



DEBATE PACK

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UK relations with West African countries

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The proceedings of this debate can be watched on Parliamentlive.tv

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

1. Summary

UK relations with West African countries are as varied as the region itself. Historically, ties have been much closer with the 'Anglophone' countries, rather than their 'Francophone' counterparts. This remains broadly true today, although the UK also has plenty invested in the future of Francophone countries like Mali and Cote d'Ivoire. One thing which all West African countries have in common is an interest in what the (as yet unclear) [implications of Brexit](#) will be for the UK's development policies and programmes.

Members participating in this debate might wish to discuss a host of issues under this heading, but amongst those which might justify consideration are:

- The trajectory of the political crisis in The Gambia, which is [coming to a head](#) at the time of writing, and the country's future prospects
- The continuing [struggle](#) of President Muhammadu Buhari to get on top of the multi-dimensional challenges he and Nigeria faces
- Ongoing [security challenges](#) in Mali (and the Sahel as a whole), where efforts to defeat *jihadi* groups are still some way from success
- Amidst army mutinies, how robust Cote d'Ivoire's [recovery](#) really is following the bitter civil war there
- Ghana's recent [peaceful transition](#) from one president to another following December 2016 elections
- [Post-Ebola](#) recovery efforts in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea
- The [achievements](#) and ([failures?](#)) of regional political and economic cooperation under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States

For general information about UK policy in specific West African countries, google "UK and [ADD NAME OF COUNTRY]."

For information about UK aid to specific West African countries, see the government website '[Development Tracker](#)'.

For BBC country profiles, click on this [link](#).

2. Press Articles

The following is a selection of recent press and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or accuracy of external content.

The Guardian

Jammeh asks for extension of deadline to give way to successor

20 January 2017

Ruth Maclean

Jollofnews

45,000 Gambian Refugees Arrived In Senegal

20 January 2017

Reuters

Gunfire erupts in Ivory Coast second port city of San Pedro

18 January 2017

Ange Aboa

Washington Post

Truck bomb kills 50 pro-government fighters in northern Mali

18 January 2017

Kevin Sieff

Human Rights Watch

Mali: Islamist Group Abuses, Banditry Surge

18 January 2017

New York Times

Gambia Shudders as Defeated Leader Tightens Grip Before Inauguration

18 January 2017

Jaime Yaya Barry and Dionne Searcey

BBC News Online

Thomas Cook holidaymakers to be flown out of The Gambia

18 January 2017

Global Trade Review

UKEF backs Ghana offshore gas project

18 January 2017

Sanne Wass

BBC News Online

Nigeria air strike error kills dozens in refugee camp

17 January 2017

BBC News Online

The Gambia's president declares state of emergency

17 January 2017

Daily Telegraph

West African states prepare to invade Gambia to force Yahya Jammeh to hand power to president-elect Adama Barrow

16 January 2017

Adrian Blomfield,

BBC News Online

Gambia President-elect Barrow 'to stay in Senegal until inauguration'

15 January 2017

UN News Centre

Amid progress in West Africa and the Sahel, UN envoy warns of region's political challenges

13 January 2017

Deutsche Welle

Sahel trade routes: Arms, people and drugs

13 January 2017

Ghana Business News

Ghana ratifies Trade Facilitation Agreement – WTO

4 January 2017

Emmanuel K. Dogbevi

HIS Jane's 360

Attack in Burkina Faso likely to deter investors and indicates new Sahel jihadist hotspot in 2017

28 December 2016

Corinne Archer

Guardian

Ebola vaccine is safe and effective, scientists declare after trials

22 December 2016

Sarah Boseley

Washington Post

Ghana shows a troubling willingness to accept political corruption, our recent survey shows

21 December 2016

Nic Cheeseman, Gabrielle Lynch and Justin Willis

African Business

The weekend read – Africa after Brexit: Trading up or trading down?

10 December 2016

David Thomas

Financial Times

Akufo-Addo wins Ghana presidential election

10 December 2016

David Pilling

The Guardian

Money from Nigeria laundered in UK 'should go to helping starving children'

2 December 2016

Sarah Boseley

African Business

UK Aid Lighting Up Rural Sierra Leone

1 December 2016

The Guardian

Ex-child soldiers to sue UK firm that hired them to be mercenaries in Iraq

18 November 2016

Alice Ross

The Guardian

Brexit could cost poorest countries £320m a year, warn economists

12 September 2016

Kate Hodal

BBC News Online

What does Brexit mean for Africa?

24 June 2016

Matthew Davies

Premium Times

How Britain's exit from EU will affect Nigeria

24 June 2016

Finance & Development (IMF)

After Ebola

June 2016

Amanda Glassman

The Nation

UK Boosts Nigeria's Anti-Terror Campaign With N14bn

14 May 2016

Daily Telegraph

Nigeria using UK aid to persecute president's political foes rather to fight Boko Haram

12 April 2016

Con Coughlin

The Guardian (Nigeria)

Strengthening Nigeria-UK trade relations

28 September 2015

Tope Templer Olaiya

The Independent

Tony Blair in Africa: How the former prime minister went to war against Ebola, and won the adoration of Sierra Leone

12 June 2015

Evgeny Lebedev

3. PQs

International Assistance

16 Jan 2017 | 58862

Asked by: Patrick Grady

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what her Department's priority countries are; and which of her Department's country offices will receive reduced support following her Department's recent policy reviews.

Answering member: Rory Stewart | Department for International Development

As the Bilateral Development Review set out, DFID is increasing investment in fragile states and countries emerging from conflict, and significantly scaling up support for the Middle East. We are focussing more strongly on the Sahel, alongside our work in northern Nigeria, Somalia and other countries in the 'arc of instability' in Africa.

DFID's allocations are continually reviewed to ensure development assistance is used most effectively to achieve poverty reduction in the national interest and responds to changing global needs. Planned programme allocations for 2016/17 and 2017/18 in the countries where we currently have direct activities were published in DFID's 2015/16 Annual Report.

Gambia: Elections

09 Jan 2017 | 58438

Asked by: Hilary Benn

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what representations he has made to the President of The Gambia on (a) the outcome of the election and (b) protection of democratic rights in that country; and if he will make a statement.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

I spoke directly to the President-elect, Mr Adama Barrow, to congratulate him on his victory and to offer the UK's support. We are deeply concerned by President Jammeh's recent rejection of the elections' clear and legitimate result and strongly condemn any attempt to disrupt the peaceful, constitutional transfer of power. I also condemned President Jammeh's refusal to accept the results in a statement on 14 December. We welcome the clear, unified statement of the UN Security Council on 10 December, as well as the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States to impress on President Jammeh the need to respect the will of the people and ensure a peaceful handover of power.

West Africa: Peace Negotiations

19 Dec 2016 | 56879

Asked by: Stephen Gethins

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, what assistance his Department provides towards helping the peace process in the Mano River region.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

My Department plays a leading role in a cross-Government effort to strengthen governance, development, prosperity and security across the four countries of the Mano River Union: Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Her Majesty's Government also pays United Nations assessed contributions to peacekeeping missions in the region. The UK is also the largest bilateral donor in the post-Ebola recovery programme in Sierra Leone. As a result of UK support considerable progress has been achieved. Sierra Leone's armed forces now participate in peacekeeping deployments in other African countries. The UN peacekeeping missions in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia have been successful. The mission in the former will close in June 2017 and the Security Council will decide on the latter's future this month.

Gambia: Elections

16 Dec 2016 | 57395

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, whether he has discussed the outcome of the Gambian general election with the (a) UK's permanent representative, (b) Chinese Ambassador, (c) US Ambassador, (d) Russian Ambassador and (e) French Ambassador to the UN.

Answering member: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

We welcome the clear, unified statement of the UN Security Council on 10 December calling for the Gambian election results to be respected, as well as the efforts of Economic Community Of West African States to impress on President Jammeh the need to respect the will of the people and ensure a peaceful handover of power to President-elect Barrow. The UK is working with all international partners at the UN to ensure the democratic will of the Gambian people is enacted in a peaceful manner. The UK's permanent representative to the UN is engaged on the current situation in The Gambia.

Sierra Leone: Politics and Government

29 Nov 2016 | 53883

Asked by: Catherine West

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment she has made of the humanitarian situation in Sierra Leone.

Answering member: James Wharton | Department for International Development

The Secretary of State recently returned from Sierra Leone and saw first-hand that although the Ebola crisis has ended, the country faces major development challenges, including some of the worst child and infant mortality rates in the world.

Ebola has made these challenges worse and reversed, for example, much of the progress in health made since the civil war, with high numbers of health staff dying and sharp falls in essential services, such as treatment of malaria and immunisation. UK support is helping the Government of Sierra Leone to build up better health services and save lives, ensure children get a better education, increase access to water and sanitation, and lay the groundwork for increased economic development.

Our cross-government response to the 2014/15 Ebola crisis saved lives and stopped the outbreak decimating development in Sierra Leone. Halting the disease in West Africa was the single most important way of preventing Ebola from infecting people in the UK.

Nigeria: Food**28 Nov 2016 | 54212****Asked by: Stephen Gethins**

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what steps her Department is taking to raise awareness of the food security crisis in northern Nigeria.

Answering member: James Wharton | Department for International Development

The UK has taken a leading role in raising awareness of the Boko Haram conflict which has left 5.8 million people food insecure in North-East Nigeria.

In September 2016, the UK announced a further £80 million of humanitarian funding which will meet the needs of more than a million people in North-East Nigeria this year. We have persistently raised awareness with the Government of Nigeria, other donors and with agencies of the UN, such as the World Food Programme.

Sahel/Northern Nigeria**16 Nov 2016 | 617 cc219-221****Asked by: Jeremy Lefroy**

What recent assessment her Department has made of the humanitarian situation in the Sahel and Northern Nigeria.

Answered by: Priti Patel | International Development

This year we have significantly increased our support, providing a further £80 million of humanitarian aid to support more than 9 million people affected across the region. I can assure my hon. Friend that we

are working to tackle poverty and the crisis in the region at source, rather than waiting for the consequences to reach us domestically.

Asked by: Jeremy Lefroy

There are more than 2.6 million displaced people in the area, 6.4 million people are facing food insecurity, and a public health emergency has been declared in four countries, together with the Central African Republic, in response to a polio outbreak, yet United Nations appeals are only one third funded or less. What more can the UK Government do to bring this crisis to the world's attention?

Answered by: Priti Patel | International Development

My hon. Friend is right to draw attention to an appalling situation facing the region, and more must be done to meet the humanitarian needs. The UN needs that help to increase its capacity and develop. As to what more can be done, we encourage Governments across the world in the donor community to step up their contributions, just as we have, because the humanitarian response required must be funded now. With my hon. Friend and with the UK Government, we are challenging everyone to step up and do more.

Asked by: Kate Osamor

I welcome the Government's additional £80 million committed at the UN General Assembly for the humanitarian crisis. This goes some way towards addressing the imbalance between development assistance and humanitarian aid. However, relief agencies are unable to reach up to 2 million people in north-east Nigeria. Can the Minister provide an update on how her Department is leading an effective, strong UN-led response while also ensuring that DFID funding goes to a range of actors, including by channelling more funding bilaterally through non-Government organisations?

Answered by: Priti Patel | International Development

I thank the hon. Lady for raising the issue. She is right. In addition to addressing the emergency humanitarian needs, DFID is investing in partnership working—yes, at a bilateral level, but also through the multilateral organisations that we are working with. Long-term resilience, support and capacity building are required. Our humanitarian programme is laying the foundations for these long-term outcomes through, for example, social transfers and access to health services, and importantly, focusing on the right interventions that can both help in the long term and provide the emergency relief required now.

Asked by: Dame Caroline Spelman

The UK has excellent links through the Anglican Communion to the Churches in Nigeria. Would the Secretary of State welcome the willingness of the Churches to help with the humanitarian situation to address some of the underlying causes, particularly corruption?

Answered by: Priti Patel | International Development

My right hon. Friend is right about the power and the support of the Anglican community and Churches in Nigeria in particular. We have to work with grassroots organisations and religious organisations as well. We welcome the support and the focus on capacity building in

particular, and the awareness-raising that is required on many of these challenging issues.

Asked by: James Duddridge

Aid without security in northern Nigeria is meaningless. I welcome the deployment of British troops to support the Nigerians in the north-east. Will the Secretary of State review official development assistance rules to make sure that that type of deployment is ODA-eligible for the people of northern Nigeria?

Answered by: Priti Patel | International Development

My hon. Friend will be clear about ODA rules from his previous role in the Foreign Office. He highlights the importance of a united and strategic approach, which can be seen in the UK's work to support the Nigerian Government in their overall undertaking. The cross-Government work that is taking place is the right approach to tackle the severe issues that Nigeria is trying to cope with.

Asked by: Nigel Evans

Looking at the immunisation of children in northern Nigeria, it appears that the coverage is very thin. In the past, some of the figures for coverage have been shown to be completely false. Can the Department work with the Government of Nigeria to ensure that there is total transparency, and work more with NGOs to ensure that more children are immunised throughout northern Nigeria?

Answered by: Priti Patel | International Development

My hon. Friend is right about the importance of immunising children. I recognise the outstanding work that the agencies undertake in very difficult conditions as they try to reach communities to immunise children. More data and more transparency are needed, and we are driving much of that data transparency requirement through the support that we provide to organisations on the ground delivering those vital immunisations.

Africa (Economic Development)

16 Nov 2016 617 cc225-226

Asked by: Andrew Bridgen

What steps her Department is taking to promote economic development in Africa.

Answered by: Priti Patel | International Development

Last month in Kenya, I saw the life-saving impact of UK aid on the ground when it comes to combating drought, hunger and disease. I also saw how innovation can not only result in UK aid reaching more people, but help people to look at the long-term economic opportunities to tackle poverty and bring economic growth.

Asked by: Andrew Bridgen

Does my right hon. Friend agree that working in partnership with Governments, businesses and investors around the world to transform economies and trading relationships, particularly in developing

countries, should be a vital part of our UK diplomatic effort and our long-term prosperity strategy, especially as we approach Brexit?

Answered by: Priti Patel | International Development

My hon. Friend is absolutely right. No country can defeat poverty without economic growth. Jobs, trade and investment are central to that, and the United Kingdom will be at the forefront of championing economic development and helping the poorest in the world to work their way out of poverty.

Asked by: Chi Onwurah

The current inquiry by the all-party group on Africa into trade and economic development has highlighted the critical role of agriculture and agribusiness in supporting economic development, and the importance that many African Governments place on that. What is the Department doing specifically to support that and to encourage British manufacturing to support Africa's growing agribusiness?

Answered by: Priti Patel | International Development

I am delighted that the hon. Lady raises these important sectors. She is right to do so, because of the youth dividend across Africa and the enormous potential for those sectors. DFID is leading the way when it comes to agri-development and investing through CDC and other organisations. British firms are playing a strategic role here, too. This comes back to the point that no country can defeat poverty without economic growth, and these are the core sectors that are crucial to the delivery of prosperity and jobs across Africa.

Asked by: Pauline Latham

Economic development in Africa is very reliant on tourism. What does the Secretary of State feel about the continued slaughter of elephants and the fact that it will have a devastating effect on the tourist business?

Answered by: Priti Patel | International Development

My hon. Friend raises a very important and controversial issue. The protection of wildlife in Africa is a priority for the Government, and we have a strategy to address it. Tourism is of course important across Africa. I have visited not just Kenya, but Sierra Leone, another country that needs to get back to investing in tourism, and that is something we can help with in the long run.

Asked by: Gregory Campbell

What steps is the Secretary of State taking to ensure that UK taxpayers are reassured about the way in which our money is spent, and that accountability mechanisms are in place to ensure proper value for money?

Answered by: Priti Patel | International Development

The hon. Gentleman is right to raise the whole issue of value for money, which we in DFID will champion on behalf of British taxpayers. It is right that money goes to the right countries and the right people, because every pound that is not spent in the right way means that people do not get access to life-saving treatment or poverty reduction. Our mission in

the Department is to ensure that we can eradicate poverty, but also to make sure that the money goes exactly where it needs to go.

Sierra Leone: Overseas Aid

16 Nov 2016 | 907184

Asked by: Wendy Morton

To ask the Secretary of State for International Development, what recent assessment her Department has made of development needs in Sierra Leone.

Answering member: Priti Patel | Department for International Development

I have just returned from Sierra Leone where I saw first-hand the scale of the development challenges, and the essential leadership role that the UK is playing in tackling them. Our cross-HMG response to the 2014/15 Ebola crisis was instrumental in bringing the epidemic under control. Since then the UK has pledged £240 million to Sierra Leone's two year post-Ebola recovery agenda, which is saving lives, ensuring children get a better education and laying the groundwork for increased economic development.

Sierra Leone: Health Services

31 Oct 2016 | HL2351

Asked by: Baroness Tonge

To ask Her Majesty's Government what progress has been made in setting up a coordinated and effective health care system in Sierra Leone, following the Ebola outbreak.

Answering member: Lord Bates | Department for International Development

DFID is supporting the President's Recovery Plan (PRP) that focuses on delivering its two health priorities to strengthen Sierra Leone's health system post Ebola. They are:

- (i) Prevent, detect and respond to epidemics to ensure zero cases of Ebola. DFID is providing £38.5million to support epidemic preparedness in the country by strengthening disease surveillance, laboratory services, maintaining a rapid deployable treatment centre and monitoring Ebola survivors. This programme has been operational since December 2015 and will finish in December 2017.
- (ii) Saving the Lives of 600 women and 5,000 children. DFID is providing £150million over five years (2016 – 2021) to support the Government's saving lives target by June 2017 and then increase the availability and quality of Reproductive Maternal Neonatal Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) services by 2021. This is being done by equipping emergency obstetric centres, providing adolescent reproductive health services, increasing the availability of skilled health workers and by providing bed nets and free medicines to mothers and children. This programme commenced implementation this month.

Each health priority has a clearly defined work plan with milestones and is coordinated by the Ministry of Health. Progress against the milestones is monitored and reported weekly with the President reviewing progress each fortnight. District surveillance reports are submitted weekly to track the incidence of notifiable diseases (such as Ebola, Cholera and Lassa fever), detect clusters of unexplained deaths and trigger immediate investigation. In addition DFID is engaging in the longer term planning to strengthen Sierra Leone's health system, including the development of a five year RMNCAH strategy.

Trade with Africa

18 Oct 2016 | 615 c662

Asked by: Mike Wood

From the Gambia to South Africa, the Commonwealth offers great potential for expanding trade with Africa. Will the Minister make sure that we make full use of those opportunities to secure trade deals and get exporting to those emerging economies?

Answered by: Tobias Ellwood | Foreign and Commonwealth Office

When trade opportunities arise, it is not simply just having companies that want to work there, it is also the element of trust that exists between the two nations. Our legacy, heritage and history—and the trust that exists—are exactly what we need to leverage, as well as the wonderful companies that we have to provide support across a wide range of sectors.

4. Other Parliamentary material

4.1 Debates

Chibok Schoolgirls

8 Sep 2016 | Vol 614, cc223-52WH

Foreign Aid Expenditure

13 Jun 2016 | 611 cc271-2WH

4.2 Early Day Motions

Anti-slavery activists in Mauritania

EDM 856 (Session: 2016-17)

11 January 2017

That this House is dismayed by reports of the continued persecution of anti-slavery activists in Mauritania; is concerned about the welfare of anti-slavery activists who remain in jail following an appeal hearing in November 2016 further to the conviction of 13 anti-slavery activists in August 2016; notes that anti-slavery NGOs have been prevented from registering which has resulted in activists belonging to or representing them being at continual risk of arrest; further notes also that a case taken by two formerly enslaved children from Mauritania to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child is currently being heard; exhorts the Mauritanian government to release all anti-slavery activists from prison immediately and unconditionally to end their persecution and to allow anti-slavery organisations such as the NGO Initiative for the Resurgence of the Abolitionist Movement to register; encourages the Mauritanian government and all organs of state to ensure slavery is finally eradicated, including by implementing its domestic and international law; and calls on the Government to do more to end slavery and related practices in Mauritania, including by strengthening the UK's official presence in that country and by advising UK companies seeking to invest there of the dangers of becoming complicit in exploitative working practices.

Human rights in the Gambia

EDM 359 (session 2016-17)

19 Jul 2016

Anne McLaughlin

That this House is very concerned about the situation in the Gambia with the continuing crack-down on freedom of expression, assembly and association, illustrated by the death in April of Solo Sandeng, Secretary of the opposition United Democratic Party, after being detained for participating in a protest in Banjul; is dismayed by reports

of President Jammeh's recent comments, including his reference to the opposition as vermin and threats to bury them nine feet deep, and his threats to eliminate the Mandinka ethnic group; notes that the UN Special Advisor, on the Prevention of Genocide has expressed profound alarm at President Jammeh's public stigmatisation and dehumanisation of the Mandinka, and highlighted that hate speech constituting incitement to violence can be both a warning sign and a powerful trigger for atrocity crimes; further notes that President Jammeh has created a climate of fear since he seized power in a coup in 1994, resulting in thousands of Gambians fleeing the country; fears that repression could increase in the run-up to the Presidential elections scheduled at the end of 2016; and calls on the UK Government, together with the international community, to condemn the actions of the Jammeh Government, to seriously consider imposing punitive measures on President Jammeh and leading members of his regime, to secure support for a Special Rapporteur on the Gambia at the UN Human Rights Council, and to do more to assist and protect civil society in the Gambia.

5. Gov.uk

The end of the Ebola epidemic **Department for International Development** **15 January 2016**

The World Health Organisation declares the widespread Ebola crisis in West Africa is over.

Today, (14 January 2016) the [World Health Organisation](#) has declared Liberia free of Ebola.

It puts an end to the widespread outbreak in West Africa, with Liberia joining Guinea and Sierra Leone to go 42 days without a new case - which is double the incubation time of the virus.

It also marks an end to the world's worst outbreak of the disease, which killed over 11,300 people in West Africa alone and with cases reaching around the globe to the US and Europe.

UPDATE - 15 January 2016

A new case of Ebola has emerged in Sierra Leone, according to the [World Health Organisation](#). Small-scale flare-ups like this are to be expected. With the Ebola epidemic at large over, we will continue to work with Sierra Leone to prevent such recurrences becoming another widespread crisis.

The UK led the international response to the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone, committing £427 million to ending the epidemic.

Britain worked alongside the US, who led global efforts in Liberia, and France who focussed international support on Guinea.

Development Secretary Justine Greening said:

This is a huge milestone for West Africa which is now free from Ebola for the first time in over 2 years thanks to an unprecedented global response.

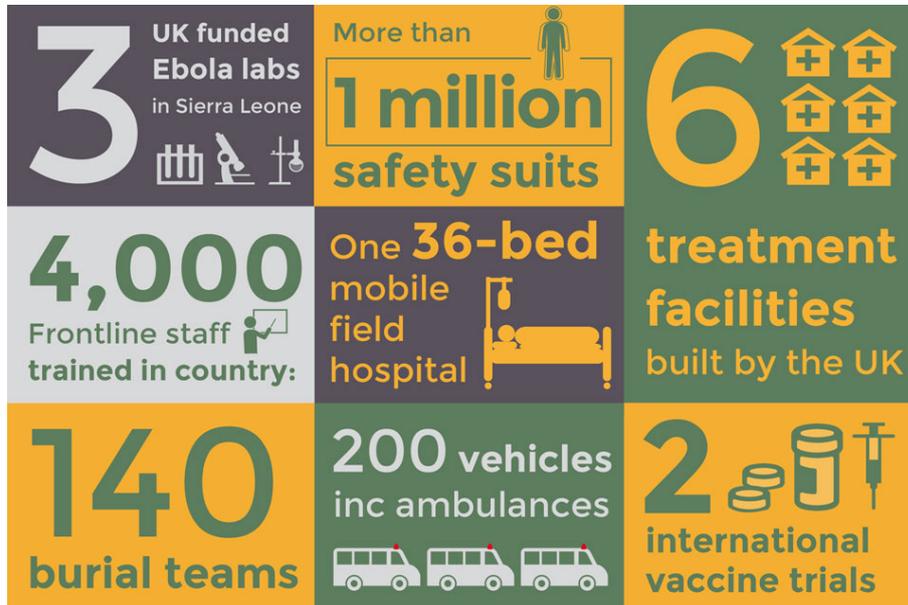
Britain led the fight against this devastating disease in Sierra Leone, and I am hugely proud of our brave medics, scientists, military and aid workers who worked tirelessly and put their lives on the line. Their efforts saved thousands of lives in West Africa and helped protect the UK from an epidemic that was only ever a plane ride away.

Sierra Leone has made tremendous progress in tackling the outbreak and we will continue to stand by them. By strengthening health systems, funding vaccine trials and working with survivors we are helping the country get back on its feet and prepare for future crises, so it can look ahead to a brighter future.

More than 250 UK aid staff worked on the crisis. Over 1,500 British military personnel were deployed to Sierra Leone to help oversee the

construction of six UK-funded treatment centres, and trained over 4,000 Sierra Leonean and international healthcare workers.

The UK also deployed over 150 NHS volunteers who worked on the frontline to support over 1,500 treatment and isolation beds – more than half of all the beds available for Ebola patients in the country.



Infographic: Ricci Coughlan/DFID

Director General of the World Health Organisation, Dr Margaret Chan said:

“So much was needed and so much was accomplished by national authorities, heroic health workers, civil society, local and international organizations and generous partners. But our work is not done and vigilance is necessary to prevent new outbreaks.”

Time to rebuild

Britain will help Sierra Leone to get people back in business, improve healthcare and get children back to school.

The UK has committed a total of £240 million to support Sierra Leone’s recovery over the next 2 years, of which a portion will be focused on building resilience and preparedness for future outbreaks.

Our ongoing support for Sierra Leone includes:

- Help for over 4,000 Ebola survivors, who face ongoing health problems and potential stigmatisation. The UK is contributing towards a safe and usable Ebola vaccine for future use, as well as medical advice and counselling for survivors.
- Support for the long-term recovery of Sierra Leone, including rebuilding the health system to improve sanitation and access to healthcare, as well as developing the education system to allow schools to reopen safely and catch up on lost time.

- Early recovery of the private sector by helping promising medium-sized businesses in Sierra Leone escape the country's current economic slump, restart growth and create jobs.

Feature: Life After Ebola - [see the full story](#)

Cash transfers: Help for those who need it most
Department for International Development
11 January 2017

See the programmes and people supported through a range of UK aid cash transfer programmes – helping to tackle poverty and contribute to a wider range of development outcomes.

Despite good progress in recent years, the number of people living in extreme poverty globally remains unacceptably high. Far too many people in the world's poorest countries are unable to meet their most basic needs, such as food, clothing and shelter, and cannot afford to send their children to school and pay for medicines.

Why cash transfers?

Cash transfers are an effective way of directly helping some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world, and are good value for money. They form small, regular payments which are increasingly paid through secure electronic systems, such as directly into bank accounts, mobile phone accounts or on smart cards. They empower the poorest and most vulnerable people to make their own decisions, and enable them to spend it in their own communities. Money can be withdrawn and spent when needed, saved up, or practically invested in things like livestock.

Value for money

Cash transfers empower the poorest and most vulnerable people to make their own decisions about what they need most, and enable them to spend it in their own communities.

Directly giving people small amounts of money means they can spend it on things they need most, such as food, clean water, medicine, or school costs. This cuts waste, delivers value for money for UK taxpayers and makes the cash go further.

Reducing poverty and increasing resilience

Although cash transfers are aimed at providing immediate relief and reducing poverty, they eventually contribute to increasing resilience of poor households through better management of risks and shocks. Through cash transfers people can afford basic health care, more nutritious food and schooling, and help the poorest children grow up healthier and better educated.

Cash transfers also help poor families to save and invest small amounts in livestock and other productive assets so that they can cope better when shocks hit, such as natural disasters, illness or a death in the family.

Reaching the most vulnerable and Leaving no-one behind

Cash transfers are an effective way to help the most vulnerable, including older people, vulnerable children and people with disabilities. They can empower girls and women, increasing the decision-making power women have in the household, and strengthen their choices about fertility, such as adolescents being able to delay sexual debut and marriage.

DFID supports a range of cash transfer programmes in the countries it works in, including social protection and humanitarian schemes.

[Relevant extracts]

Nigeria: Tackling poverty and malnutrition

In Nigeria, the UK is supporting cash transfers which are aimed at tackling poverty, hunger, and malnutrition in children. In northern Nigeria, where 77% of the population lives in poverty and over half of children under 5 are stunted, UK aid is helping reduce infant mortality and enabling women to provide for their families.

Pregnant women and women with children under the age of 2 are given monthly cash transfers, ensuring that poor families are able to eat regular meals. UK aid has accompanied the cash transfers with nutritional education, advice and counselling to reduce the prevalence of stunting among under-5s in poor households.

UK support is ensuring 110,000 mothers will have the resources and knowledge to provide a balanced and healthy diet for their young children, improving their health, development and learning potential.

Sierra Leone Jungle Training Underlines Britain's role in Africa Ministry of Defence 7 January 2017

Defence Secretary announces the training of UK Armed Forces alongside Sierra Leonean troops for the first time ever. From the jungles of Sierra Leone to the shores of the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean, Britain has stepped up its support to Africa. Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon has underlined the breadth of UK contribution across the continent, and has now announced the training of UK Armed Forces alongside Sierra Leonean troops for the first time ever.

Nearly 90 soldiers from 1st The Queen's Dragoons Guards' 'B' Squadron recently deployed alongside 25 soldiers from the Republic of Sierra Leone Armed Forces for a jungle exercise to learn the skills to live and fight in this environment.

UK focus on military support to Africa is strong, and two-thirds of Britain's entire global short-term training team effort is invested in the continent, which equates to around 18,000 man days of training per year.

Defence Secretary Sir Michael Fallon said:

Training with Sierra Leonean forces is just the latest example of the UK stepping up globally to tackle international threats that put Britain at risk.

Backed by Britain's rising Defence budget and by working with allies in Africa, Britain's armed forces can help ensure stability in the region which helps to deliver security at home in the UK.

At sea, the UK has sent Royal Navy ships to support Operation Sophia in the Mediterranean, focused on tackling human smugglers and arms traffickers who endanger the lives of migrants seeking to travel to Europe, often from northern Africa.

Since 2015, this has included the deployment of HMS Bulwark, HMS Enterprise, HMS Echo, HMS Diamond, HMS Richmond and RFA Mounts Bay, and UK ships have saved nearly 15,000 of the 31,000 migrants rescued during the operation, as well as constricting the activity of criminal gangs.

[...]

In Nigeria, British troops continue to train Nigeria Armed Forces fighting Boko Haram. Over 350 British troops deployed to Nigeria in 2016 in support of the resident British Military Advisory and Training Team, including a 70-strong team from the RAF Regiment to help train its Nigerian counterpart, the largest Short Term Training Team the UK has sent to Nigeria to date.

In total, around 22,000 Nigerian military personnel have been trained since April 2015, underlining the scale of UK support. This follows the Defence Secretary's announcement last year of a doubling of UK personnel to train Nigerian forces, and Britain has also recently provided life-saving medical supplies to equip 5,000 Nigerian troops as they take on the extremist group.

[...]

Sir Michael added:

Wherever terrorism rears its ugly head, Britain will continue to back our friends as they work to defeat threats posed by these barbaric groups, including Daesh, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab.

By helping our allies defeat terrorism and international crime around the world, our Armed Forces make the world more stable making Britain more secure and our streets safer.

[...]

The UK contribution in Africa also involves working alongside other international partners. This includes joint maritime support, sharing ideas and intelligence, and, following the Amiens Summit in March, the UK provides a monthly C-17 flight to French forces in the Sahel, which will continue through to spring 2017.

Persistent Defence Engagement underpins the UK's relationship with our partners in Africa. Last month the Defence Secretary announced a new British Defence Staff (BDS) for West Africa, based in Abuja, in addition to BDSs in the Gulf and Asia Pacific.

The BDS West Africa will act as a regional hub for the UK's Defence efforts. This will include engaging with Nigeria and other countries

around the Lake Chad Basin, focusing in particular on the transnational threats from Boko Haram terrorists.

There are 16 Defence Sections across Africa, which cover 40 countries. This includes a new Defence Section in Senegal, covering the Sahel. The UK also has an enduring footprint in several nations, through resident military training teams in Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and South Africa.

**UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy Adam Afriyie, MP visits Ghana
British High Commission Accra
5 January 2017**

Adam Afriyie, UK Trade Envoy will be attending Ghana's inauguration as well as promote existing trade relations.

On behalf of Her Majesty's government, the UK Prime Minister's Trade Envoy to Ghana Adam Afriyie will attend the Inauguration of the Republic of Ghana's President- elect Nana Akufo- Addo on January 7th 2017.

His visit will strengthen and promote the existing trade relations between the two countries – putting partnership at the center of bilateral relations.

Alongside meeting key members of the incoming administration, he will see members of the newly founded UK-Ghana Chamber of Commerce (UKGCC), leading businesses in Ghana, and infrastructure experts to discuss how the UK can support Ghana to achieve its infrastructure development goals. Ghana is the UK's fourth largest export market in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In 2015 bilateral trade of goods and services totalled £1.082 billion. To help accelerate economic growth, Ghana aims to attract more foreign investment. The UK is supporting this: through our UK in Ghana agenda, the UK's overarching aim is to support economic and business reform to drive growth in Ghana. British businesses see Ghana as a valuable investment base in West Africa and many flagship UK companies are flourishing in Ghana, operating across multiple sectors.

During his five day visit (5th-9th January) Mr Afriyie will chair discussions focused on a deeper partnership centres on "UK expertise and Ghanaian capability". The visit will help foster an even stronger relationship with the business community in Ghana. The UK is a global center of excellence in many areas including: architecture; digital technologies and professional services such as cyber security; fintech and general consultancy services; academia; healthcare; renewable energy; and Oil and Gas and mining supply chain.

Ghanaian domestic businesses who partner with UK businesses stand to benefit from skills and technology transfer, economies of scale and access to innovative technologies. As the new Ghanaian Government takes office, the UK aims to continue to be a crucial partner in advancing economic development in Ghana. Healthy businesses bring

vital investment, create jobs and contribute to Ghana's tax base, which can better enable the government to deliver essential public services.

Note to editors

UK-Ghana Chamber of Commerce

Established in 2016, the UK - Ghana Chamber of Commerce (UKGCC) was launched to facilitate and promote the ever increasing need for collaboration between SME's and large multi-national corporations operating in the UK and Ghana. The UKGCC aims to act as a unique resource and robust organisation made up of local experts and professionals that will be the voice for British Businesses looking to access and engage with the Ghanaian market whilst providing assistance to Ghanaian companies investing in the UK. At the heart of the UKGCC we champion the idea of partnerships and enhancing professional relationships between the UK and Ghana with a strong focus on increasing bilateral trade between the two nations. The UKGCC provides exceptional support for its members through the sharing of knowledge and ideas whilst hosting various activities designed to build stronger networks that will connect business and create further opportunities.

The end of Ebola in Sierra Leone

13 November 2015

Sierra Leone was declared Ebola free on Saturday 7 November.

How the UK helped to end Ebola in Sierra Leone

The UK led the international response to the Ebola crisis in Sierra Leone and has committed £427 million so far to ending the epidemic.

The UK is the largest bilateral donor to Sierra Leone and our swift action in response to this unprecedented Ebola epidemic has had a significant impact.

Our objective is to support the Government of Sierra Leone to end the current outbreak, and to maintain the vigilance and preparedness necessary to prevent any future outbreaks from growing into epidemics – maintaining a 'resilient zero'.

Over 1,500 British military personnel deployed to Sierra Leone to help oversee the construction of six UK funded treatment centres from scratch and trained over 4,000 Sierra Leonean and international health care workers.

The UK deployed over 150 NHS volunteers who worked on the frontline to support over 1,500 treatment and isolation beds – more than half of all the beds available for Ebola patients in the country.

The UK set up a 36-bed mobile field hospital, which can be up and running anywhere in the country within 96 hours to treat an outbreak of Ebola, or other infectious diseases.

Over 100 Public Health England staff ran three new laboratories, testing over a third of all samples across the country, greatly speeding up the diagnosis of people with Ebola-like symptoms.

The UK delivered 2,800 tonnes of aid for the response - more than one million PPE suits and 200 vehicles, including ambulances, were supplied to Sierra Leone.

The UK also supported more than 140 burial teams to provide safe and dignified burials. Burying bodies is one of the most common ways the disease can be spread.

A Royal Navy support ship (RFA Argus) and three Merlin helicopters provided transport and logistic support for medical teams and aid experts working in the country.

A report from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine estimated that 56,600 Ebola cases were averted in Sierra Leone as a direct result of additional treatment beds.

The first £5 million of public donations to the Disasters Emergency Committee appeal on the Ebola outbreak were matched by the UK.

Ongoing UK support to Sierra Leone

Post-Ebola, it is essential that we ensure the Sierra Leone has the capabilities, systems, and structures in place to respond to a future outbreak of Ebola or other public health emergency.

Ebola vaccines

DFID co-funded early clinical trials of some of the possible vaccines, working with partners including the Wellcome Trust, Oxford University and the Medical Research Council, and is working closely with the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention to support trials in West Africa amongst at-risk groups.

Survivors

The UK is supporting the Government of Sierra Leone in their work with survivors to reduce the potential risk of Ebola transmission. This includes:

- providing medical advice and counselling to help survivors cope with ongoing health problems
- providing guidance on avoiding sexual transmission and semen testing services to survivors
- exploring options for extending a trial Ebola vaccine to survivors' partners and relatives

We will also support a longer term package of assistance for Ebola survivors, helping them to restore their livelihoods, ensuring they have access to healthcare and tackling the stigma they may face when reintegrating into their communities.

Helping the country recover

In parallel with the ongoing response, we are supporting Sierra Leone's early recovery and transition from the Ebola crisis.

- UK support for early recovery in health is addressing the urgent needs of the health system for immunisation, essential drugs, improving protection control, water, sanitation and hygiene and district capacity-building.
- UK support for early recovery in education has allowed schools to reopen safely and catch up on lost time, and includes specific assistance for pregnant adolescent girls and disabled children.
- UK support for early recovery in social protection is providing support to those worst affected by the Ebola outbreak.
- UK support for early recovery in the private sector is helping promising medium-sized businesses in Sierra Leone escape the country's current economic slump, restart growth and create jobs. Up to \$50 million of short-term loans or overdrafts have been made available through Standard Chartered Bank and CDC – the UK's Development Finance Institution – to businesses that are struggling to get the finance they need to grow. We are also providing \$50m for debt relief through the IMF.

6. Further reading

[DFID's programme in Nigeria](#), Second Report of Session 2016–17, HC 110, 27 July 2016

[DFID's programme in Nigeria: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2016–17](#), Fifth Special Report of Session 2016–17, HC 735, 13 October 2016

[Ebola: Responses to a public health emergency](#), Second Report of Session 2015–16, HC 338, 19 January 2016

[Ebola: Responses to a public health emergency: Government Response to the Committee's Second Report of Session 2015–16](#), Sixth Special Report of Session 2015–16, HC 946, 21 April 2016

[Ebola situation](#), World Health Organisation

[MINUSMA - United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali:](#)
[Facts and Figures](#)
[UN Documents](#)

[Economic Community of West African States](#)

[Post-Brexit Africa-UK trade and investment arrangements](#), Africa All-Party Parliamentary Group, 28 July 2016

Max Mendez-Parra, Dirk Willem te Velde and L Alan Winters, [The impact of the UK's post-Brexit trade policy on development](#), Overseas Development Institute, September 2016

[Tony Blair Africa Governance Initiative](#)

[Africa All-Party Parliamentary Group](#)

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