



Summary of DFID's work in Afghanistan 2011-2015

June 2013

Why we work in Afghanistan

Over thirty years of conflict have left Afghanistan one of the poorest countries in the world. Average life expectancy is just 49. A third of the population lives below the poverty line – the equivalent of 60p per day. Only one in four Afghans can read and write, and one in ten children die before their fifth birthday. The country will fail to reach any of the Millennium Development Goals before 2020. Women and girls still face enormous challenges participating in politics and decision making.

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Afghanistan is one of the UK's top international priorities. A weak and politically unstable state fosters insecurity and holds back social and economic development. Poor governance and corruption hamper the delivery of basic services such as education and health, and undermine ordinary Afghans' trust in the Government. Tackling these issues will both reduce poverty and improve stability and security in Afghanistan, the region and beyond.

Our vision is a more peaceful, stable, viable and prosperous Afghanistan. This is a long-term goal that requires DFID's presence well beyond the end of 2014, when UK combat troops are withdrawn. The plan sets out how DFID will work to help put Afghanistan on a clear and irreversible path towards this vision by focusing on three critical areas: supporting peace, security and political stability; promoting economic stability, growth and jobs; and helping the state to deliver improved services.

What we will achieve

Over 2011 – 2015, UK aid in Afghanistan will:

- Create jobs for 71,500 Afghan people
- Provide technical and vocational education and training in Helmand for 15,000 young people
- Contribute to more than 5.4 million children attending primary school in 2013/14 – at least 40% of them girls
- Contribute to the rehabilitation of more than 2,000 kilometres of rural roads across the country
- Encourage at least 4.3 million Afghans (1.7million women) to vote in 2014 and 2015 elections
- Help the Afghan Government improve public financial management, address corruption and strengthen delivery of basic services
- Reduce the impact of conflict and natural disasters through effective humanitarian aid
- Develop new initiatives that significantly improve the lives of girls and women suffering violence in Afghanistan.

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Who we will work with

The UK is a long-term partner for Afghanistan. DFID's approach is to work mostly with and through the Government to enable the country to stand on its own feet and to improve how the state responds to the demands of the Afghan people. The Afghan Government is increasingly taking the lead by working to create better opportunities and improve lives for ordinary Afghan men and women. DFID's programme supports the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and the Afghan Government's National Priority Programmes.

We work closely with other international donors and partners, such as the United States, the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Union and the Asian Development Bank. We work with the private sector, civil society and other development partners to support peace and prosperity. Our choice of partners and programmes is based on their efficiency and effectiveness in delivering what is needed.

DFID Afghanistan is located within the British Embassy in Kabul. We work closely with other UK government departments to achieve the UK's objectives in Afghanistan. We also have a team working in the international Provincial Reconstruction Team in Helmand.

How we will work

More than ever, in the current financial climate, we have a duty to demonstrate our work is achieving value for money for the UK taxpayer. Results, transparency and accountability are our watch-words. We are committed to channelling at least half our annual budget through Afghan Government systems since this is the most effective way of ensuring the state can deliver directly to its people. But we will only do this when we can guarantee the right mechanisms are in place to safeguard UK taxpayers' money. We have a robust system of checks and balances in place to ensure UK aid helps those it is intended to.

We are fully committed to being transparent about DFID funds spent in Afghanistan whilst ensuring that this does not compromise the safety and security of our staff and partners. We will also encourage the Government of Afghanistan and other partners to become more transparent and accountable to the public. DFID Afghanistan's programme budget is £178 million per year for the next two years (2013/14 and 2014/15) and will remain at current levels beyond transition.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of Afghanistan's Operational Plan, and for more information on DFID's work in Afghanistan, please visit www.gov.uk/government/world/afghanistan

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