In 2017, 20.7 million hectares were protected at sea and 24% of UK waters have been designated marine protected areas.



### The Activity Picture

- UK Marine Plans; marine licensing regime; and implementation of management measures in an extensive **network of Marine Protected Areas are enabling sustainable management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems.**
- The **plastic bag charge is helping to reduce the distribution of plastic bags by key retailers**, helping to stop plastic from entering rivers and oceans.
- Organisations in Wales are **improving the ecosystem in the river Taff through removal of a weir which was acting as a barrier** preventing salmon and sea trout from reaching their breeding grounds.  
*Case study no.5*
- Work is underway within a UK technology group to **develop a filter capable of removing a significant volume of microfibers**, containing microplastics, from laundry effluent. *Case study no.16*

### Key areas for further work

- Establishing a new legal framework to manage fishing in UK waters, with a clear commitment to sustainable fishing and protecting the environment through an ecosystem approach to fisheries management.
- Gain agreement for a new United Nations Treaty for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biodiversity in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction.

### Key Interlinkages:





## Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

### Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** The UK, in common with many western countries, saw significant declines in the extent and condition of natural and semi-natural ecosystems in the 20th century. Although these large-scale declines have generally slowed markedly, there are some ongoing losses and many associated species groups continue to show decline. Against this backdrop, there have been notable successes. Across the UK, over 85% of protected sites are in a condition that will sustain their biodiversity interest in the long-term, or have management in place to restore that condition (up from 67% in 2005). The extent of woodland in the UK has risen slowly since 2004, and currently stands at 13% of land area. There have been a number of successful species recovery initiatives, for which cross-sector partnerships have been key.

**International:** The UK has increased its funding contribution for forest restoration and wider biodiversity in developing countries from £77.4 million p.a, 2006-10, to over £180 million in 2015. Through the Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund, £18.5 million has been allocated to 61 projects to combat the trade in illegal wildlife. The UK is also introducing one of the world's toughest bans on ivory sales. The UK is a world leader in science and has supported the publication of major international science assessments on the status of biodiversity.



### The Data Picture

- **Conservation, restoration and sustainable use of ecosystems and their services** is needed to halt land degradation and biodiversity loss. In 2017, 13.1% of UK land was woodland area. This proportion has been gradually increasing since annual data collection began in 2004.
- Global progress towards **sustainable management of all types of forests** should be made. The proportion of woodlands with long-term sustainable management in the UK has risen from 36% in 2001 and has remained stable since 2007 at around 44%.
- The Global Goals highlight the need for **action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats**. Between 2007 and 2013, 45% of the UK's habitats of European importance had improved or remained in good condition, but 51% had declined or remained in unfavourable conservation status.

Lead Department: Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Key Supporting Departments (non-exhaustive list): BEIS, MHCLG



### The Activity Picture

- **Work continues to restore our best sites for biodiversity:** 94% of our terrestrial and freshwater protected sites in England are now in good condition, or have management put in place to ensure their recovery.
- The UK Government's Darwin Initiative, a competitive grant scheme, **supports biodiversity in developing countries**.
- UK organisations in the West Midlands are working to create a garden to benefit the local community. **Volunteers will be trained in horticulture and will contribute to biodiversity** by growing edible plants, vegetables and fruit trees. *Case study no.129*
- A UK organisation is working in partnership with international conservation groups to **empower indigenous communities in Congo to sustainably manage local forests**. *Case study no.105*

### Key areas for further work

- Embedding an environmental net gain principle for development including housing and infrastructure.
- Designing a new environmental land management system that incentivises environmental public goods to support the delivery of our biodiversity goals.
- Building on our current strategy, Biodiversity 2020, to publish a new strategy for nature to help protect our most important wildlife sites and species.

### Key Interlinkages:



## Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Lead Department: Home Office  
Key Supporting Departments (non-exhaustive list): CO, MoJ

### Progress so far and key strengths

**Domestic:** The first duty of Government is to protect its citizens. Crime is now lower than it was in 2010, although since 2014 there have been genuine increases in some low volume, high harm offences. The Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2018 sets out the UK Government's approach to protecting our citizens and our prosperity by leaving no safe space for serious and organised crime in all its forms, including trafficking of women and children.

**International:** As a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council, the UK plays a leading role in addressing conflict and promoting stability around the world. We galvanise international action and provide accountability for those suffering from conflict and instability. The Conflict, Stability and Security Fund funds the UK's contributions to UN Peacekeeping Missions around the world. As the leading voluntary donor to UN Peacekeeping, we provide training support to other troop contributing countries. Corruption, bribery and illicit finance flows are also major challenges and the UK is leading the way in addressing these issues, including through launching the International Corruption Coordination Centre in July 2017, and a campaign on international beneficial ownership transparency in October 2018.



### The Data Picture

- The UK is **committed to ending abuse and all forms of violence against children**. The Crime Survey England and Wales showed that in 2016 16% of people aged 18-29 had experienced sexual assault by the time they were 16.
- **Equal access to justice for all** is key to Goal 16. In 2017 11.2% of the prison population were people remanded in custody, this is down from 13.7% in 2015.
- Goal 16 highlights the need to **strengthen relevant institutions in developing countries to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime**. The Department for International Development spends over 50% of its budget in Fragile States and Regions.



### The Activity Picture

- **Strong policy and legislative frameworks are helping to respond to global challenges around terrorism**, organised crime, cybercrime, corruption and modern slavery.
- A refreshed Hate Crime Action Plan is **helping to improve the response to hate crime**.
- In line with the Government's Internet Safety Strategy, an international organisation is **working to end online abuse by providing digital resilience training** to make the online space safer for all, particularly women and girls. *Case study no.84*
- A UK charity is **supporting local authorities in Albania to prevent child protection violations by improving child protection mechanisms** and mobilising the community to speak up about harmful practices against children. *Case study no.99*

### Key areas for further work

- Continuing to reform the youth justice system and improving safety and security in prisons, as levels of self-harm and self-inflicted deaths by prisoners and levels of assaults by prisoners are too high.
- Strengthening our approach to tackling online child sexual exploitation and abuse to ensure a public safety system that protects vulnerable people, supports victims and brings perpetrators to justice.
- Improving the experience of victims; we are consulting on a revised Victims' Code and the detail of victim focused legislation in 2019.

### Key Interlinkages:





## Progress so far and key strengths

The UK government is engaging various sectors to mobilise sufficient resources and to invest in delivery of the Goals. Partnerships with other governments and institutions continue to grow, the 2018 Commonwealth Summit was just one example of the UK's ability to coalesce countries around common objectives and agree action, as well as bringing opportunity to the UK. Government initiatives are encouraging a range of other stakeholders to be involved in delivering the Goals, this includes school students, charities, entrepreneurs and businesses. Resources are being underpinned by activities to generate robust and open data that will help to attract investment, inform policy-making and track whether progress is being made for all.

The UK government has met the 0.7% ODA: GNI target since 2013 and enshrined this spending commitment into law. The UK is also a proponent of the rules-based international system and uses its voice in forums such as the UN and WTO to advocate for reforms that will accelerate progress towards the Global Goals.



## The Data Picture

- The Goals require **developed countries to fully implement their official development assistance commitments including those on the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)**. Currently the UK is meeting the target of spending 0.2% of Gross National Income on LDCs, within the context of 0.7% of GNI on ODA.
- The Global Goals highlight the need for the **exports of developing countries to increase**. In 2016, UK imports from developing countries accounted for 17.9% of all imports.
- The UK is building on the **Statistical Capability support it provides to developing countries**. In 2016, statistical capability building contributed 0.2% of UK ODA (£13.4 million).



## The Activity Picture

- A consortia of UK businesses, academic institutions, and civil society organisations are **visiting cities across the UK to raise awareness of the Global Goals and encourage local businesses to engage in delivery**. *Case study no.9*
- A UK university in partnership with local and international organisations has developed a **global hub for higher education institutions worldwide to promote research on the Global Goals** and encourages students to volunteer on health and education outreach programmes in their local communities. *Case study no.25*

## Key areas for further work

- Even though UK hits the 0.7% each year and there is increasing government wide responsibility to deliver ODA, we understand there is interest in improving overall policy coherence.
- Exit from the EU is a major opportunity to send a positive signal that UK markets are open and that business with the developing world should be promoted. On leaving the EU, we will explore options to expand our relationships with developing countries.
- New technologies give rise to new regulatory and intellectual property issues and challenges in addressing risks without stifling innovation or limiting their potential value.
- Closer working with the private sector to harness trade and investment as a driver of sustainable development.

# Next steps



# What will happen next

- We will reflect on the feedback received to inform and develop the Voluntary National Review.
- Work to capture and review the UK's contributions towards the Global Goals will continue as we finalise the Voluntary National Review, ahead of submission to the United Nations in mid-June.
- Updates and information will continue to be shared on our Voluntary National Review website: [www.gov.uk/sustainabledevelopmentgoals](https://www.gov.uk/sustainabledevelopmentgoals)
- Please also join the National Conversation on Investing for the Global Goals: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/about-the-national-conversation-on-investing-for-the-global-goals#about-the-national-conversation>

# Annex A: Case Studies Received

As of 28 February:

| Sector  | Domestic Case Study | International Case Study |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Business and the private sector                   | 10                  | 13                       |
| Trade Organisations/Representative Bodies/UN Orgs | 15                  | 6                        |
| Public sector including local authorities         | 5                   | 1                        |
| Educational Institutions/Academia                 | 16                  | 22                       |
| Civil Society – Faith Groups/ Faith Organisations | 6                   | 8                        |
| Civil Society – Women, LGBT, Youth                | 6                   | 18                       |
| Civil Society - Environment                       | 6                   | 8                        |
| Civil Society – Disability                        | 0                   | 4                        |
| Civil Society – Other                             | 14                  | 42                       |
| <b>Total</b>                                      | <b>78</b>           | <b>122</b>               |