

By Philip Loft, Philip Brien

5 November 2021

---

# Reducing the UK's aid spend in 2021

## Summary

- 1 Announcement of reduction
- 2 Spending from 2021
- 3 Spending on individual countries and programmes
- 4 An integrated foreign policy

### **Disclaimer**

The Commons Library does not intend the information in our research publications and briefings to address the specific circumstances of any particular individual. We have published it to support the work of MPs. You should not rely upon it as legal or professional advice, or as a substitute for it. We do not accept any liability whatsoever for any errors, omissions or misstatements contained herein. You should consult a suitably qualified professional if you require specific advice or information. Read our briefing [‘Legal help: where to go and how to pay’](#) for further information about sources of legal advice and help. This information is provided subject to the conditions of the Open Parliament Licence.

### **Feedback**

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in these publicly available briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that briefings are not necessarily updated to reflect subsequent changes.

If you have any comments on our briefings please email [papers@parliament.uk](mailto:papers@parliament.uk). Please note that authors are not always able to engage in discussions with members of the public who express opinions about the content of our research, although we will carefully consider and correct any factual errors.

You can read our feedback and complaints policy and our editorial policy at [commonslibrary.parliament.uk](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk). If you have general questions about the work of the House of Commons email [hcenquiries@parliament.uk](mailto:hcenquiries@parliament.uk).

# Contents

<b>Summary</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>1 Announcement of reduction</b>	<b>6</b>
1.1 Statement by Foreign Secretary, July 2020	6
1.2 Spending Review, November 2020	6
1.3 Initial responses	6
1.4 Restoration of spending to 0.7% of GNI	7
<b>2 Spending from 2021</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 How does spending compare to past years?	8
2.2 Focus on Africa and the Indo-Pacific	10
2.3 Thematic allocations for 2021/22	12
<b>3 Spending on individual countries and programmes</b>	<b>14</b>
3.1 Potential pressures on the aid budget	14
3.2 Country allocations	15
3.3 Funding increases to programmes	17
3.4 Reductions to programmes	19
3.5 How are the reductions being assessed?	22
3.6 Impact on NGOs	23
<b>4 An integrated foreign policy</b>	<b>24</b>
4.1 Coordinating development and diplomacy	24
4.2 Cross-government coordination	24

## Summary

ODA refers to aid intended to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries. Such assistance must be reported to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

For the first time since 2013, the UK [will not meet the UN target](#) of spending 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) on Official Development Assistance (ODA). Citing the economic impact of the pandemic, the Government has instead [allocated 0.5% of GNI for ODA](#) in 2021, as a “temporary measure.”

It is estimated total ODA will be £11.1 billion in 2021, down from £14.5 billion a year before. While final allocations [will not be confirmed until 2022](#), the UK Government, UN agencies, and NGOs have announced spending reductions to specific countries and programmes.

### New strategy for targeting UK aid

In line with the [Integrated Review of Security, Defence, Development and Foreign Policy](#), the Government intends to use its development spending and diplomacy to meet [seven priorities for UK aid in 2021/22](#). These include girls’ education, climate change, and aiding the global response to the pandemic.

### Funding for strategic priorities

In April 2021, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) announced [funding allocations for its seven priorities](#), totalling £8,115 million. This represents around 80% of UK ODA spending in 2021/22. It includes allocations of £1.3 billion to address the pandemic and support global health resilience and £0.9 billion for humanitarian preparedness and responses.

The International Development Committee Chair said it was “disappointing” that [girls’ education was allocated £400 million](#), the second lowest thematic area spend. In June, however, the Government announced an additional £430 million over five years to the [Global Partnership for Education](#).

### Funding for individual countries

ODA will focus on Africa, the Indo-Pacific and countries affected by risk of famine, including Yemen and Somalia. The FCDO will [reduce its ODA for programme delivery in China](#) by 95%, to £0.9 million.

In September, the FCDO published its [annual report](#). This includes plans for country-level ODA spending in 2021/22. The FCDO has currently allocated ODA to 39 countries and territories in 2021/22. In 2019, the UK funded bilateral programmes in [136 countries and territories](#). Of these, Department for International Development (DFID) funding focused on 46 countries and territories (excluding the Overseas Territories of Montserrat and St Helena).

Of those 46 who received bilateral ODA in 2019, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Ukraine, and Eritrea are currently not included as receiving

ODA from the FCDO in 2021/22. The final list is likely to be longer, as it does not currently include ODA spent by other departments, core contributions to multilateral organisations, regional programmes, or capital investments.

The UK Government has previously made reduced spending pledges to Yemen and Syria, while also identifying them as [priority countries for humanitarian aid](#). The FCDO intends to [continue its diplomatic work](#) to resolve the conflicts.

### Funding for agencies and programmes

The FCDO emphasises [final funding allocations have not been made](#). However, several UN agencies have publicised funding reductions from the UK. In 2021, UNICEF will have its [core funding from the UK to support children reduced by 60%](#), and the UK will [cut 85% of its contribution](#) to the UN Population Fund's family planning programme.

Development NGOs have said that the funding decisions undermine the Government's intentions to [prioritise global health](#) during the pandemic and [girls' empowerment](#). The FCDO says its equalities assessments found programmes targeting those with protected characteristics were [no more likely to be reduced than other programmes](#).

The Government has announced an increase in [core funding to the World Health Organization](#) and said the cost of meeting its [pledge to share 100 million vaccine doses globally](#) by June 2022 will be in addition to funding already committed to ODA in 2021.

### Accountability and coordination of ODA

The FCDO intends to [better coordinate cross-Government ODA spend](#) and has [reviewed the role of the Independent Commission for Aid Impact \(ICAI\)](#), the body that scrutinises UK ODA. The FCDO is now [working with the ICAI to implement the review's recommendations](#). These include a greater emphasis on practical recommendations for delivering programmes and directing scrutiny to the seven aid priorities.

### Will the 0.7% target be restored in 2022?

In July 2021, the Treasury published a [written statement setting out the tests required to be met to restore the 0.7% target](#). These are when the Budget for Responsibility (OBR) shows that "on a sustainable basis" the country is not borrowing for day-to-day spending and the ratio of underlying debt to GDP is falling. The Library's [0.7% aid target](#) sets out further detail.

The Commons [supported](#) the tests on 13 July.

In the Autumn 2021 Budget and Spending Review, the Government said the fiscal tests are [forecast to be met in 2024/25](#) and has provisionally set aside unallocated ODA funding for that year to the difference of 0.5% and 0.7% of GNI. The Treasury has also allocated £11.4 billion of ODA to departments in 2022/23, £11.8 billion in 2023/24, and £12.3 billion in 2024/25, equivalent to 0.5% of GNI on ODA (based on current forecasts).

# 1 Announcement of reduction

## 1.1 Statement by Foreign Secretary, July 2020

In anticipation of the likely decrease in the economy's size due to the coronavirus pandemic, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said Official Development Assistance (ODA) [would be reduced by £2.9 billion](#) in 2020. He said the Government would “ensure we continue to meet our 0.7% [...] spending commitment.”<sup>1</sup>

## 1.2 Spending Review, November 2020

The UK has met the UN target every year since 2013.

The Library's [The 0.7% aid target](#) provides analysis of the Act's requirements.

In the [Spending Review](#), however, the Government announced it would spend 0.5% of Gross National Income (GNI) on ODA in 2021 and provided for £10 billion of ODA in 2021/22. The Treasury said the UK would “remain [...] one of the largest overseas aid donors in the world.”<sup>2</sup>

The Foreign Secretary cited the “impact of the global pandemic on the economy and [...] the public finances” as reasons for a “temporary” move to a target of 0.5% in 2021.<sup>3</sup>

Under 2015 legislation, the Government is [required to meet the UN target](#) of spending 0.7% of GNI annually on ODA. The International Development (Official Development Assistance Target) 2015 Act's only accountability mechanism requires the Government to report to Parliament explaining why the target has not been met.<sup>4</sup>

## 1.3 Initial responses

Much of the [reaction to the November 2020 announcement](#) was critical. It included opposition from the former International Development Secretary, Andrew Mitchell, and the FCDO Minister, Baroness Sugg, who [resigned](#)

<sup>1</sup> Department for International Development (DFID), Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) and FCDO, [ODA spending for 2020: Secretary of State's letter](#), 22 July 2020

<sup>2</sup> HM Treasury, [Spending Review to fight virus, deliver promises and invest in UK's recovery](#), 25 November 2020

<sup>3</sup> HC Deb, [26 November 2020](#), c1018

<sup>4</sup> [International Development \(Official Development Assistance Target\) Act 2015](#)

[following the Spending Review](#).<sup>5</sup> In November, around two hundred charity leaders, including Save the Children and UNICEF UK, called upon the Government to [reconsider the reduction of ODA spending](#).<sup>6</sup>

The International Development Committee (IDC) Chair, Sarah Champion MP, said the [reduction threatened the UK's role](#) as a “development superpower” and would undermine the UK's assumption in 2021 of the G7 presidency and host of the COP 26 conference on climate change.<sup>7</sup>

## 1.4

### Restoration of spending to 0.7% of GNI

Until July 2021, it was [uncertain what the conditions would be](#) for the Government to decide to return to spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA.<sup>8</sup> However, a Treasury [written statement](#) set out the tests that Government will apply.

It says the Government will restore spending to 0.7% of GNI when official forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) show that on a sustainable basis the country is not borrowing for day-to-day spending and the ratio of underlying debt to GDP is falling.<sup>9</sup>

In July, the Commons voted in favour of a Government motion stating the House had considered the written statement.<sup>10</sup> The Library's [0.7% aid target](#) sets out further detail on the statement and the outcomes of the vote.

In the Autumn 2021 Budget and Spending Review, the Government said the fiscal tests are currently [forecast to be met in 2024/25](#). It will continue to monitor fiscal forecasts, meaning it is possible for the tests to be met earlier than this – or indeed later, if the Government decides to borrow more in later years or if changes in the economy lead to the debt ratio increasing again.<sup>11</sup>

The Treasury has allocated £11.4 billion of ODA in 2022/23, £11.8 billion in 2023/24 and £12.3 billion in 2024/25. This will see the UK spend 0.5% of GNI on ODA in these years (under current fiscal forecasts).<sup>12</sup> The Treasury has also set aside (but not yet allocated to departments) enough money to bring the ODA total up to 0.7% of GNI in 2024/25. This extra money is currently planned at £5.2 billion, but this figure may change as GNI forecasts are updated.

---

<sup>5</sup> Commons Library, [Spending Review: Reducing the 0.7% aid commitment](#), 26 November 2020; The Times [Foreign Office Minister Baroness Sugg quits \[...\]](#), 26 November 2020

<sup>6</sup> Bond, [Nearly 200 charities call on PM not to do a U-turn by reducing UK spend on aid](#), 20 November 2020

<sup>7</sup> IDC, [Chair statement on UK's ODA commitment reduction](#), 25 November 2020

<sup>8</sup> IFS, [The UK's reduction in aid spending](#), 2021, pp10-11; PQ 185449 [[Overseas aid](#)], 26 April 2021

<sup>9</sup> [HCWS172 Treasury update](#), 12 July 2021

<sup>10</sup> HC Deb, [13 July 2021](#), cc225-8

<sup>11</sup> HM Treasury, [Autumn budget and spending review 2021](#), 27 October 2021, pp7, 35

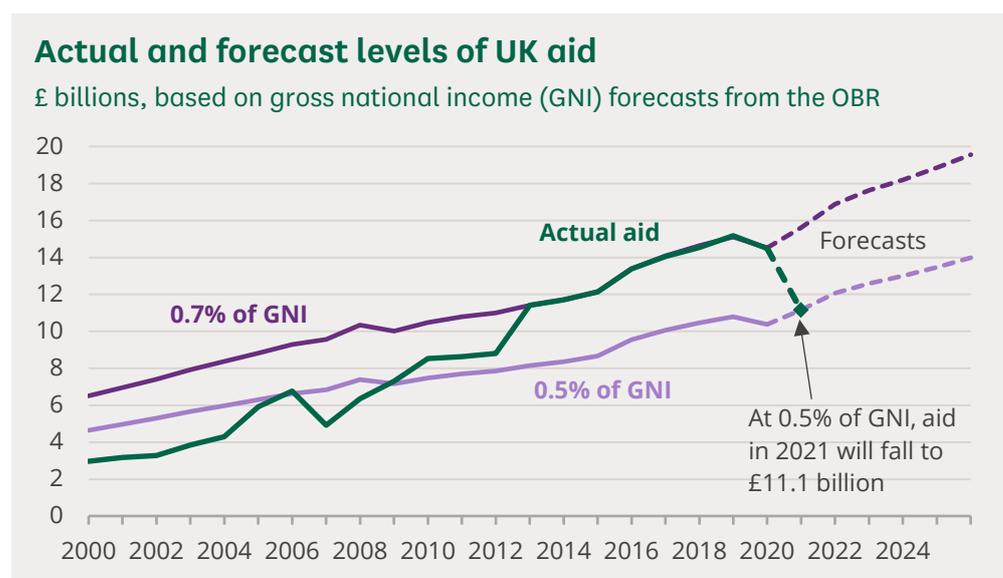
<sup>12</sup> HM Treasury, [Autumn budget and spending review 2021](#), 27 October 2021, para 2.154

## 2 Spending from 2021

UK aid seeks to meet several strategic goals, including alleviating poverty and supporting gender equality, promoting economic development and prosperity, and strengthening resilience to climate change and conflict. Asia and Africa typically receive the largest proportions of UK bilateral ODA.<sup>13</sup>

### 2.1 How does spending compare to past years?

The UK Government will spend over £10 billion on ODA in 2021 and says it will be the “third largest donor in the G7 as a percentage of our gross national income.”<sup>14</sup> However, this represents a significant cut relative to the amounts that have been provided in recent years.



Source: FCDO, [Statistics on International Development: Provisional UK Aid Spend 2020](#), 8 April 2021; GNI figures from OBR, [Economic and fiscal outlook – March 2021](#), 27 October 2021

UK aid has consistently been above 0.5% of GNI since 2009 and has met the 0.7% target exactly in every year since 2013. The reduction to 0.5% of GNI in 2021 will lower the overall amount of aid by an estimated 23%, taking it back to levels lower than in 2013 (even without taking inflation into account).

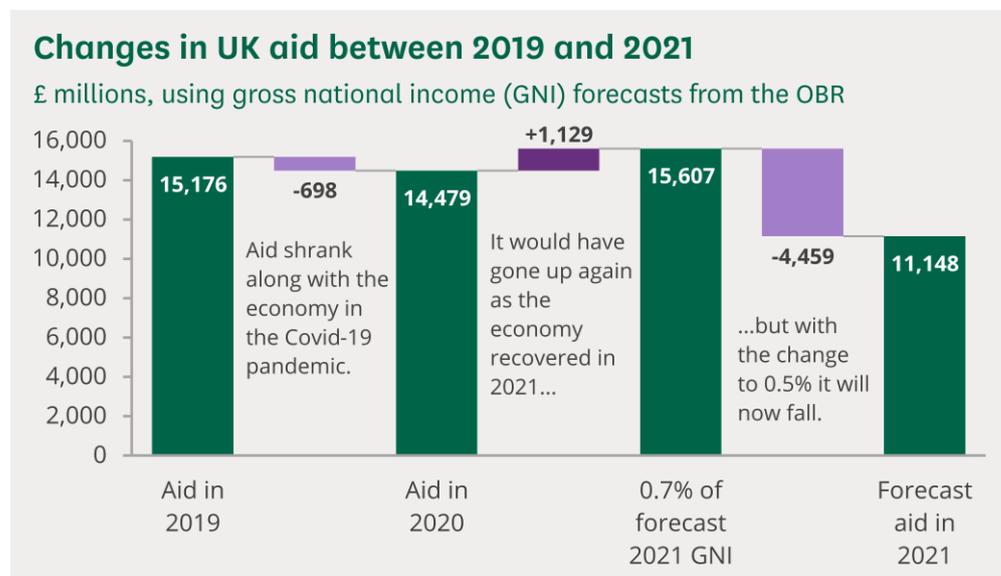
Aid in 2020 was 4.6% lower than in 2019 because of the contraction in the economy caused by the pandemic. This reduction was about £700 million, but it appears even bigger if we compare it to what the level of aid could

<sup>13</sup> House of Commons Library, [Integrated review: International Development](#), 2021

<sup>14</sup> HC Deb, [26 April 2021](#), c40

have been had it not been for the pandemic. Based on estimates in March 2020 (before the full extent of the pandemic's economic effects were known), aid spending in 2020 could have been around £15.8 billion. This is around £1.3 billion higher than it actually was.<sup>15</sup>

As the chart below shows, aid will be cut by far more than this in 2021.



Source: FCDO, [Statistics on International Development: Provisional UK Aid Spend 2020](#), 8 April 2021; GNI figures from OBR, [Economic and fiscal outlook – March 2021](#), 27 October 2021

Current GNI estimates suggest that the economy will be larger in 2021 than in 2020, so if the aid target had remained at 0.7%, aid levels in 2021 would have been around £15.6 billion, higher than in both 2020 and 2019.<sup>16</sup> However, the shift to the 0.5% target means it will instead be lower than this by nearly £4.5 billion.

The UK has long been one of the most generous aid donors among the economically developed countries whose aid spending is tracked by the OECD's [Development Assistance Committee](#).<sup>17</sup> Based on [the Committee's data](#), in 2020 the UK was the third most generous donor in absolute terms and the seventh most generous as a proportion of the size of its economy – only Germany outranked the UK on both measures.

As a result of the move to 0.5%, the UK is likely to slip down the rankings, but not by much. If it had given 0.5% of GNI in 2020, it would have ranked fifth in absolute terms and tenth as a proportion of GNI. Within the G7, it would have

<sup>15</sup> Based on GNI estimates in OBR, [Economic and fiscal outlook – March 2020](#), 11 March 2020.

<sup>16</sup> GNI in 2021 is forecast to be higher than in 2019, but it will be lower than it would have been in 2019 had the current methodology for estimating GNI been in place at the time. [These revisions to the methodology](#) can be significant given the small proportion of GNI used in calculating aid amounts.

<sup>17</sup> Most wealthy countries report their aid spending to the OECD. There are some countries, notably China, which are also thought to provide economic support to developing countries, but because they do not report such spending we cannot compare it directly with the aid spending mentioned here.

ranked fifth (down from third) in absolute terms, and third (down from second) as a proportion of GNI.

## 2.2

## Focus on Africa and the Indo-Pacific

**Bilateral aid** is spent on a specific programme or purpose in a country. It may be spent by a range of UK partners, including charities, NGOs, foreign governments, and some multilateral agencies.

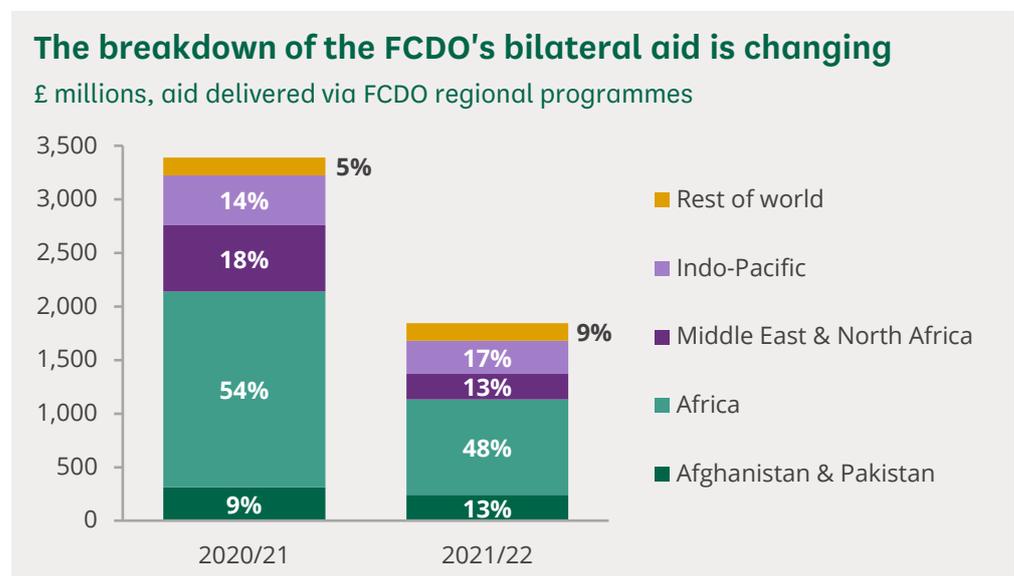
For 2021, 50% of FCDO bilateral ODA is in Africa and 32% is in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia.<sup>18</sup> These regions were identified as priorities in the [Government's integrated review](#), in order to support poverty reduction, responses to climate change, and in support of open societies.

East Africa, Nigeria and South Africa are identified as [regional priorities](#). The East African region includes the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.<sup>19</sup> The Indo-Pacific and South Asia region includes Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Nepal, China, Indonesia, and Myanmar.<sup>20</sup>

### Regional allocations

The FCDO's Annual Report for 2020/21 included an annex with regional aid allocations for several countries. This shows that the breakdown of aid to these countries is changing in 2021/22, as shown in the chart below.

The first thing to note is that the FCDO's regional aid spending will be much lower in 2021/22 than it was in 2020/21, by about £1.5 billion, and that the regional breakdown of this funding will be significantly different.



Source: Library calculations, based on [FCDO annual report and accounts 2020 to 2021](#), Annex A, 22 September 2021

<sup>18</sup> IDC, [The future of UK aid](#), HC 1141, 22 April 2021, Q94

<sup>19</sup> PQ 185988 [[Overseas aid](#)], 27 April 2021

<sup>20</sup> PQ 185988 [[Overseas aid](#)], 27 April 2021

**Multilateral aid is provided to a multilateral organisation, such as the World Bank, which then allocates it in accordance with its priorities. This aid is not earmarked by donor governments for specific programmes or policies.**

The amounts going to every region are decreasing somewhat, but the decrease is particularly large for Africa, which loses £934 million in funding (about half of what it had in 2020/21). This leaves it at £891 million, which is somewhat higher than the £764 million that the then Foreign Secretary said it would receive in April 2021.<sup>21</sup>

### Countries to receive ODA from the FCDO

In September 2021, the FCDO published its [annual report](#). This states that the Department has currently allocated ODA to 39 countries in 2021-22.<sup>22</sup> In 2019, the UK funded bilateral programmes in [136 countries and territories](#). Of these, DFID funding focused on 46 countries and territories (excluding the UK Overseas Territories of Montserrat and St Helena).<sup>23</sup>

The final list for 2021/22 is likely to be longer, as it does not include ODA spent by other departments, UK core contributions to multilateral organisations, regional programmes, and capital investments.<sup>24</sup>

Of the 46 territories that received bilateral ODA from DFID in 2019, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Ukraine, and Chad, are currently not included as receiving ODA from the FCDO in 2021/22.<sup>25</sup>

The amount of aid China will receive is uncertain. In 2021, the FCDO's ODA for programme delivery was reduced by 95%, to £900,000.<sup>26</sup> However, the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) said this [announcement “does not provide clarity”](#) on future ODA spend to China by either the FCDO's arm's length bodies (such as the British Council) or other departments.<sup>27</sup>

In 2020, UK aid to China totalled £64.1 million. The largest amount—£26.8 million—came from the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy. The Department has not yet said how much it will spend in China in 2021. The cross-Government Prosperity Fund also spent £15.5 million in China in 2020, so total aid to the country in 2021 is likely to exceed £900,000.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Lords Committee on International Relations and Defence, [Corrected oral evidence](#), 27 April 2021, Q13

<sup>22</sup> FCDO, [Annual report and accounts 2020-21](#), September 2021, pp251-60

<sup>23</sup> FCDO, [Statistics on international development: Final UK aid spend 2019](#), 9 March 2021, Table C7

<sup>24</sup> [Foreign Secretary to IDC Chair](#), 3 June 2021, p1 and Annex 1; FCDO, [Statistics on international development: Final UK aid spend 2019](#), 9 March 2021, Table C7

<sup>25</sup> FCDO, [Statistics on international development: Final UK aid spend 2019](#), 9 March 2021, Table C7

<sup>26</sup> HCWS935, [FCDO update](#), 21 April 2021

<sup>27</sup> ICAI, [The UK's engagement with China](#), 28 April 2021, Box 2

<sup>28</sup> FCDO, [Statistics on international development: Final UK aid spend 2020](#), 29 September 2021, Table A4F; FCDO, [Annual report and accounts 2020-2021](#), September 2021, p261, note 12

## Territories and regions which the FCDO has allocated ODA to in 2021/22

Africa				
Africa*	Kenya	Rwanda	Southern Africa*	Zimbabwe
Burundi	Liberia	Sahel*	Sudan	
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Malawi	Sierra Leone	Tanzania	
Ethiopia	Mozambique	Somalia	Uganda	
Ghana	Nigeria	South Sudan	Zambia	
Indo-Pacific				
Asia*	China	Indonesia	Nepal	South East Asia and Pacific*
Afghanistan	India	Myanmar	Pacific*	Pakistan
Bangladesh				
Americas				
Brazil	Caribbean*	Colombia	Mexico	Venezuela
Middle East and North Africa				
Egypt	Jordan	Libya	North Africa*	Syria
Iraq	Lebanon	Middle East and North Africa*	Occupied Palestinian Territories	Yemen
Europe & Central Asia				
Central Asia*	Eastern Europe and Central Asia Directorate*	Turkey	Western Balkans*	

Note: \* Represents regional programmes. It is uncertain what countries will receive ODA in each region.

The final figure is likely to be higher. The list does not include bilateral ODA via other departments, capital spending, spending on regional programmes or UK core contributions to multilateral organisations. The FCDO is responsible for 80% of ODA.

Source: FCDO, [Annual report and accounts, 2020-21](#), September 2021, p251-4

## 2.3

The Library's [Integrated Review: International Development](#) provides analysis of the Government's strategic aid priorities.

## Thematic allocations for 2021/22

In April 2021, the FCDO published details on the [thematic allocations of its ODA spend](#) for 2021/22. ODA represents around 80% of total aid spent by the UK Government.<sup>29</sup>

The Chair of the IDC, Sarah Champion MP, said the announcement [provides "limited understanding"](#) of the areas the Government intends to prioritise in the aid budget.

<sup>29</sup> FCDO, [ODA allocations 2021 to 2022](#), 21 April 2021

**FCDO's thematic allocations 2021/22**

In £ millions

Other spending (e.g. subscriptions, fixed costs)	2,082
Programmes with cross cutting themes	1,940
Covid-19 & global health	1,305
Humanitarian preparedness & response	906
Climate change & biodiversity	534
Trade & economic development	491
Open societies & conflict	419
Girls' education	400
Science, Research & technology	38
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,115</b>

Note: "Other spending" also includes international subscriptions, fixed costs, financial transactions and arm's length bodies. The FCDO is responsible for 80% of ODA.

Source: FCDO, [UK ODA allocations 2021 to 2022](#), 21 April 2021

The thematic and regional allocations follow the priorities identified in the Government's [Integrated Review](#). These are: climate and biodiversity, Covid-19 and global health security, girls' education, humanitarian preparedness and response, science and technology, open societies and conflict resolution, and economic development and trade.

It is not possible to directly compare allocations for 2021/22 with previous years, as these are new categories of spending.

The Government also said it remains committed to the "[global fight against poverty](#)" and will be guided by its duties under the International Development Act 2002 (as amended) to provide development assistance that reduces poverty and gender inequality.<sup>30</sup>

The IDC Chair also said she was disappointed that girls' education will be the second lowest thematic area to be spent on.<sup>31</sup> However, in June 2021 the Government announced additional funding to the Global Education Partnership (see section 3.3, below).

<sup>30</sup> [International Development Act 2002](#), section 1; [International Development \(Gender Equality\) Act 2014](#), section 1; PQ 102078 [[Overseas aid: Poverty](#)], 20 October 2020

<sup>31</sup> IDC, [Chair comments on written ministerial statement on ODA allocations](#), 21 April 2021

## 3 Spending on individual countries and programmes

The following sections provide a non-exhaustive list of known or estimated allocations, based on Government announcements and NGO and UN agency statements.

### 3.1 Potential pressures on the aid budget

#### European Development Fund and multilateral commitments

The NGO ONE estimated that around 60% of the £10 billion ODA spend in 2020/21 will [go towards existing multilateral commitments](#).<sup>32</sup>

The Treasury expects the UK to contribute a further £2.9 billion to the EU's main overseas aid programme– the [European Development Fund](#) (EDF)– until 2026.<sup>33</sup> In September 2021, the FCDO said it expects around £1.5 billion of this commitment to be met in 2021, and that UK contributions will decline gradually in subsequent years.<sup>34</sup>

The UK also has [multilateral finance commitments](#) to organisations such as the African Development Bank. The FCDO says there is flexibility on the timing and size of payments, but some will be made within the £8.1 billion announced for 2021/22.<sup>35</sup>

#### Special Drawing Rights

The UK has said that it will count towards the UK ODA's budget [some of its redistribution of Special Drawing Rights](#) (SDRs) to low-income countries that have been allocated to the UK by the IMF. SDRs are a type of reserve currency that can be exchanged for national currencies.

In October, the Government confirmed that [20% of the SDRs allocated to the UK in August 2021](#) will be channelled towards lower-income countries, including a new loan of SDR 1 billion to the IMF Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust.<sup>36</sup> There are [concerns from the aid sector](#) that this might lead to less

<sup>32</sup> ONE, [The predicted consequences of the UK's cuts to ODA](#), 30 March 2021

<sup>33</sup> National Audit Office (NAO), [Exiting the EU: The financial settlement](#), 2018, para 2.3

<sup>34</sup> PQ 41288 [[Overseas aid](#)], 9 September 2021

<sup>35</sup> [Foreign Secretary to IDC Chair](#), 25 March 2021, p2; HCWS935, [FCDO update](#), 21 April 2021

<sup>36</sup> PQ 37502 [[International monetary system](#)], 8 September 2021; PQ 33300 [[International monetary system](#)], 19 July 2021; HM Treasury, [Autumn Budget and Spending Review](#), 27 October 2021, para 2.159; PQ 59920 [[Developing countries: Poverty](#)], 20 October 2021

spending on ODA programmes,<sup>37</sup> although the Government later said that ODA from these SDRs would be additional to departmental ODA budgets and would not require cuts to existing programmes.<sup>38</sup> The Guardian reports the UK received around US\$27.4 billion (£20 billion) in SDRs.<sup>39</sup>

### Costs of donated Covid-19 vaccines

The UK Government has said it plans to donate 100 million Covid-19 vaccines to low- and middle-income countries by June 2022. While these are classed as ODA spending, the [costs will be additional to the ODA budget](#) initially set out in the 2020 Spending Review.<sup>40</sup>

For more information on ODA relating to the pandemic, see the Library Briefing [UK response to Covid-19: International aid and diplomacy](#), section 3.

### Cancelling debt to Sudan

The UK is also due to cancel around £861 million of bilateral debt owed by Sudan. In response to a [Freedom of Information Request](#) by the campaign group, Jubilee Debt Campaign, the FCDO has said this will be cancelled in two tranches from 2022, and will be counted as ODA.<sup>41</sup>

The cancellation will occur under the international [Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative](#) and will be reported in line with OECD rules on ODA.<sup>42</sup> It has been criticised by campaigners for putting further pressure on the UK's aid budget.<sup>43</sup>

However, in response to arrest of the Sudanese Prime Minister by the military in October 2021, the Government said they are [currently reevaluating their financial support](#) to the country.<sup>44</sup>

## 3.2

## Country allocations

Section 2.2 sets out the countries planned to receive bilateral ODA from the FCDO in 2021/22.

The FCDO has announced a [focus on Africa and the Indo-Pacific](#) and said it will [prioritise its humanitarian aid](#) on countries most affected by risk of famine. This includes Yemen, Syria, Somalia, and South Sudan.<sup>45</sup>

<sup>37</sup> Devex, [Exclusive: UK to charge SDRs to aid budget—sources](#), 4 June 2021

<sup>38</sup> [PQ 66205 \[International Monetary System\]](#), 4 November 2021.

<sup>39</sup> The Guardian, Rishi Sunak to save billions by counting IMF cash as aid for poor, 10 October 2021

<sup>40</sup> PQ 66247 [[Coronavirus: Vaccination](#)], 3 November 2021

<sup>41</sup> Jubilee Debt Campaign, [UK to cut £861 million from aid budget using fictitious debt](#), 21 October 2021

<sup>42</sup> PQ 57230 [[Overseas aid: Sudan](#)], 20 October 2021

<sup>43</sup> Devex, [UK aid budget gets de facto \\$800 million cut for 2022](#), 21 October 2021

<sup>44</sup> HC Deb, [25 October 2021](#), c 54

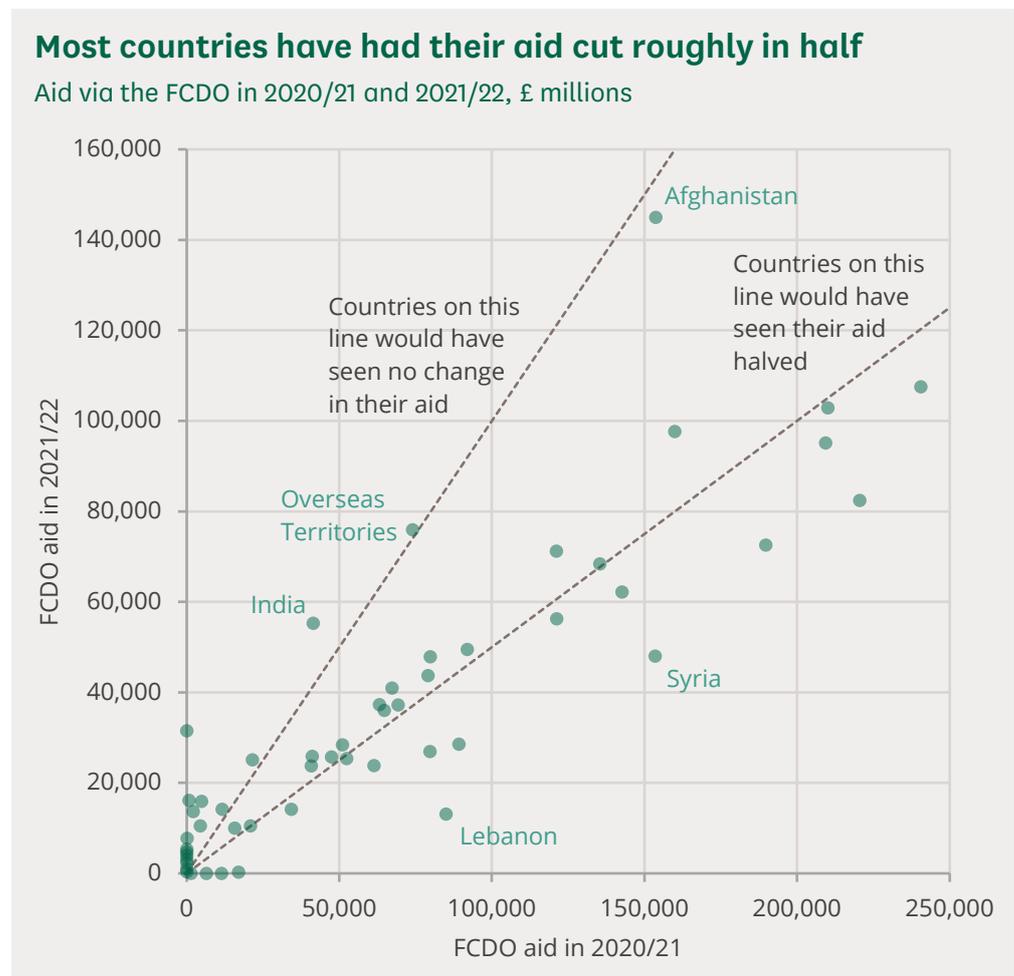
<sup>45</sup> HCWS935, [FCDO update](#), 21 April 2021

Initial country allocations were published in the FCDO's annual report in 2021. Final-country and activity-level breakdowns are due in 2022.<sup>46</sup>

We can compare the allocations given to each country and region in the 2021 annual report to see which areas have seen the largest changes in aid spending. This can be seen in the chart below.

This chart plots each country's allocation in 2020/21 against its allocation in 2021/22. Most countries appear to have had their aid budgets roughly halved, although there is considerable variation between countries as to how severe the cuts were. Lebanon and Syria, for example, have had their aid budgets reduced by much more than 50% (85% and 69%, respectively), while Afghanistan's aid budget was set to remain fairly similar to the previous year even before it was [increased following the Taliban's takeover of the country](#).

A handful of countries are seeing their aid increase, notably India (up from £41 million to £55 million), and the British Overseas Territories (up slightly from £74 million to £76 million).



Source: [FCDO annual report and accounts 2020 to 2021](#), Annex A, 22 September 2021

<sup>46</sup> [Foreign Secretary to Chair of IRDC](#), 29 April 2021; IDC, [Oral evidence: The future of UK aid](#), HC 1141, 22 April 2021, Q84; PQ 185835 [[Overseas aid](#)], 27 April 2021

In March 2021, the FCDO announced reduced ODA pledges to both Yemen and Syria. For [Yemen](#), the Government pledged at least £87 million, compared to £160 million pledged for 2020/21.<sup>47</sup> It also pledged at least £205 million for [Syria](#), compared to £300 million for 2020/21.<sup>48</sup> Aid will provide access to food, water and health facilities.<sup>49</sup>

In 2020, final ODA to both Yemen and Syria exceeded the amounts pledged, totalling £214 million and £400 million, respectively.<sup>50</sup> The Government has said it will use its seat at the UN Security Council to secure diplomatic solutions to these conflicts and push for greater humanitarian access.<sup>51</sup>

The FCDO has also announced a reduced pledge to the [Rohingya crisis response](#) in Bangladesh in 2021, at £27.6 million.<sup>52</sup> This compares to a pledge of £47.5 million in 2020.<sup>53</sup> In 2021, the funding will deliver food assistance, sanitation and protection for survivors of gender-based violence. Further UK funding will be provided through multilateral agencies such as the Global Partnership for Education and World Bank.<sup>54</sup>

### 3.3

## Funding increases to programmes

From March 2020 to April 2021, the Government committed £1.3 billion of ODA to counter the pandemic and adapted 300 existing bilateral programmes.

### Health and Covid-19

The UK will increase its core contributions to the World Health Organization (WHO), totalling £340 million up to 2024.<sup>55</sup>

It will also provide £1.65 billion over the next five years to GAVI, the vaccine alliance, to support the immunisation of children, and £548 million to COVAX to provide up to 1 billion coronavirus vaccines in 2021 to developing countries.<sup>56</sup>

The UK has [pledged to donate 100 million Covid-19 vaccine doses](#) in the year from June 2021. The cost of donating doses will be in addition to the £10 billion committed as aid spending.<sup>57</sup>

<sup>47</sup> Commons Library, [Yemen: UK Government's aid reduction](#), March 2021

<sup>48</sup> PQ 185992 [[Syria: Overseas aid](#)], 27 April 2021; PQ 126096 [[Syria: Humanitarian aid](#)], 14 December 2020

<sup>49</sup> HC Deb, [2 March 2021](#), c117; PQ 182099 [[Syria: Overseas aid](#)], 21 April 2021

<sup>50</sup> FCDO, [UK pledges urgent aid for people facing starvation in Yemen](#), 3 December 2020; PQ 182099 [[Syria: Overseas aid](#)], 21 April 2021

<sup>51</sup> HC Deb, [2 March 2021](#), c117; PQ 182099 [[Syria: Overseas aid](#)], 21 April 2021

<sup>52</sup> FCDO, [UK statement. Launch of the Rohingya Joint Response Plan in Bangladesh](#), 18 May 2021

<sup>53</sup> FCDO, [Dominic Raab urges world "not to turn away from Rohingya's suffering" as the UK pledges life-saving support](#), 22 October 2020

<sup>54</sup> PQ 6405 [[Bangladesh: Rohingya](#)], 27 May 2021

<sup>55</sup> [Prime Minister's speech to the UN General Assembly](#), 26 September 2020

<sup>56</sup> UK Government, [Integrated Review](#), 2021, p104; GAVI, [UK](#), 30 September 2020

<sup>57</sup> Ten Downing Street, [UK to donate 100 million Coronavirus vaccine doses](#), 11 June 2021

## Education

At the G7 summit in June 2021, the Government announced [£430 million of new aid funding](#) to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) over five years. This is in addition to the £400 million of bilateral aid on girls' access to education committed for 2021/22.<sup>58</sup> Save the Children said it was a “welcome first step” but [more would need to be committed](#) at the [forthcoming GPE summit](#), which the UK co-hosted in July.<sup>59</sup>

Prior to the summit, the Chair of the APPG on Global Education, Harriet Baldwin MP, called for the UK to [commit £600 million \(\\$850 million\) to the GPE](#) to ensure the summit met its funding goal.<sup>60</sup>

## Climate and the environment

The UK will double its [International Climate Finance \(ICF\)](#) to at least £11.6 billion between 2021 and 2025 to help developing countries limit their carbon emissions and adapt to climate change.<sup>61</sup>

At the climate conference, COP 26, in November, the Prime Minister said the UK would [spend an additional £1 billion of ICF by 2025](#), if the economy grows as forecast in the October 2021 budget.<sup>62</sup>

The FCDO says it will [deliver £941 million worth of activities](#) contributing to the target in 2021/22.<sup>63</sup> The Independent has reported that the £11.6 billion [will be counted towards the UK ODA budget](#), placing pressure on other aspects of ODA spending.<sup>64</sup> The Government has not confirmed this.

At the G7 summit in June 2021, the UK Government also announced a [£500 million Blue Planet Fund](#) to support developing countries protect their marine environments and reduce poverty. The fund contributes to the UK's commitment to increase its ICF. It will run for five years and is jointly managed between the FCDO and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.<sup>65</sup>

## Conflict resolution and peacebuilding

The UK has also announced a new £12 million aid package to fund [UN peacebuilding programmes](#) in around 40 countries.<sup>66</sup>

---

<sup>58</sup> Ten Downing Street, [PM calls on G7 to help educate every child in the world](#), 11 June 2021

<sup>59</sup> [Corrected oral evidence: Lords IRDC](#), 27 April 2021, Q3; Devex, [Experts denounce “smoke and mirrors” UK education pledge](#), 11 June 2021; [Save the Children, G7: £430m for education is welcome step but jury still out on summit \[...\]](#), June 2021

<sup>60</sup> Harriet Baldwin MP for Devex, [Opinion: How the UK can still lead on education at the G7](#), 10 June 2021

<sup>61</sup> UK Government, [Integrated Review](#), March 2021, p104

<sup>62</sup> Reuters, [“We need to act now”—UK's Johnson sends climate alert to COP](#), 1 November 2021; Number Ten, [PM opening remarks at COP26 Press Conference](#), 2 November 2021

<sup>63</sup> HCWS935, [FCDO update](#), 21 April 2021

<sup>64</sup> The Independent, [Boris Johnson's £11.6 billion climate fund to be swiped from aid budget](#), 11 July 2021

<sup>65</sup> Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and FCDO, [Blue Planet Fund](#), 12 June 2021

<sup>66</sup> FCDO, [UK boost for UN peacebuilding will help prevent conflicts and humanitarian crises](#), 27 May 2021

As part of its funding for open societies and conflict resolution, the FCDO will “protect civil society programmes,” particularly Comic Relief, Commonwealth Veterans, Jo Cox Memorial grants within UK Aid Direct, UK Aid Match and the Voluntary Service Overseas.<sup>67</sup> However, start dates for round 4 of UK Aid Match will be deferred to April 2022.<sup>68</sup> This has affected NGOs such as War Child UK, which expected to receive £0.5 million in July 2021.<sup>69</sup>

### Refugees and education

In July, the FCDO announced [£15.8 million for a research project](#) on how best to provide education to refugee and displaced children in countries such as Syria and South Sudan.<sup>70</sup>

## 3.4 Reductions to programmes

### Conflict, Security & Stability Fund (CSSF)

The [cross-department CSSE](#) seeks to prevent conflicts that threaten UK interests. The Integrated Review allocated £874 million in 2021/22, down from £1.4 billion in 2020/21.<sup>71</sup>

### Water, sanitation, and hygiene

Sky News reports [total funding on water, sanitation and hygiene](#) will be reduced by 64% to £100 million.<sup>72</sup>

### Tropical diseases

The Telegraph reports funding for research on tropical diseases will be [cut by £150 million, to £17 million](#).<sup>73</sup>

The WHO has [criticised the reduction in UK aid on neglected tropical diseases](#), including to the Accelerating the Sustainable Control and Elimination of Neglected Tropical Diseases (ASCEND). It reported the withdrawal of UK funds would make it likely around 276.8 million tablets donated by UK and international pharmaceutical companies will expire, rather than being distributed, leaving many at risk of infection.<sup>74</sup>

---

<sup>67</sup> HCWS935, [FCDO update](#), 21 April 2021

<sup>68</sup> PQ 6304 [[Overseas aid](#)], 2 June 2021

<sup>69</sup> War Child UK, [UK aid match funding delay](#), 25 May 2021

<sup>70</sup> FCDO, [New UK funding to boost education for children in conflict zones](#), 12 July 2021

<sup>71</sup> [Safeworld to IDC](#), 15 April 2021

<sup>72</sup> Sky News, [UK plans to cut bilateral funding for water projects in developing nations by 80%, leaked memo shows](#), 28 April 2021

<sup>73</sup> Telegraph, [UK Government cuts almost wipe out funding to tackle neglected tropical diseases](#), 29 April 2021; Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases et al, [A tragic blow to “global Britain” \[...\]](#), 29 April 2021

<sup>74</sup> [WHO written evidence to the IDC, GUA0058](#), 15 June 2021, pp1-2

In June 2021, the FCDO said it was [unable to estimate whether receiving countries would be unable to distribute medicines](#) and was working to distribute them in urgent cases.<sup>75</sup>

### Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)

Devex reports [GPEI will receive £5 million](#), rather than the £100 million intended for 2020.<sup>76</sup>

### UK Research and Information (UKRI)

[Reduction in ODA funding to UKRI](#) will fall from £245 million to £125 million in 2021/22. The Global Challenges Research Fund and Newton Fund [are expected to be affected](#).<sup>77</sup>

### UN Population Fund (FPA)

The UN FPA prevents unsafe abortions and supports access to contraceptives. Funding for its supply programme will be reduced 85%, to £23 million. Core funding will be £8 million. The agency said this was a [“retreat from agreed commitments”](#).<sup>78</sup>

### UN AIDS

Funding for UN AIDS, which coordinates international action on the HIV/AIDS pandemic, will [be reduced from £15 million in 2020 to £2.5 million in 2021](#). UN AIDS said this will affect its efforts to improve empowerment among women and girls and its support for LGBTQ+ people.<sup>79</sup> However, the Government has also announced an [additional £7 million over three years](#) to the Robert Carr Fund to provide health services and advocate for the rights of inadequately served populations.<sup>80</sup>

### UN International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Core funding will be [reduced by 60%](#). UNICEF said this funding allows the organisation to respond quickly to the education, health and protection needs of children.<sup>81</sup>

### International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF)

The IPPF said funding will be [cut by £72 million](#) and will lead to reductions in the UK's [Women's Integrated Sexual Health programme](#) and the closure of services in four countries. The [ACCESS programme](#), which researches sexual

---

<sup>75</sup> PQ 18549 [[Developing countries: Drugs](#)], 23 June 2021

<sup>76</sup> Devex, [UK cuts polio funding \[...\]](#), 27 April 2021; GEPI, [Statement](#), 4 May 2021

<sup>77</sup> UKRI, [ODA review](#), 30 April 2021

<sup>78</sup> UN, [UK's 85% family planning aid cut will be devastating \[...\]](#), 29 April 2021

<sup>79</sup> UN AIDS, [Press statement](#), 29 April 2021

<sup>80</sup> FCDO, [Ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030](#), 10 June 2021

<sup>81</sup> UNICEF, [Statement on UK funding cuts](#), 30 April 2021

and reproductive health services for marginalised communities, will be reduced.<sup>82</sup>

The FCDO says it “[do\[es\] not recognise the numbers](#)” in relation to sexual and reproductive health funding.

### **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**

The IRC has said funding for its protection work for vulnerable Syrians in Lebanon had been removed, and [feared additional funding reductions](#) in North-East Nigeria and Sierra Leone.<sup>83</sup>

### **British Council**

The British Council [plans now deliver work in 20 countries remotely or digitally, rather than in-person](#).<sup>84</sup> The majority of Council funding is derived from its activities, and the pandemic has had a significant impact on these. For example, teaching became harder in many countries due to public health restrictions. The FCDO has provided a [£100 million loan](#) to support the Council's restructuring plans.<sup>85</sup>

For more information, see section 3 of the Library Briefing, [Estimate Day Debate: ODA and the British Council](#) (June 2021).

### **Mine Clearance**

In October 2021, the Mines Advisory Group, a UK-based NGO, said that the [UK Government is planning to reduce its funding for humanitarian mine action](#) by 80% over the next three years, from £125 million, over the previous three years, to £25 million. It states affected countries include South Sudan, Zimbabwe, Iraq, and Vietnam.<sup>86</sup>

The FCDO have stressed final funding and allocation decisions [are yet to be made](#).<sup>87</sup>

---

<sup>82</sup> IPPF, [IPPF warns that millions of vulnerable women and girls will pay the price for catastrophic budget cuts](#), 29 April 2021

<sup>83</sup> The Guardian, [UK aid cut will put tens of thousands of children at risk of famine, says charity](#), 8 May 2021

<sup>84</sup> The Guardian, [British Council to close 20 offices across the globe after cuts and lost income](#), 9 September 2021

<sup>85</sup> HC Deb, [8 June 2021](#), c382.

<sup>86</sup> Mines Advisory Group, [Collapse in UK support for landmine clearance is catastrophic](#), 7 October 2021

<sup>87</sup> PQ 62604 [[Land mines](#)], 28 October 2021

## 3.5

## How are the reductions being assessed?

**Sector concerns: Impact on UK's priorities and high-performing projects**

The [Institute for Fiscal Studies](#) (IFS) and [Centre for Global Development](#) (CGD) warn the speed of the reductions risks cuts being made “where they are feasible rather than where value for money is lowest.”<sup>88</sup>

Some analysts have suggested that while the FCDO has managed to protect many of the highest-performing projects (as determined in annual project reviews), the extent of the reductions has meant [well-performing and low-risk projects have also been affected](#).<sup>89</sup>

There are also concerns that the reductions undermine the Government's intentions to [prioritise global health security](#) during the pandemic and [empowerment of women and girls](#).<sup>90</sup> The CGD says reductions might [put pressure on the core health services](#) of developing countries.<sup>91</sup>

**FCDO impact assessments**

The FCDO has said its ODA budget has been allocated in line with the objectives set out in the Integrated Review. It said officials also considered business plans, sectoral analysis of trends and their impact on the beneficiaries of UK aid, supply partners and equalities.<sup>92</sup> In 2021, the FCDO says its Ministers have engaged with [80 NGOs, partners, and parliamentarians](#) to discuss the management of the aid reduction.<sup>93</sup>

[FCDO impact assessments](#) have considered bilateral country spending, programme spend, and regional spend. Standalone country by country assessments, the FCDO has said, “is not the way we have operated to date” because of overlapping scenarios.<sup>94</sup>

The FCDO's [equalities impact assessment](#) found “no evidence” programmes targeting those with protected characteristics were more likely to be reduced than other programmes.”<sup>95</sup>

<sup>88</sup> IFS, [If you want to make permanent cuts to the aid budget, be honest about it](#), 12 April 2021; CGD, [Five points for MPs in the UK's planned aid cuts](#), 25 January 2021

<sup>89</sup> CGD, [Survival of the fittest or missing at random? How FCDO's cuts have fallen across the portfolio](#), 5 August 2021

<sup>90</sup> Devex, [UK cuts family planning funding to UNFPA by 85%](#), 28 April 2021; Action for Global Health, [Statement on UK Government's cuts to aid](#), 22 April 2021

<sup>91</sup> CGD, [Can the UK cut bilateral aid for health by 50% and protect health systems?](#), 8 February 2021

<sup>92</sup> PQ 186218 [[Libya: Overseas aid](#)], 29 April 2021

<sup>93</sup> PQ 34502 [[Developing countries: Overseas aid](#)], 21 July 2021

<sup>94</sup> [Oral evidence: Future of UK aid](#), HC 1141, 22 April 2021, Q94; Q108; Q111

<sup>95</sup> [Oral evidence: Future of UK aid](#), HC 1141, 22 April 2021, Q94; Q108; Q111

On 10 June 2021, the FCDO Minister, Lord Ahmad, said the Government was [considering whether to publish its equality impact assessment](#) in programmes relating to girl's education.<sup>96</sup>

### Future scrutiny

The National Audit Office intends to [publish a report](#) on how well the Government has managed reductions in UK ODA spending by Spring 2022.<sup>97</sup>

## 3.6 Impact on NGOs

The FCDO Minister, Lord Goldsmith, has said the department has “protected UK civil society organisations from cuts wherever possible.”<sup>98</sup>

In April 2021, the FCDO said funding from the [Small Charities Challenge Fund \(SCCF\)](#) would be paused. The SCCF works with small civil society organisations with an income of less than £250,000. Up to January 2021, over 100 SCCF grants totalling £5.1 million had been approved.<sup>99</sup>

NGOs have also [reported FCDO funds for small NGOs](#), such as the Community Partnerships Fund, UK Aid Connect, UK Aid Direct Impact, and UK Partnerships for Health Systems programs, will not be going ahead in 2021/22.<sup>100</sup>

In July 2021, a group of global philanthropists, including Bill Gates, [pledged £93.5 million](#) to cover some of the reductions in UK spending in areas of health.<sup>101</sup>

---

<sup>96</sup> HL Deb, [10 June 2021](#), c 1578

<sup>97</sup> NAO, [Managing reductions in ODA spending](#), undated

<sup>98</sup> HL Deb, [28 April 2021](#), 558GC

<sup>99</sup> PQ 131390 [[Charities](#)], 11 January 2021

<sup>100</sup> Devex, [Girls' education hit as UK small charities funding “wiped out”](#), 30 April 2021

<sup>101</sup> The Guardian, [Global philanthropists pledge £94m to cover UK foreign aid cuts](#), 11 July 2021

## 4 An integrated foreign policy

### 4.1 Coordinating development and diplomacy

The Government intends to use UK ODA, diplomacy, science, and economic partnerships to address global challenges.<sup>102</sup>

To meet the sustainable development goals (SDGs), the FCDO says: “aid cannot do it alone. Mobilisation of domestic resources and private finance is critical.” In 2021, the Government intends to use its COP26 and G7 presidencies to reinforce the SDGs “on the global stage.”<sup>103</sup>

At the G7, the UK intended to [encourage international collaboration](#) to meet targets to get more girls into school and reading by 2026.<sup>104</sup> The Summit Communiqué included a pledge of at least [\\$2.75 billion of funding over five years for the GPE](#).<sup>105</sup> The GPE hopes to raise \$5 billion for its 2021-25 strategy.<sup>106</sup> The UK Government set a goal to raise 80% of this target at the summit it co-hosted with Kenya on the GPE, [which was achieved](#).<sup>107</sup>

The FCDO’s new conflict centre also seeks to apply the UK’s “unique selling points [...] in humanitarian aid, international law and dispute resolution” to “add value in peace processes.”<sup>108</sup>

### 4.2 Cross-government coordination

In 2021/22, around 80% of UK ODA will be [spent by the FCDO](#).<sup>109</sup> The NAO has previously raised concerns that no single department was [ultimately responsible](#) for the coherence of aid spending.<sup>110</sup> However, the ICAI has [noted improvements](#) in coordination under DFID up to 2020.<sup>111</sup>

<sup>102</sup> HL Deb, [28 April 2021](#), c558 GC

<sup>103</sup> PQ 185993 [[Developing countries: Sustainable development](#)], 27 April 2021

<sup>104</sup> FCDO, [G7 to boost girls’ education and women’s employment \[...\]](#), 3 May 2021

<sup>105</sup> G7 2021, [Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué](#), 13 June 2021 para 47

<sup>106</sup> GPE, [Replenishment](#), accessed 14 June 2021

<sup>107</sup> PQ 32429 [[Global Partnership for Education](#)], 21 July 2021, Devex, [Global education summit falls \\$1B short; Boris Johnson blamed](#), 29 July 2021

<sup>108</sup> [Corrected oral evidence: Lords IRDC](#), 27 April 2021, Q16

<sup>109</sup> HCWS735, [Development update](#), 26 January 2021

<sup>110</sup> NAO, [Managing the ODA target- a report on progress](#), 2017, para 2.15

<sup>111</sup> ICAI, [Management of the 0.7% ODA spending target](#), 2020,

A cross-government review, led by the FCDO, concluded in January 2021. It seeks to ensure all ODA is [focused on the seven aid priorities](#) (see section 2.3).<sup>112</sup>

The IFS has argued that, without future clarity of the UK's funding intentions for ODA from 2022/23, it will [become more difficult](#) for the FCDO to manage the UK's aid spend and ensure it meets its seven priorities.<sup>113</sup>

---

<sup>112</sup> HCWS735, [Development update](#), 26 January 2021

<sup>113</sup> IFS, [The UK's reduction in aid spending](#), April 2021, p13

The House of Commons Library is a research and information service based in the UK Parliament. Our impartial analysis, statistical research and resources help MPs and their staff scrutinise legislation, develop policy, and support constituents.

Our published material is available to everyone on [commonslibrary.parliament.uk](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk).

Get our latest research delivered straight to your inbox. Subscribe at [commonslibrary.parliament.uk/subscribe](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/subscribe) or scan the code below:



 [commonslibrary.parliament.uk](https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk)

 [@commonslibrary](https://twitter.com/commonslibrary)