

VALLIS REPORT

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID)



**UKaid**

from the Department for  
International Development

© From ICT Works - <https://www.ictworks.org/where-is-dfid-in-digital-development/#.XzVRiy3Mx8c>

## Who are DFID?

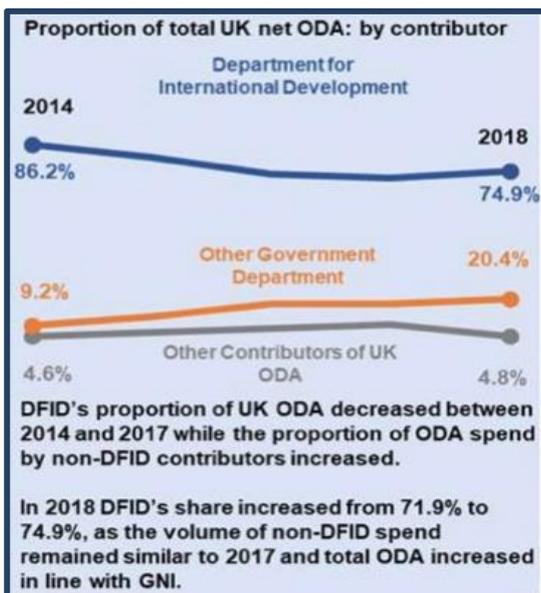
The Department for International Development (DFID) in the UK “uses aid to tackle the global challenges of our time” including poverty and disease, mass migration, insecurity and conflict. DFID has 3,600 employees based in East Kilbride, London.

They focus on:

- Strengthening global peace, security and governance
- Increasing resilience and response to crisis
- Tackling poverty
- Helping the most vulnerable
- Promoting global prosperity
- Delivering value for money

G7 countries have committed to spending 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) on overseas development. The UK is the only G7 country to have this enshrined in law and has met this target for 5 consecutive years.

By comparison, no other G7 country and only 4 countries globally met this target in 2018. This means that for every £8 given by donor countries, the UK is responsible for £1. Most of this money is spent by DFID. In 2017, DFID spent 73% of UK aid, with the FCO as the next biggest spender. However, the proportion of non-DFID ODA is steadily increasing – in fact doubling since 2009.



**Figure 1:** Proportion of total UK net ODA: by contributor – taken from DFID, [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/857904/Statistics-on-International-Development-final-aid-spend-2018d.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/857904/Statistics-on-International-Development-final-aid-spend-2018d.pdf)

## What are their responsibilities?

- Honouring the UK's international commitments and taking action to achieve the United Nations' Global Goals
- Improving transparency, openness and value for money in order to make British aid more effective
- Targeting British international development policy on economic growth and wealth creation
- Improving the coherence and performance of British international development policy in fragile and conflict-affected countries
- Improving the lives of girls and women through better education and a greater choice on family planning
- Preventing violence against girls and women in the developing world
- Helping to prevent climate change and encouraging adaptation

## Why was it created and when?

DFID was set up in 1997, out of the Ministry of Overseas Development (ODM).



**Figure 2:** UK Aid - from DFID, <https://www.whatworks.co.za/documents/publications/76-uk-aid-branding-guidelines/file>

ODM was created in 1964 by the Labour government to act as the Department of Technical Cooperation and handle the overseas aid policy functions of the Foreign, Commonwealth Relations and Colonial Offices.

Between 1964 and 1997, the ODM was transferred from independent to being overseen by the FCO and back again twice, before being separated in 1997 in a change which has lasted until the recent announcement of the DFID and FCO merge, taking

place later this year with the new department going live in September.

The aim was to have an independent department solely focused on international development, uninfluenced by UK foreign policy interests.

Some credit the Pergau Dam scandal as being one of the leading causes of the final change in 1997. In 1988, the British and Malaysian government made an agreement stating that Malaysia would buy arms from Britain, and in return Britain would provide aid to Malaysia to the amount of 20% the value of the arms deal. The aid would be provided via a dam building project. The dam was assessed to be an inefficient way to produce electricity cheaply, however the funding went ahead anyway.

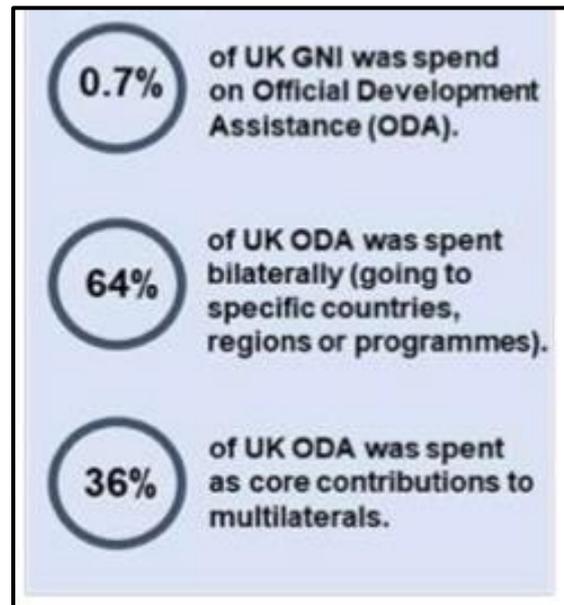
The ODA were against this deal but did not have enough political power to intervene. In 1994, the British High Court ruled the deal to be unlawful, as it did not benefit the Malaysian people and directly linked aid to commercial interests.

It has been argued that the Labour Party decided to create DFID as an independent department partly because of this, implementing a structure which gave DFID powers that other development agencies did not have.

## Funding streams – how much and who?

The top ten recipients of UK Core Funding to Multilateral Organisations in 2018 were:

1. **International Development Association** - £1,931 million, 36.5%
2. **European Commission (Development Share of Budget)** - £951 million, 18.0%
3. **European Commission (European Development Fund)** - £435 million, 8.2%
4. **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria** - £360, 6.8%
5. **Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization** - £200 million, 3.8%
6. **Green Climate Fund** - £195 million, 3.7%
7. **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank** - £160 million, 3.0%
8. **African Development Fund** - £159 million, 3.0%
9. **International Finance Facility for Immunisation** - £110 million, 2.1%
10. **Central Emergency Response Fund** - £110 million, 2.1%



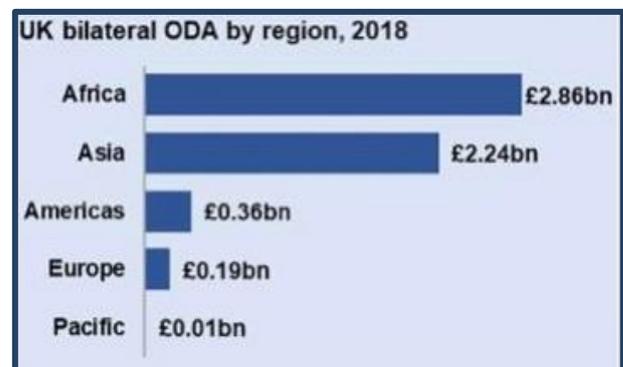
**Figure 4:** Headline facts – From DFID, [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/857904/Statistics-on-International-Development-final-aid-spend-2018d.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/857904/Statistics-on-International-Development-final-aid-spend-2018d.pdf)

A list of all current projects is available [here](#).

As shown in Figure 4, nearly two thirds of UK Overseas development Assistance (ODA) was spent bilaterally, with over one third donated multilaterally. The proportion of bilateral aid has been reducing, decreasing by 5.9% between 2017 and 2018.

## Countries

DFID works across Africa, Asia and the Middle East, mostly in fragile countries or countries at risk. There are regional programmes in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean, and development relationships with 3 aid dependent Overseas Territories. 57% of DFID's budget was spent on fragile states and regions in 2017.



**Figure 5:** UK Bilateral ODA by region, 2018 – from DFID, [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/857904/Statistics-on-](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/857904/Statistics-on-)

Bilateral programmes exist in: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, DRC, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia,

Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, Nigeria, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Regional programmes can be found in: Africa, the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, Overseas Territories and Sahel.

Development partnerships are with China, India and South Africa.



**Figure 6:** Top 20 recipient countries: UK bilateral ODA, 2018 – from DFID, [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/857904/Statistics-on-International-Development-final-aid-spend-2018d.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/857904/Statistics-on-International-Development-final-aid-spend-2018d.pdf)

## DFID Priorities

- **Strengthening global peace, security and governance**

DFID’s focus on peace is centred around addressing the underlying causes of conflict, such as tackling crime and corruption and encouraging transparency, capability and trust in institutions, whilst putting prevention as the main priority.

- **Strengthening resilience and response to crisis**

DFID aims to support countries in the face of climate change, helping them to become more resilient and better protected against risks and shocks. It has been estimated that climate change could reverse the last 50 years of work on eradicating disease and poverty. By helping minimise carbon growth and increasing protection of biodiversity and the environment, DFID hopes to reduce the impact of climate change.

- **Promoting global prosperity**

By increasing investment, trade, productivity, income and job opportunities, DFID aims to enhance global economic prosperity and alleviate the effects of poverty.

- **Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world’s most vulnerable**

DFID is working to provide for all people’s basic needs through improved and more inclusive health, education and wider services.

- **Delivering value for money**

DFID aims to provide excellence and value for money, involving partnerships between staff and organisations to ensure funds are spent in the most efficient and beneficial way possible.

## Successes

Between 2015 and 2019, DFID worked continuously to achieve the following:

- 14 million children supported in their education, of whom 6 million were girls. The *Leave No Girl Behind Campaign* was launched in 2018 to further this.



**Figure 7:** Leave No Girl Behind - from <https://medium.com/ungei-blog/leave-no-girl-behind-a-new-wave-of-activism-for-girls-education-b9c6fe8490ca>

- 5.6 million births supervised by medical professionals as a result of UK aid, resulting in 80,100 mothers' and 226,000 babies' lives being saved. In 2018 alone, 8,300 mothers were saved, as well as 89,900 stillbirths and 52,900 new-born deaths prevented.
- 76 million children vaccinated against diseases such as measles, polio, yellow fever, tetanus, cholera, diphtheria and influenza, preventing 1.4 million deaths.



**Figure 8:** Taken from Quartz Africa <https://qz.com/africa/1836272/french-doctors-say-test-covid-19-vaccine-on-africans-spark-fury/>

- 49.7 million long-lasting insecticide-treated bed nets provided to those at risk of malaria. This has led to a reduction in the number of children with malaria of 60%.

- £400 million given to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 2013, which has vaccinated 400 million children every year since, and also monitored 70 countries for a resurgence of polio. Polio is currently 99.9% eradicated – in 2018 there were 33 cases, down from 350,000 in 1998. This impressive success is as a result of global health efforts. However, polio must be fully eradicated to prevent its return.
- £50 million donated towards ending female genital mutilation (FGM). This is the single largest investment worldwide to date by any international donor.



**Figure 9:** Malawi - NY Times <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/24/health/malaria-vaccine-malawi.html>

- 60.3 million women, children under 5, and adolescent girls supported by nutrition-relevant programmes, as part of the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2), on Zero Hunger.
- 57 million people reached since 2011 by the UK's International Climate Finance programmes, which helps people cope with the effects of climate change. 26 million people have been provided with better access to clean energy – reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 16 million tonnes.

## Struggles

DFID's decisions have sometimes been controversial.

An example of this is that of the Ethiopian girl band, Yegna, created by Girl Effect in 2013. Yegna is a 5 membered girl band who sing about issues such as domestic violence and forced marriage, reaching 8.5 million people in Ethiopia. The UK government planned to donate £11.8 million to Girl Effect between 2015 and 2018, with some of that funding going to Yegna. This was met with some

resistance, including from the Daily Mail, who ran a campaign against it, claiming the group was “a waste of money”. After a review in 2017, International Development Secretary Priti Patel cancelled the funding. A spokeswoman said, “We judge there are more effective ways to invest in UK aid.... [the government will] deliver even better results for the world’s poorest and value for taxpayers’ money”. Girl Effect said its aims had been “wilfully misrepresented” in the media.



**Figure 10:** Yegna <http://www.humanosphere.org/world-politics/2017/01/u-k-buckles-under-tabloid-pressure-cuts-funds-to-ethiopian-girls-program/>

Another example is Adam Smith International (ASI), who have faced criticism over their ethical integrity. The Guardian described ASI as one of the UK’s biggest foreign aid contractors, stating they had been given £450 million in development cash between 2011 and 2017.

They were accused of trying to use illegally obtained DFID documents to further their own commercial aims, as well as soliciting testimonials which were later submitted as evidence in an enquiry. In addition to this, electricity consumers in Nigeria allegedly faced prices up to 45% higher because of a project implemented by ASI, and in Afghanistan, ASI were accused of having assisted in drafting new mineral laws which local civil society organisations deemed unhelpful.

In response, the government froze future contracts and DFID cut off funding. 3 founding executives of ASI stepped down without financial packages, and ASI said they would be investing net earnings into developing countries. DFID commented, saying ASI’s problem were “fundamental and will not be solved with quick fixes”.

“The recent review into the company should be a wake-up call to DFID to stop spending important aid money on expensive UK-based consultants, and to start using it to help developing countries build appropriate public services. That’s the path out of poverty for millions of people.” – *Aisha Dodwell, campaigner at Global Justice*

## References

**Department for International Development**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development>

**Statistics on International development**  
 DFID, September 2018  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/857904/Statistics-on-International-Development-final-aid-spend-2018d.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/857904/Statistics-on-International-Development-final-aid-spend-2018d.pdf)

**Department for International Development**  
 Wikipedia  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department\\_for\\_International\\_Development#History](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Department_for_International_Development#History)

**8 Astonishing Things UK Aid has made happen since 2015 that you should definitely know about**  
 Helen Lock, 26 Nov 2019  
<https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/content/uk-aid-achievements-2015-2019-dfid-sharma/>

**Yegna, Ethiopia’s ‘Spice Girls’, lose UK funding**  
 BBC News, Jan 7 2017  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-38538631>

**UK aid company bosses quit in crackdown on profiteering**  
 Matthew Weaver and Ben Quinn, 2 Mar 2017  
<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2017/mar/02/uk-aid-company-bosses-quit-crackdown-profiteering-adam-smith-international>

**Getting the facts straight: Pergau Dam and British Foreign Aid**  
 Rita Perakis, 21 Nov 2012  
<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/getting-facts-straight-pergau-dam-and-british-foreign-aid>