

Research Briefing

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The UK's 2022 aid strategy

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Summary

In May 2022, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) published its new ten-year [strategy for international development](#).

The strategy is published in the context of reduced UK aid spending and the Government's wider foreign policy intentions to increase UK efforts in Africa and the Indo-Pacific, partly in response to China.

Aid spending was an [estimated £3 billion lower in 2021](#) than 2020 (£14.5 billion versus £11.5 billion). While the date at which the UK will restore aid spending from 0.5% to 0.7% of Gross National Income is uncertain, the tests laid out by the Government suggest [this will be in 2023/24](#), on current trends.

This briefing describes the background to the strategy, its four priorities, what it means for other development issues, and the UK's spending commitments.

What are the new priorities for UK aid?

The strategy identifies four priorities for UK aid:

- **Reliable investment** to help UK partners grow sustainably and mobilise up to £8 billion of UK-backed financing by 2025. This includes working through the UK's relaunched development finance institution, [British International Investment](#), to invest in businesses, trade, and jobs overseas.
- **Empowering women and girls**, with a focus on ensuring girls receive 12 years of quality education, supporting reproductive and sexual health, and ending violence against women and girls. The Government will [restore spending to 2019/20 levels](#), totalling £745 million in 2022/23.
- Provide life-saving **humanitarian assistance to those in greatest need**, and work to prevent such crises and build resilience to them. The UK will spend £3 billion over the next three years. Around 25% of this figure has already been committed to Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, and Ukraine.
- **Climate change, biodiversity, and global health**. The strategy confirms climate change and biodiversity as the UK's "number one" international priority. The UK will spend £11.6 billion in climate finance from 2021 to 2026 to help countries adapt to, and mitigate the impacts of, climate change. Health aid will include investments to Gavi, the vaccine alliance, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

While poverty is not mentioned a separate priority, the Government argues a focus on increasing trade, the empowerment of women and girls, and action on climate change will help alleviate or address the causes of poverty. By law,

UK development assistance provided by the FCDO must also be intended to [reduce poverty and inequality between persons of different gender](#).

Which countries will the UK focus on?

In line with the Government's 2021 [integrated review of foreign, defence, security, and development policy](#), UK aid will focus on Africa and the Indo-Pacific (a region extending from Afghanistan to China):

- **Africa:** In 2020, 52% of country-specific or region-specific bilateral aid was spent in Africa. UK aid objectives will include poverty alleviation, economic development, girls' education, and climate change.
- **Indo-Pacific:** In 2020, 39% of country-specific or region-specific bilateral aid was spent in the Asia region. UK aid will focus on economic ties, humanitarian support, girls' education, and open societies. The [integrated review](#) previously noted that absolute poverty will be "almost eliminated" in the region by 2030.

The FCDO commits to spend at least 0.2% of the UK's Gross National Income to least developed countries (LDCs). It has not met this target recently. There are [45 countries defined as LDCs](#) by the UN. 33 are in Africa and nine in Asia.

The strategy commits to work more with middle-income economies on trade and climate change. They [include Vietnam and Brazil](#). The Government says it will use the aid budget "only when necessary" for these countries.

How will aid be delivered?

The FCDO intends to deliver more aid directly to countries, rather than via multilateral institutions such as the World Bank. The Bank is the only organisation to whom the Government has confirmed a [reduced funding settlement with](#) (£3 billion in 2020-23 to £1.4 billion in 2022-25).

The Government argues aid will be better targeted and more accountable. Some analysts have, however, [raised concerns](#) this may reduce the reach of UK aid, mean less international coordination, and make it [harder to increase aid spending efficiently](#), if the 0.7% target is restored soon.

When will more information be released?

The Department is due to publish a [separate Women and girls' strategy](#), at a date not yet confirmed.

1 Background: The 0.7% target and the Integrated Review

Reductions in UK aid spending

Decision to reduce aid spending, 2020

In line with UN targets from 2013 to 2020 the UK spent 0.7% of its Gross National Income (GNI) on Official Development Assistance (ODA).

ODA is aid intended to promote the economic development and welfare of developing countries.

In November 2020, the Government announced it would temporarily move to a target of 0.5% of GNI in 2021, citing the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the public finances. In 2021, the Commons voted in favour of the two tests that the UK's public finances must first meet for the target to be restored.

These are that: The Office for Budget 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.

These tests are currently forecasted to be met in 2023/24. The 2022 Autumn Budget will provide an update on when spending may be restored.¹

The effects of the spending reductions

Total UK aid spending is estimated to have fallen from £14.5 billion in 2020 to £11.5 billion in 2021.²

The reductions in spending have been controversial, with organisations including UN agencies as well as charities and NGOs stating many programmes have seen their contributions from the UK reduced.³

A review of the reductions by the National Audit Office (NAO) found that the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) reduced the budget in 35 of the 44 country and regional offices with ODA programmes in 2020/21. 15 countries saw reductions of more than 50%.⁴

¹ Commons Library, [The 0.7% aid target](#), SN3714, sections 3.1, 3.4

² FCDO, [Provisional UK aid spend 2021](#), 12 April 2022, accessed 16 June 2022

³ Commons Library, [Reducing the UK's aid spending in 2021](#), CBP9224, summary and section 3

⁴ NAO, [Managing reductions in Official Development Assistance spending](#), March 2022, para 11

The integrated review

In March 2021, the UK Government published its integrated review of foreign, defence, trade, security, and development policy.

This built on the 2020 merger of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office with the Department for International Development (DFID), which the Government argued would allow UK trade, foreign, diplomatic and development policy to better work together to further UK objectives.

Priority regions and issues

Neither aid nor development were central to the integrated review, but it identified seven priorities for UK aid, including supporting open societies and conflict resolution, humanitarian preparedness and girls' education.

It also said climate change would be the UK's "number one international priority," and the UK would step up related support to affected countries.

The review also identified two regions as UK priorities: Africa, especially East Africa, and the Indo-Pacific and South Asia (the latter includes Afghanistan, China, and Indonesia, though they may not be substantial aid recipients).

While the review cites poverty reduction and humanitarian need as the primary reasons for the prioritisation of Africa, reasons for the Indo-Pacific include reinforcing trade links, promoting open societies, and climate change collaboration.

The review notes that by 2030 absolute poverty is likely to be "almost eliminated in Asia."

Charities and development organisations criticised the review as de-prioritising poverty alleviation.⁵

Further reading

- Commons Library, [The 0.7% aid target](#), SN3714. Sets out the target and provides analysis of when spending may be restored to 0.7% of GNI.
- Commons Library, [Reducing the UK's aid spending in 2021](#), CBP9224. Describes the known effects of the Government's reduction in spending.
- Commons Library, [Integrated Review: International development](#), CBP9208.

⁵ Commons Library, [Integrated Review: International development](#), CBP9208, April 2021, pp8-9

2

The four priorities

The 2022 strategy: Summary

The UK Government's [Strategy for international development](#) (May 2022) identifies four priority areas:

- **Financial investment** to help countries grow their economies sustainably, including a focus on trade.
- **Women and girls**, with a focus on education, protection from violence and economic and political empowerment.
- **Humanitarian aid** and working to prevent humanitarian crises.
- **Climate change, nature, and global health**. This includes helping countries adapt to, and mitigate the effects of, climate change.⁶

The strategy [will be in place for ten years](#).⁷ It does not supersede the [statutory requirement](#) of the UK Government to ensure all UK aid is provided with the aim of reducing poverty and inequality between persons of different gender.⁸

Sections 3 to 6 of this paper provide more detail on each of the four commitments and known spending commitments.

How does this compare to the 2015 strategy?

The 2015 strategy also identified four priorities, of which there is some overlap:

- **Strengthening global peace, security, and governance**. This focused on addressing the causes of instability and conflict.
- **Strengthening resilience and responses to crises**. This included climate change, health security, and humanitarian situations.

⁶ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, accessed 6 June 2022

⁷ International Development Committee, [Sarah Champion MP calls for more and better aid data, 18 May 2022](#), accessed 6 June 2022

⁸ [International Development Act 2002](#), as amended, Section 1

- **Promoting global prosperity**, including strengthening trade and investment.
- **Addressing poverty** and work towards eliminating extreme poverty by 2030.⁹

The main changes in the 2022 strategy are therefore the greater prioritisation of women and girls, the explicit aim to help countries respond to climate change, and absence of poverty reduction as an explicit priority (see section 2.3, below, however).

The 2015 strategy also made specific commitments, including:

- Allocating 50% of Department for International Development (DFID) spending to **fragile states and regions**.
- **Increasing investments in the UK's development finance institution**, the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC). This was renamed and relaunched in 2022 as British International Investment (BII)—see the Library briefing [BII: Trade and aid](#) for more.
- Funding new global commitments to **tackle malaria, Ebola and other tropical diseases**.¹⁰

In comparison, the new UK aid strategy makes relatively few funding commitments—something criticised by the International Development Committee (IDC) chair, Sarah Champion.¹¹

Further reading on the 2022 strategy

- Development Initiatives, [Delivering the UK's international development strategy: Key considerations for UK aid](#), June 2022. Explores the four priorities and their significance for wider aid spending and development.
- Chatham House, [Does the UK's new development strategy support its foreign policy objectives?](#), May 2022. Role of British investment and interaction of aid with UK partners and support for open societies.
- Overseas Development Institute, [The tricky business of implementing the UK's new international development strategy](#), May 2022. Overview of four priorities and UK aid spending.

⁹ DFID, [UK aid: Tackling global challenges in the national interest](#), 23 November 2015, foreword

¹⁰ As above, pp4, 17

¹¹ IDC, [Sarah Champion MP calls for more and better aid data](#), 18 May 2022, accessed 15 June 2022

2.1

What about other development priorities?

Poverty reduction

While the 2022 strategy does not make poverty reduction one of its four priorities, under the [International Development Act 2002](#), as amended, UK development assistance provided by the FCDO must be provided with the aim of reducing poverty and reducing inequality between persons of a different gender.¹²

The IDC Chair, Sarah Champion, has welcomed a focus on women and girls as the most vulnerable of the global poor, but raised concerns for [whether the poorest will benefit from a focus on trade](#).¹³ The Committee is currently investigating the extent the FCDO's [strategies target extreme poverty](#).

Analysis for Development Initiatives has also raised concern a lack of focus on poverty may mean the UK's support for trade and economic development may [result in less inclusive development](#).¹⁴

The FCDO argues increased trade, investment in girls' education and addressing climate change will help lift countries out of poverty or avoid more people falling into extreme poverty.¹⁵

Open societies

Supporting open societies (such as democracy, rights, and freedom of religion and belief) was one of the seven priorities of UK aid in 2021/22.¹⁶

Although the new strategy has this as an overall aim, it is not one of the four priorities and there are no references to human rights or freedom of religion and belief.¹⁷

Separate to the strategy, the Government has confirmed an increase in grant-in-aid to the Westminster Foundation for Democracy from £5.1 million to £6.5 million over the next three years.¹⁸

The UK's Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) is currently undertaking a review into the [UK's support for human rights and democracy](#)

¹² [International Development Act 2002](#), Section 1, as amended.

¹³ IDC, [Sarah Champion MP: "A double whammy against the global poor."](#) 16 May 2022, accessed 15 June 2022

¹⁴ Development Initiatives, [Delivering the UK's international development strategy: Key considerations for UK aid](#), 9 June 2022, accessed 16 June 2022

¹⁵ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 2022, paras 8, 15 and 25, accessed 15 June 2022

¹⁶ FCDO, [UK ODA allocations 2021 to 2022 written ministerial statement](#), 21 April 2022, accessed 16 June 2022

¹⁷ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 2022, accessed 15 June 2022

¹⁸ PQ 7886 [on [Bilateral aid](#)], 30 May 2022

[abroad](#), including promoting gender equality. It will report in Winter 2022. The ICAI estimates around £1 billion of aid from 2015 to 2021 was spent on these issues.¹⁹

Conflict

Addressing the root causes of conflict is cited in the new strategy, but primarily in the context of peacekeeping, sanctions, malign influence like misinformation, terrorism, and weak political settlements.²⁰

The World Bank estimates 80% of humanitarian need is driven by conflict.²¹

A 2020 report by the World Bank estimates that up two-thirds of the global population living in extreme poverty will be living in fragile and conflict-afflicted states (FCS). In 2020, there were an estimated 600 million living in FCS and non-FCS states, with an equal number in both.²²

The Government has launched a new conflict centre to lead cross-government work on the issue and build a framework to put a greater emphasis on conflict prevention. The strategy will be directed towards areas where the UK has a “comparative advantage.”²³

Nutrition

While not a priority in the strategy, the FCDO has separately identified nutrition as a priority. The Department has separately committed £1.5 billion to nutrition programmes from 2022 to 2030.²⁴ It also intends for all bilateral programmes to “key” countries to focus specifically on nutrition.²⁵

In 2020, the UK's ICAI concluded that DFID's spending on nutrition had made a “significant contribution” to reducing malnutrition and the Department had exceeded its target to reach 50 million people with nutrition services from 2015 to 2020.²⁶

For more on nutrition, see the Commons Debate Pack, [2021 Tokyo nutrition for growth summit](#) (published November 2021).

¹⁹ ICAI, [Approach paper: The UK's approach to democracy and human rights](#), 19 May 2022, accessed 16 June 2022

²⁰ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 2022, para 23, 54, accessed 15 June 2022

²¹ World Bank, [Fragility, conflict and violence](#), accessed 16 June 2022

²² World Bank, [Fragility and conflict: On the front lines of the fight against poverty](#), 27 February 2020, accessed 16 June 2022

²³ [Minister for Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to Chairs of the Foreign Affairs, International Development, and International Relations and Defence Committees](#), 9 February 2022 (PDF)

²⁴ Devex, [In a turnaround, UK pledge to fund nutrition](#), 3 February 2022, accessed 16 June 2022

²⁵ HL Deb, [21 February 2022](#), c10

²⁶ ICAI, [Assessing DFID's results in nutrition](#), 16 September 2020, accessed 16 June 2022

3 Trade and investment

3.1 What does the strategy say?

Commitment to increase investment and trade

The UK will deliver “honest and reliable” investment to help countries to grow their economies sustainably, and without loading countries with unsustainable levels of debt. It also plans to use trade to help reduce poverty.²⁷

The UK intends to mobilise up to £8 billion of UK-backed financing a year by 2025. Programmes supported will include the UK's Clean Green Initiative, and the relaunched British International Investment (BII) development finance institution. They will aim to play an important role in delivering investment in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.²⁸

The Clean Green Initiative includes a commitment to increase UK-aid funded green investments to £3 billion over five years from 2021, and forms part of the G7's commitment to help meet the infrastructure funding gap of lower-income countries (see below).²⁹

For more on the BII, see the Commons Library's [BII: Trade and aid](#).

Additional trade agreements and changes to tariff rules

The strategy also commits the UK to build on improve the existing Generalised Scheme of Preference (GSP).³⁰ This allows a range of developing countries to benefit from reduced or removed tariffs on imports into the UK. Eligible countries include Ethiopia, Nepal, and Uganda.³¹

The UK will launch a new Developing Countries Trading Scheme in 2022. The Government intends to use the UK's trade position post-Brexit to give better

²⁷ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 2, accessed 6 June 2022

²⁸ As above, para 6

²⁹ FCDO and 10 Downing Street, [PM launches new initiative to take Green Industrial Revolution global](#), 1 November 2021, accessed 6 June 2021

³⁰ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, 'Transformative development,' accessed 6 June 2022

³¹ Department for International Trade, [Trading with developing nations](#), updated 1 January 2022, accessed 15 June 2022

access to the UK market for over 60 countries.³² The Government has not yet responded to a [2021 consultation on the changes](#). The UK's current GSP largely replicates the one in place when the UK was a member of the EU.³³

Between leaving the EU in January 2020 and February 2022, the UK has also signed Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) with 33 African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries, totalling £15.6 billion of trade in 2020.³⁴ As an EU member state the UK previously participated in EPAs with 32 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries.³⁵

The strategy aims to expand the number of EPAs. EPAs focus on reducing trade barriers to promote increased trade and investment and are bespoke agreements for individual countries.

3.2

Why is increasing investment a priority?

Competing with China

This reference in the strategy to increase “honest and reliable” investment is a likely rejoinder to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). According to the [AidData research lab](#), China's government and state-owned agencies invested at least US\$843 billion in 165 countries from 2013. However, China tends to lend at higher rates of interests and shorter repayment periods.³⁶

The BRI has played a significant role in many countries, often in Asia and Africa, in meeting infrastructure needs and helping countries connect to the global economy.³⁷ However, it has also created fears that an increased dependence on Chinese lending has correspondingly led to political dependence too, with borrowers subject to requirements to save revenues from Chinese-funded projects as repayment security and a lack of transparency on lending terms.³⁸

In 2021, the G7 announced the [Build Back Better World \(B3W\) partnership](#). This is aimed at helping to meet the US\$40 trillion infrastructure need in low-and middle-income countries. Much of this is related to climate change

³² FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 44, accessed 6 June 2022

³³ Department for International Trade, [Information pack on the GSP](#), July 2021, p4

³⁴ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 2022, para 9, accessed 6 June 2022

³⁵ European Commission, [EPAs](#), accessed 15 June 2022

³⁶ AidData, [Chinese development finance](#), 29 September 2021, accessed 26 May 2022

³⁷ World Bank, [Three opportunities and three risks of the BRI](#), 4 May 2018, accessed 6 June 2022

³⁸ Financial Times, [China applies brakes to Africa lending](#), 12 January 2022 [accessed through Nexis News, accessible through a [Commons Library log-in](#)]

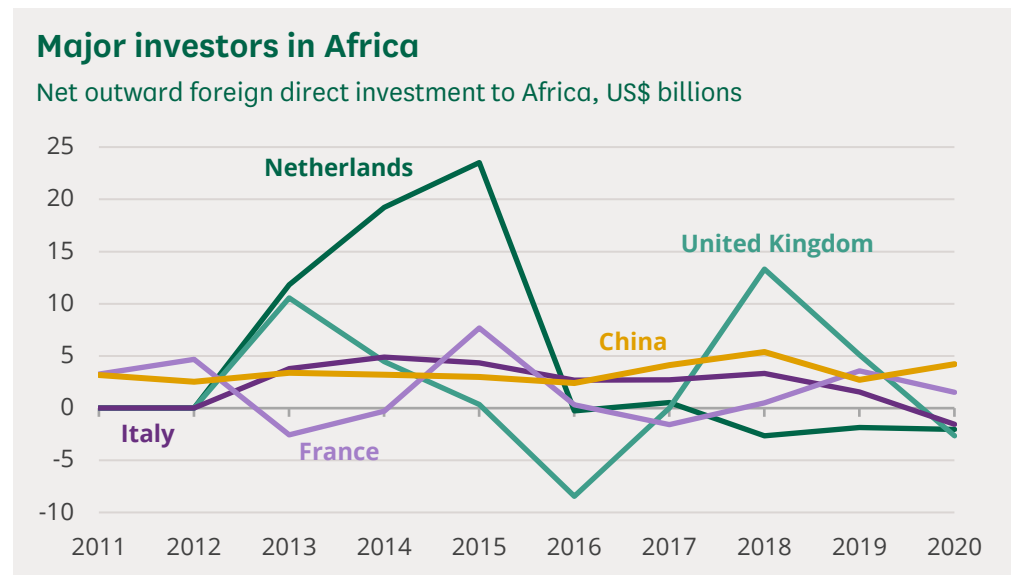
adaption.³⁹ This was relaunched as the Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment in 2022.⁴⁰

The UK has also backed the G7's aim to invest US\$80 billion Africa's private sector from 2021 to 2026, including through the BII.⁴¹

How much do countries invest in Africa?

The UK is already a reasonably large investor in Africa by international standards. The chart below shows outward foreign direct investment (FDI) into Africa by some of the major European economies, as well as China.

This also shows that several economies have made significant investments in Africa, with the amounts varying widely over time. The data here suggests that although China is not always the largest investor in Africa, its investment flows are both reasonably large and very consistent.



Source: OECD.Stat, [FDI financial flows - By partner country](#) dataset, retrieved 14 June 2022; China data from [China Africa Research Initiative](#) at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, also retrieved 14 June 2022

The China Africa Research Initiative, which compiled the data for China shown here, warns that these figures can be of limited use: The amounts announced in press releases do not always translate into actual flows of investment, and the figures do not include acquisitions of African assets which were already owned by a company based outside Africa.⁴²

³⁹ White House, [President Biden and G7 leaders launch B3W partnership](#), 12 June 2021, accessed 26 May 2022

⁴⁰ White House, [President Biden and G7 leaders formally launch the partnership for global infrastructure and investment](#), 26 June 2022, accessed 27 June 2022

⁴¹ FCDO, [G7 partners to invest over US\\$ 80 billion in Africa's private sector](#), 14 June 2021, accessed 31 May 2022

⁴² China Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, [Chinese Investment in Africa](#), retrieved 14 June 2022

3.3

Does trade contribute to development?

A reduced focus on poverty?

The focus on trade has been one of the [most controversial elements of the new strategy](#). Some charities and the IDC Chair fear the promotion of trade could mean the UK has an increased focus on higher performing countries to take advantage of trade opportunities and overlooks development priorities such as addressing the levels of debt in lower income economies.⁴³

The UK's ICAI previously published an overview into the [UK's use of aid to enhance both global development and economic gains for the UK](#) in 2019.

It noted that this was not a new aspect of UK aid policy, but it had risks in terms of reducing the focus on poverty reduction and undermining the value for money of UK aid if too many objectives are followed.

However, the ICAI also said the potential for increased private sector participation and greater cross-government coordination were possible advantages to a greater focus on trade and development.⁴⁴

The Government argues that increased trade means [growing economies, rising incomes, job creation, and the reduction of poverty](#). It will also help low- and middle-income countries become the UK's "trade and investment partners of the future."⁴⁵

How does increased trade contribute to poverty reduction?

Research for the World Bank suggests that [increased trade can help reduce poverty](#), but it efforts must be made to integrate it into anti-poverty efforts and other development strategies.

The Bank recommends this focuses on reducing internal barriers within countries to support the economic development of rural areas, reduction in conflict, the involvement of women, and supporting export diversification to create more and better jobs.⁴⁶

⁴³ Devex, [UK development strategy panned as "aid for trade," missed opportunity](#), 16 May 2022, accessed 15 June 2022

⁴⁴ ICAI, [The use of UK aid to enhance mutual prosperity](#), October 2019, accessed 16 June 2022

⁴⁵ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 10, accessed 6 June 2022

⁴⁶ World Bank, [The role of trade in ending poverty](#), 2015, accessed 16 June 2022

4 Women and girls

4.1 What does the strategy say?

UK aid will help unlock the potential of women and girls through education, empowerment and protecting them from violence. It has three broad areas:

- **Education:** Ensure every girl receives 12 years of quality education. This includes helping to meet the G7's commitment to get 40 million more girls in school and 20 million more girls reading by age 10 by 2026.
- **Empowering women and girls:** Supporting sexual and reproductive health, ensuring women's voices are heard at all social, political and economic levels, and improving economic security for women and girls (eg addressing inequalities in access to services).
- **Ending violence against women and girls:** Addressing violence in conflict, homes, schools, online and workplaces.⁴⁷

Further information is expected in the FCDO's "Women and girls" strategy. In addition, a new Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (PSVI) strategy is expected. The Government has not provided a firm date on their publication.⁴⁸

In 2020, the NAO argued the previous DFID vision for women and girls was "ambitious and wide ranging." It included objectives to support women's political empowerment, girls' education, sexual and reproductive health, support for marginalised groups and support across a lifecycle.⁴⁹

Its primary recommendations were developing a plan to better mainstream gender across its work and establishing key milestones and tests to establish its success.⁵⁰

Civil society groups have welcomed the focus on women and girls but called for the new women and girls strategy to provide further information on the programmes and commitments UK aid will support. They have also raised

⁴⁷ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, accessed 6 June 2022, paras 13-15

⁴⁸ As above, paras 14, 17

⁴⁹ NAO, [Improving the lives of women and girls overseas](#), HC 316, 2019-21, 29 April 2020, para 7

⁵⁰ As above, para 22

concerns that UK aid may become focused on a few select objectives rather than gender equality more widely.⁵¹

4.2 Why are women and girls a priority?

Under the [International Development \(Gender Equality\) Act 2014](#), the UK is required to use its development assistance to reduce poverty in such a way that is likely to reduce gender inequality.⁵²

In addition, empowering women and girls is seen as achieving many of the UN's development goals, such as poverty reduction and economic development:

- In 2022, 388 million women and girls lived in **extreme poverty**. This compared to 372 million men and boys.⁵³
- Women make up two-thirds of the 796 million **illiterate people worldwide**. Only 39% of rural girls **attend school**, compared to 45% of boys. The gap is smaller in urban areas: 59% and 60%, respectively.⁵⁴
- While globally more men than women are employed in the **informal sector** (meaning they are in work neither monitored or taxed by governments), women are more exposed than men in 90% of Sub-Saharan and South Asia. Of the 2 billion informal workers worldwide, 740 million are women.⁵⁵
- **Violence against women** remains high. An estimated 20% of women has experienced sexual and/or physical violence by an intimate partner in the previous year.⁵⁶

4.3 What spending pledges are there?

The strategy commits to restore aid spending on women and girls to past levels.

⁵¹ For example, Plan International, [Government's international development strategy falls short for women and girls](#), 17 May 2022 and Bond, [Is the international development strategy good news for gender equality?](#), 17 May 2022, both accessed 6 June 2022

⁵² [International Development \(Gender Equality\) Act 2015](#), Section 2

⁵³ UN Women, [Poverty deepens for women and girls, according to latest projections](#), 1 February 2022, accessed 15 June 2022

⁵⁴ UN Women, [Facts and figures](#), accessed 15 June 2022

⁵⁵ International Labour Organization, [Women and men in the informal economy](#), 2018 (PDF), p21

⁵⁶ UN, [Women and girls-closing the gender gap](#), accessed 15 June 2022

£745 million budgeted for 2022/23

In evidence to the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Foreign Secretary says this will mean the aid budget for women and girls will be £745 million in 2022/23 and states this is “the same as what it was in 2019/20.”⁵⁷

The Government has not published a breakdown of this spending.

This followed an equalities assessment, published by the IDC, that suggested draft country plans, as of March 2021, were “likely” to see a reduction in the number and size of programmes targeted at women, girls, and people with disabilities.⁵⁸

How has UK spending on women and girls changed?

The £745 million figure is substantially lower than some organisations such as [CARE International](#) have estimated: £5.7 billion of bilateral aid either significantly or principally targeting gender equality in 2019.⁵⁹

DFID also told the NAO in 2018 that it spent an estimated £4.2 billion in bilateral programmes with a gender equality focus.⁶⁰

These differences reflect the uncertainties in reporting aid spending that is targeted at reducing gender inequality. Because gender equality is a cross-cutting issue, many aid programmes have it as an objective, without being its primary purpose. This makes accounting for focused programmes difficult and subject to different judgements.⁶¹

This is an international issue, and not just for the UK. For more, see Oxfam, [Are they really gender equality projects?](#) (February 2020).

⁵⁷ IDC, [Oral evidence: Future of UK aid](#), HC 148, 18 May 2022, Q342

⁵⁸ IDC, [Government obstructing scrutiny after misleading MPs on impacts aid cuts have on women and girls](#), 8 March 2022

⁵⁹ CARE, [UK aid cuts resulted in a £1.9 billion cut to gender equality projects in 2021](#), accessed 6 June 2022

⁶⁰ NAO, [Improving the lives of women and girls overseas](#), HC 316, 2019-21, 29 April 2020, para 10

⁶¹ Donor Tracker, [Gender equality](#), accessed 6 June 2022

5

Humanitarian aid

How many are in humanitarian need globally?

The UN estimates that [274 million worldwide will be in humanitarian need](#) in 2022. This is up from 235 million in 2021.

Reasons for increased need cited by the UN include being displaced, rising food costs, continuing conflict, and the effects of climate change.⁶²

In response to rising food prices in response to the Ukraine crisis and gaps in funding, the World Food Programme (WFP) has announced reductions in food rations to those in Yemen as well as East Africa, including South Sudan.⁶³

Both Ukraine and Russia are substantial exporters of food. The WFP estimates the Ukraine crisis has increased its monthly operating costs by 44% compared to their 2019 average (increasing by US\$74 million). In June 2022, it also estimated that an additional 200 million people are now food insecure in the 82 countries where the WFP works, totalling 345 million people.⁶⁴

5.1

What does the strategy say?

The UK will provide humanitarian assistance in emergencies and work to prevent such crises through the international system. This will have three priorities:

- Prioritising humanitarian need to those in greatest need
- Protecting those most at risk, including from conflict-related sexual violence and barriers to humanitarian assistance

⁶² UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, [Global Humanitarian overview 2022](#), accessed 15 June 2022

⁶³ WFP, [Escalating needs, rising hunger](#), 20 June 2022; Reuters, [WFP cuts Yemen food rations further due to funding gap, inflation](#), 27 June 2022, both accessed 27 June 2022

⁶⁴ WFP, [War in Ukraine drives global food crisis](#), June 2022, pp2, 5 (PDF)

- Preventing and anticipating future crises and building resilience by addressing drivers of future conflict (eg disinformation, cyber-attacks).⁶⁵

While the strategy sets out an aim to address the causes of humanitarian need through reducing and preventing conflict, 25% of the funding has been committed to four crises (see section 5.2). This means there may be less money available to address longer-term contributors to humanitarian crises or a focus on fewer situations.

Under the strategy, the UK's efforts are described as focusing on the political drivers of conflict like terrorism, crime and weakened political settlements.⁶⁶

5.2 What spending pledges are there?

The strategy pledges humanitarian funding totalling £3 billion over the next three years (to 2025). It's uncertain in which year spending will fall.⁶⁷

The FCDO said this will mean bringing spending back to the levels of 2021.⁶⁸ However, spending in 2021 was the lowest since 2013.

UK pledges to four humanitarian crisis

The pledge comes within the context of reduced funding for humanitarian crisis such as Syria and Yemen but increases for Afghanistan and Ukraine (note these figures may change).

Collectively, these four countries have already been pledged £752 million by the UK (25% of the £3 billion committed). This may mean fewer countries will receive funding, or fewer will see funding restored to previous levels.

- **Yemen** has seen a reduction in pledged funding from £160 million in 2020/21, to £87 million for 2021/22, and £88 million for 2022/23.⁶⁹
- **Syria** has seen reductions in UK pledges from £300 million in 2020, to £205 million in 2021, to £158 million in 2022.⁷⁰

⁶⁵ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, accessed 6 June 2022, para 20

⁶⁶ As above, para 23

⁶⁷ FCDO, [The UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 19, accessed 6 June 2022

⁶⁸ IDC, [Oral evidence: Future of UK aid](#), HC 148, 18 May 2022, Q342

⁶⁹ Commons Library, [UK aid and Yemen's humanitarian crisis](#), CBP9326, pp6-7

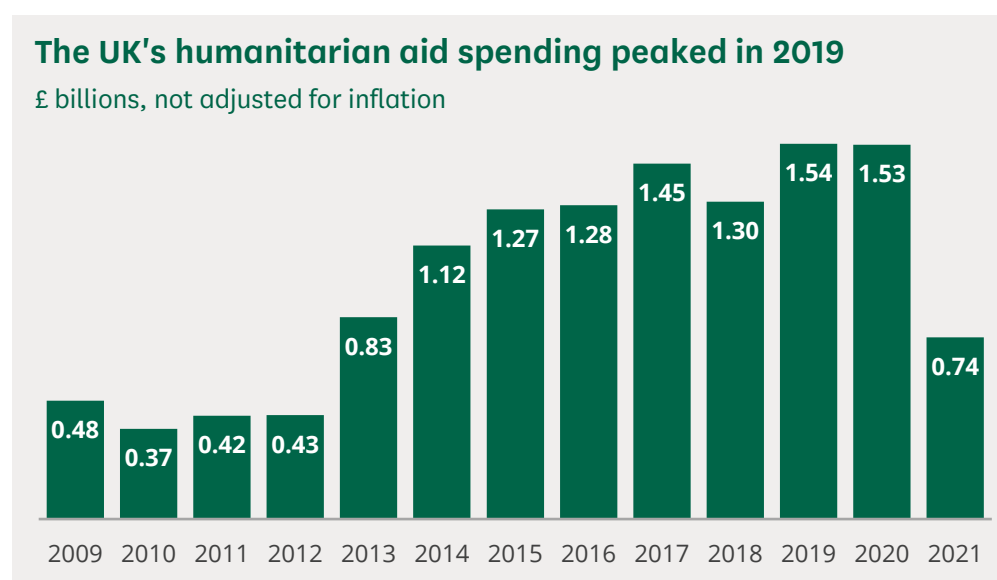
⁷⁰ PQ 126096 [on [Syria: Humanitarian aid](#)], 14 December 2020; PQ 185992 [on [Syria: Overseas aid](#)], 27 April 2021; FCDO, [UK pledges £158 million to support vulnerable Syrians](#), 10 May 2022, accessed 16 June 2022

- **Afghanistan** saw an increase in UK funding to £286 million in both 2021/22 and 2022/23. Although not covering the same timeframe, this compared to an initial pledge of £155 million for 2021.⁷¹
- The UK had planned to end bilateral aid to **Ukraine** in 2021/22. In response to Russia's invasion in February 2022, the UK has now pledged £220 million in humanitarian aid.⁷²

In addition, in June 2022 the Government committed £372 million to support countries affected by rising global food prices. This includes £130 million to the World Food Programme and £132 million for research to improve food security, including new drought-resistant crop varieties.⁷³

How has UK spending on humanitarian aid changed?

The amount of humanitarian aid that the UK has provided increased sharply from 2013 onwards, as shown in the chart below. This largely reflects the trends in overall UK aid spending.



Source: FCDO, [Statistics on International Development: final UK aid spend 2020](#), 29 September 2021, table A7; [Statistics on International Development: Provisional UK Aid Spend 2021](#), 12 April 2022, table 2

The UK spent £1.54 billion in humanitarian aid in 2019. Despite total aid spending falling in 2020, humanitarian aid spending remained nearly the same – it was only in 2021 that it fell to below levels last seen in 2013.

The proportion of bilateral aid spent on humanitarian purposes has changed, peaking in 2015 when it accounted for 16.5% of all bilateral aid spending. This proportion was similar in 2020 (at 16.1%) but fell to 10.5% in 2021. Bilateral aid is spent on a specific programme or purpose in a country.

⁷¹ Commons Library, [Aid to Taliban-controlled Afghanistan](#), CBP 9343, p22

⁷² Commons Library, [Ukraine crisis 2022: Aid and refugees](#), CBP 9467, pp11-12

⁷³ Number Ten, [PM pledges new support for countries on the food security frontline](#), 24 June 2022, accessed 24 June 2022

6 Climate change and global health

Aid spending will also build on pre-existing commitments on climate change, biodiversity, and global health.

The intention to reduce UK contributions to multilateral bodies like the World Bank have raised concerns among some analysts that UK efforts on climate and global health will not be properly coordinated (see section 7).⁷⁴ However, others have noted that multilaterals often have strict lending requirements, making it difficult for indebted or instable countries to access finance.⁷⁵

6.1 Environmental commitments

Climate change and development

The UK Government says by 2030 climate change and biodiversity loss may have “pushed millions” into poverty, and that those in conflict-affected states will be most impacted.⁷⁶

How climate change affects the development needs of countries will vary:

- The poorest and least-developed countries (as defined by the UN) are considered among the [most vulnerable to climate change](#).⁷⁷
- Potential challenges include [greater water scarcity](#) and lower crop yields, leading to 1- 183 million additional people [being at risk of hunger by 2050](#).⁷⁸
- The World Bank has estimated that up to [132 million will be pushed into extreme poverty](#) by climate change by 2030.⁷⁹

⁷⁴ Institute for Development Studies, [Comments on new UK international development strategy](#), 16 May 2022, accessed 6 June 2022

⁷⁵ International Institute for Environment and Development, [Submission to IDC](#), 2019, para 9

⁷⁶ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, accessed 6 June 2022, para 25

⁷⁷ UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, [Why the climate crisis is a humanitarian emergency](#), 27 January 2021, accessed 17 June 2022

⁷⁸ Unicef, [Water and children in a changing climate](#), 2017, and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, [Special report on climate change and land](#), 2019, accessed 17 June 2022

⁷⁹ World Bank, [Covid, climate change and poverty](#), October 2020, accessed 17 June 2022

For more, see the Commons Library briefing, [UK aid and climate change](#), CBP9352, section 1.

On climate change, the strategy reiterates commitments to:

- Make climate change and biodiversity loss the UK's **“number one” international priority**.
- **Double international climate finance** spending to at least £11.6 billion between 2021 and 2026. Finance can take the form of loans, grants, guarantees and bilateral funding. However, there is no officially agreed definition of climate finance.
- **Ensuring all UK bilateral ODA aligns with the Paris Agreement in 2023.** This broadly means that spending will meet three long-term goals: Stabilising greenhouse gases at a level which will hold the increase in average global temperature to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels increasing the ability of countries to adapt to climate change; and ensuring finance flows support climate-resilient and low-carbon development.
- Ensure all new UK bilateral aid spending does **“no harm to nature.”**⁸⁰

The Library briefing, [UK aid and climate change](#) (updated October 2021) provides more on each of the four themes and evaluations of the UK's efforts. The IDC previously called for the Government to ensure all UK aid spending is consistent with reaching net zero emissions and other climate goals.⁸¹

To support the strategy, 30% of new commitments by the UK's development finance institution, British International Investment, will be in climate finance to 2026.

The UK will also support “just energy partnerships,” through which low- and middle-income countries will work with private and public donors to help the countries meet the climate goals.⁸²

Funding to multilaterals

One of the challenges will be ensuring the UK's funding to multilateral institutions (eg the World Bank) does not lead to investment in fossil fuels. UK aid previously ended investments in coal-fire power generation and committed to ending the funding of oil, natural gas and other coal projects.⁸³

⁸⁰ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, accessed 6 June 2022, para 18

⁸¹ IDC, [UK aid for combating climate change](#), HC1432, 2018-19, May 2018, summary

⁸² FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, accessed 6 June 2022, para 6

⁸³ Commons Library briefing, [UK aid and climate change](#), CBP9352, p20

Many multilateral development banks have continued to invest in fossil fuels,⁸⁴ and while many have pledged a change in this position both the UK Government and International Development Committee have called upon them to do more to ensure they are Paris-aligned in their spending.⁸⁵

6.2

Global health commitments

Global health challenges

- Many African countries may miss the goal to **vaccinate 70% of the world's population against Covid-19** by September 2022.⁸⁶
- 92% of countries surveyed by the World Health Organization (WHO) reported **continuing disruption to their health systems** in November-December 2021.⁸⁷
- The Global Fund on **AIDS, HIV and Malaria** says that HIV testing fell 22% in 2020, the numbers treated for drug-resistant TB by 19%, and Malaria testing by 4%. It argues Covid-19 has reversed progress in these areas, with rising HIV and TB deaths in 2020 due to the pressures the pandemic has put on health systems.⁸⁸
- An estimated **5.5 million pregnant women, new-born babies and children under five die each year**. Most of these deaths occur in the poorest countries.⁸⁹

On global health, the strategy states the UK's focus will be on:

- Investments in vaccines, therapeutics, and diagnostics to reduce the impact of Covid-19 and other diseases.
- Build stronger health systems and global health surveillance to reduce the risk of further pandemics.
- Make investments in Gavi, the vaccine alliance, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

⁸⁴ International Institute for Sustainable Development, [Fossil finance from multilateral development banks reached USD 3 billion in 2020, but coal excluded for first time ever](#), 30 March 2021

⁸⁵ Commons Library briefing, [UK aid and climate change](#), CBP9352, p26

⁸⁶ Commons Library, [Covax: Vaccinating the world against Covid-19 in 2022](#), February 2022

⁸⁷ WHO, [Essential health services face continued disruption during Covid-19 pandemic](#), February 2022, accessed 17 June 2022

⁸⁸ Global Fund, [Fight for what counts: Investment case](#) (PDF), 2022, pp4, 10

⁸⁹ FCDO, [Ending preventable deaths of mothers, babies and children by 2030](#), December 2021, accessed 17 June 2022

- Help end the preventable deaths of mothers, babies, and children.⁹⁰

Despite the strategy's intentions to focus more on bilateral commitments, the strategy says global health funds will remain "essential partners" to achieving these aims.⁹¹

From 2020 to 2020, 10% of UK aid was spent on health and related areas.⁹²

The UK's work on helping address global health threats was rated "green/amber" by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) in 2018. The ICAI said the UK's aid programme generally contributed to strengthening disease surveillance and improving the resilience of health systems.⁹³

UK pledges to the Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria

The Global Fund is due to hold its seventh replenishment in 2022, to cover the period from 2023 to 2025.⁹⁴

The UK Government has not yet announced the amount of funding it intends to commit to the seventh replenishment for the Global Fund but said it will be a "sizeable contribution that reflects our continuing commitment to fighting malaria around the world."⁹⁵

In February 2022, the Fund has called on donors to help ensure it meets its funding goal of £13.3 billion this year (US\$18 billion).

The Fund argued that this commitment is needed as the Covid-19 pandemic has meant "significant progress" in tackling the three diseases (AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) has been lost.⁹⁶

⁹⁰ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, accessed 6 June 2022, para 19

⁹¹ As above, para 38

⁹² Commons Library, [UK response to Covid-19: International aid and diplomacy](#), CBP9258 (last updated July 2021)

⁹³ ICAI, [UK's response to global health threats](#), January 2018

⁹⁴ The Global Fund, [Resource mobilization](#), accessed 23 May 2022

⁹⁵ HL Deb, [25 April 2022](#), c13

⁹⁶ The Guardian, [Increase funding or abandon hope of ending malaria, TB and AIDS, UK warned](#), 23 February 2022, accessed 23 May 2022

7

The geography of UK aid spending

By continent/region

The strategy reiterates the UK's [commitment to Africa and the Indo-Pacific](#) detailed in the integrated review:

- **UK aid to Africa** will focus on economic development, health, and climate change (including biodiversity loss). The UK will also support poverty reduction, address humanitarian need, support girl's education, and support greater openness in governments.

The UK will prioritise strategic relationships with South Africa, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Ghana, as well as fragile states

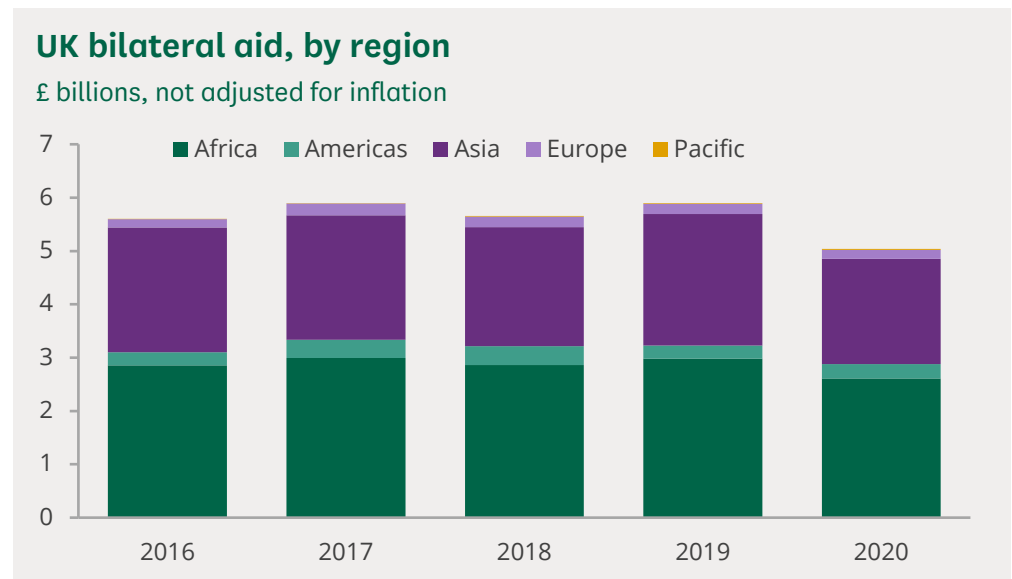
- **The Indo-Pacific region** will focus on building economic ties, humanitarian support, girls' education, and open societies.
- Across the **Middle East and Africa**, UK aid will support responses to humanitarian crises in Yemen and Syria, address security challenges, and support regional stability.
- In **Europe** (including Ukraine and the Balkans) the UK will support sustainable infrastructure, economic development, and stability
- UK aid to **Latin America and the Caribbean** will focus on climate change, biodiversity and supporting sustainable infrastructure, as well as supporting open societies.⁹⁷

Where has UK aid been spent in recent years?

For the past few years, the UK has fairly consistently given around half of its total country- or region-specific aid to Africa, as shown in the chart below.

Asia is consistently the second-largest recipient of UK bilateral aid, containing as it does some of the countries receiving the most aid from the UK: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen, among others. The overall regional proportions have shifted very little since 2016.

⁹⁷ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 45, accessed 15 June 2022



Source: FCDO, [Statistics on International Development: final UK aid spend 2020](#), 29 September 2021, table 5

Focus on least developed and low-income countries

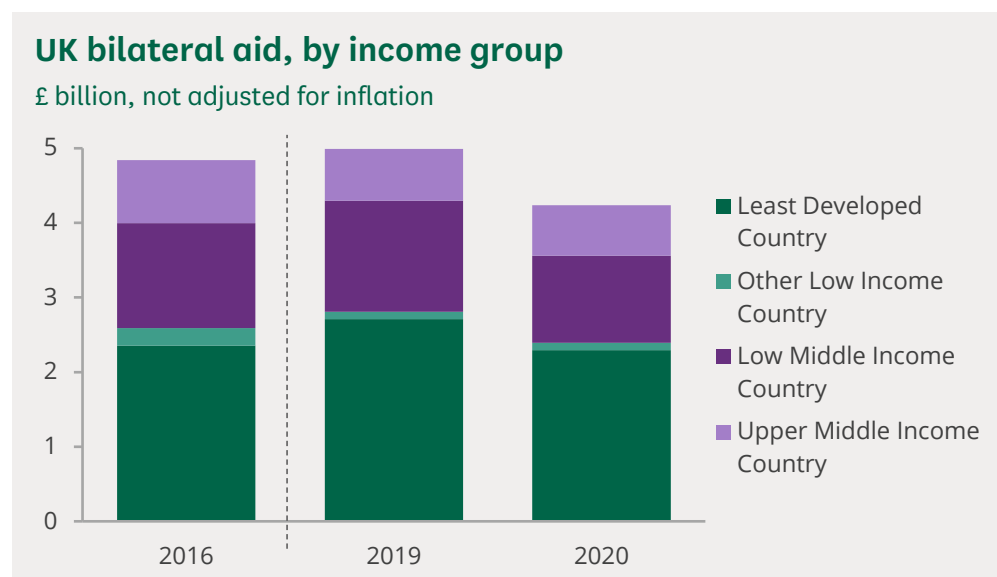
The Government will also support the global goal of providing at least 0.2% of the UK's Gross National Income to least developed countries (LDCs). The strategy commits to channelling the “majority” of UK aid to low-income countries “where there is a clear commitment to progress.”⁹⁸

There are 45 countries defined as LDCs by the UN, of which 33 are in Africa and 9 in Asia. They include Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Nepal and Yemen. They all have a per capita gross national income of less than US\$1,018 in 2021, and low scores on development indicators such as mortality ratios and adult literacy, among other factors.⁹⁹

The proportion of UK aid that goes to countries in each income group has also shifted very little since 2016, as can be seen from the chart below.

⁹⁸ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 54, accessed 15 June 2022

⁹⁹ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, [LDCs at a glance](#), accessed 15 June 2022



Source: FCDO, [Statistics on International Development: final UK aid spend 2020](#), 29 September 2021, table 7

Around half of all UK bilateral aid has gone to LDCs since 2016, with the proportion rising slightly from 49% in 2016 to 54% in 2020. The proportion of aid going to middle income countries has gone in the other direction, falling from 46% in 2016 to 43% in 2020.

The amount of bilateral aid going to LDCs in these years was well below 0.2% of Gross National Income (GNI) in each year (in each case the proportion is a little over 0.1%). This is because less than half of all UK aid can be identified with individual countries.

The strategy also commits to work in fragile and conflict affected states to address the causes of conflict. The UK will use diplomacy, sanctions, and peacekeeping to achieve this alongside aid spending.¹⁰⁰

Around a quarter of the UK's bilateral aid currently goes to countries on the World Bank's list of fragile and conflict-affected situations: £2,363 million in 2020, out of a total of £9,533 million in bilateral aid.¹⁰¹

More work in middle-income economies

The strategy also commits the UK to work more with middle-income countries to achieve global commitments such as responding effectively to climate change.

¹⁰⁰ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 54, accessed 15 June 2022

¹⁰¹ World Bank, [Classification of Fragile and Conflict-Affected Situations](#), 1 July 2021, accessed 15 June 2022

The UK seeks to collaborate on issues such as investment, trade, science and diplomacy. The Government undertakes to draw on the UK's aid budget “only as necessary” in these countries.¹⁰²

MICs have a gross national income per capita of between US\$1,046 and US\$12,695 (for 2020). They include states such as Pakistan, Vietnam, Brazil, Jamaica, China, and Turkey. 94 countries in this category are eligible for Official Development assistance under Organisation for Economic Cooperation (OECD) rules.¹⁰³

Based on previous Government statements, China is unlikely to be a significant recipient of UK aid.¹⁰⁴

¹⁰² FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 54, accessed 15 June 2022

¹⁰³ OECD, [Development Assistance Committee list of recipients for reporting on aid in 2022 and 2023](#), accessed 15 June 2022

¹⁰⁴ Commons Library, [Reducing the UK's aid spending in 2021](#), CBP 9224, p11

8 How will UK aid be delivered?

8.1 Commitment to increase bilateral spending

The Government says it will substantially rebalance its aid funding from multilateral channels (meaning international organisations) to bilateral ones (meaning funding will go directly to specific countries and programmes).

The Government argues this will allow better control of aid spending, ensure it meets the UK's priorities, and better target geopolitical partners.¹⁰⁵

By 2025, the FCDO aims for 75% of its funding allocated at the 2021 spending review to go through country programmes. It argues this will help the UK better monitor its aid spending and ensure it is focused on UK priorities.

The strategy cites the UN, global health funds, the Green Climate Fund, the World Bank, international financial institutions, and the Commonwealth as continuing “essential partners” to achieving the UK's goals.¹⁰⁶

How effective and useful are multilaterals?

The Center for Global Development (CGD) argues that multilaterals are “highly effective” at supporting countries most in need.

The UK's 2016 [review of multilaterals](#) concluded organisations such as the World Bank, Gavi, the vaccine alliance, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria were achieving “exceptional results.” It argued that multilaterals helped extend the reach of UK aid and influence.¹⁰⁷

The CGD notes that while scheduled reductions in UK contributions to the EU development budget will reduce substantially in the 2020s, [reductions will be needed elsewhere](#). It also notes that if UK aid spending is rapidly increased to meet once again the 0.7% of GNI target that multilaterals are better placed to manage large increases than bilateral programmes.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁵ [HCWS617 20th replenishment of the international development association](#), 22 February 2022

¹⁰⁶ FCDO, [The UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, paras 37-9

¹⁰⁷ DFID, [Raising the standard: The multilateral development review 2016](#), December 2021, ‘Key messages’

¹⁰⁸ CGD, [What does the UK's new development strategy mean for the UK's multilateral budget and role?](#), 30 May 2022, accessed 6 June 2022

Further sources on the UK's multilateral and bilateral spending

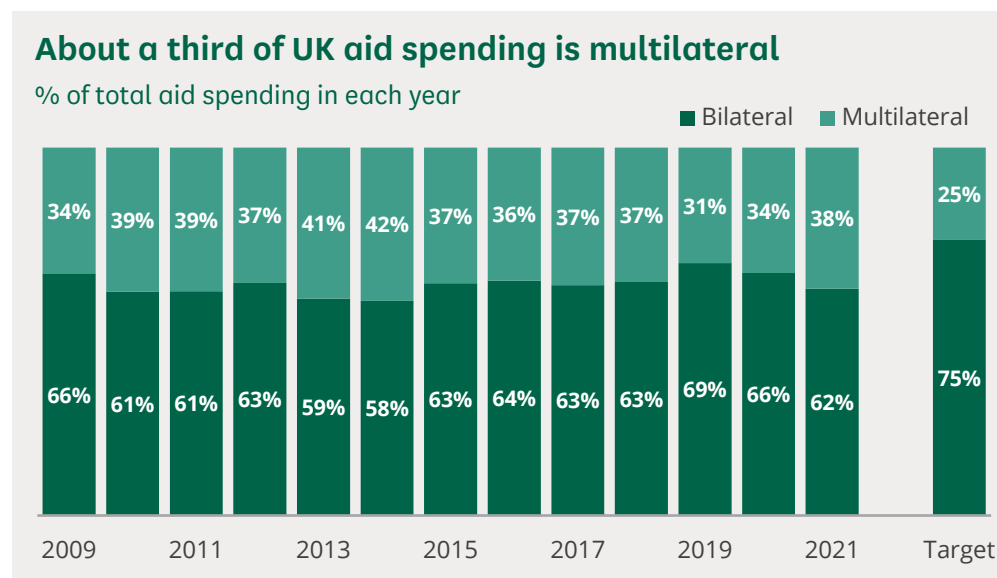
The UK Government previously undertook evaluations of its bilateral and multilateral programmes, and the individual organisations it works with:

- Department for International Development, [Rising to the challenge of ending poverty: The bilateral development review 2016](#), December 2016
- Department for International Development, [Raising the standard: The multilateral development review 2016](#), December 2016

8.2 What does this mean for multilaterals?

Currently, 68% of UK aid is spent bilaterally.¹⁰⁹ Around a third of UK aid spending consisted of contributions to the core budgets of multilateral organisations in 2020, as the chart below shows.

Some bilateral aid is also distributed via multilateral organisations, but this is counted as bilateral because the UK chooses the project or country where the money is going.



Source: FCDO, [Statistics on International Development: final UK aid spend 2020](#), 29 September 2021, table A1; [Statistics on International Development: Provisional UK Aid Spend 2021](#), 12 April 2022, table 2

To meet the 75% target, the Foreign Secretary states funding on multilaterals will decline from £3.7 billion in 2022/23 to £2.4 billion in 2024/25.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁹ IDC, [Oral evidence: Future of UK aid](#), HC 148, 2022-23, 18 May 2022, Qs 300, 302

¹¹⁰ As above, Qs 300, 302

However, if the aid budget grows and is restored to 0.7% there may be fewer changes to multilateral spending to create this 75:25 balance.

There is therefore some way to go if the Government wants only 25% of aid to be multilateral, as the proportion has not been as low as that since before 2009 at least.

Which organisations might be affected?

The FCDO says that aside from the World Bank “we have not made final choices on the allocation to particular institutions.”¹¹¹

The **World Bank’s International Development Association (IDA)** will see the UK’s contribution reduced from £3 billion (2020-2023) to £1.4 billion (2022-25)—a 54% reduction. The UK will be the third largest donor, rather than the largest.

The Foreign Secretary argues this brings the UK’s commitment into line with the share of global ODA it contributes.¹¹²

The World Bank’s IDA was recently found by the UK’s ICAI to offer “good value for money” and representing “strong alignment” with UK aid priorities.¹¹³

What did the 2021 reductions mean for multilaterals?

Final aid spending figures for 2021 will be confirmed in September 2022.

Reductions

Based on press releases, multilaterals working on health issues that reported reduced UK funding included:

- **UN Population Fund (UNFPA)** says it saw UK funding reduced by 85% in 2021 (£154 million to £23 million).¹¹⁴

¹¹¹ IDC, [Oral evidence: Future of UK aid](#), HC 148, 2022-23, 18 May 2022, Q307

¹¹² [HCWS617 20th replenishment of the international development association](#), 22 February 2022; World Bank, [Replenishments](#), accessed 31 May 2022

¹¹³ ICAI, [UK aid channelled through World Bank’s IDA provides good value for money](#), 31 May 2022, accessed 5 June 2022

¹¹⁴ UN, [UK’s 85% family planning aid cut will be devastating for women and girls says UNFPA \[...\]](#), 29 April 2021, accessed 5 June 2022

- **UN AIDS** said the UK reduced funding by 80% in 2021 (£15 million to £2.5 million).¹¹⁵
- The **Global Polio Eradication Initiative** saw funding reduced by 95% in 2021 (from a planned £100 million to £5 million).¹¹⁶

Increases

Some health-focused organisations have seen an increase:

- The **World Health Organization** is expected to see the UK's core contributions increase, to total £340 million from 2020 to 2024.¹¹⁷
- **Gavi**, the vaccine alliance, will see an increase of UK funding, to total £1.65 billion over the period 2021 to 2025.¹¹⁸

Further reading on reductions in UK aid spending

The Commons Library, [Reducing the UK's aid spending in 2021](#), section 3 describes changes in spending on specific countries and programmes.

¹¹⁵ UN, [UK's 85% family planning aid cut will be devastating for women and girls says UNFPA \[...\]](#), 29 April 2021, accessed 5 June 2022

¹¹⁶ Devex, [UK cuts polio funding by 95%](#), accessed 5 June 2022

¹¹⁷ WHO, [UK: Partner in global health](#), accessed 31 May 2022

¹¹⁸ Gavi, [Donor profiles: UK](#), accessed 31 May 2022

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