

Debate Pack

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The spending of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on the strategy for international development

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1

Background

On 6 July 2022 there will be an Estimates Day debate on the spending of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) on its strategy for international development.

These subjects were selected by the Backbench Business Committee and were proposed by the Chair of the International Development Committee, Sarah Champion MP.

This paper briefly sets out FCDO spending on aid, the new international development strategy, and the policy background to the changes.

The following Library briefings provide further information and background:

- [The UK's 2022 aid strategy](#)

In May 2022, the FCDO launched the Government's new development strategy. The briefing sets out its priorities and what it may mean for other development issues and UK aid spending.

- [British International Investment: Trade and aid](#)

In 2022, the UK Government relaunched its development finance institution, the Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), as British International Investment (BII). This paper describes its work and evaluations of its significance for poverty reduction and climate change.

- [Reducing the UK's aid spending in 2021](#)

For the first time since 2013, in 2021 the UK did not meet the UN target of spending 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) on Official Development Assistance (ODA). This briefing sets out how UK aid spending compares to previous years, the Government's objectives for UK aid in 2021, and what is known about the spending reduction's impact on specific aid and humanitarian programmes and on countries.

- [The 0.7% aid target](#)

This briefing looks at the target's history in the UK, the current reduction to 0.5%, and the legislative debate on the issue.

2

Aid spending

What is official development assistance (ODA)?

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

For more on what is ODA, see the OECD's [page on ODA](#).

2.1

The move from 0.7% to 0.5%

In each year from 2013 to 2020, the UK spent 0.7% of its gross national income (GNI) on ODA. This made the UK one of a very small number of countries to meet this spending target, agreed by the UN in 1970. Since the passage of the [International Development \(Official Development Assistance Target\) Bill 2015](#), the Government has been legally obliged to spend at least 0.7% of GNI on ODA in each calendar year.

In the [November 2020 Spending Review](#), the Treasury announced that the Government would spend 0.5% of GNI on ODA in 2021. This would amount to a total of £10 billion in ODA in 2021/22.¹

Speaking after the Review, the then Foreign Secretary, Dominic Raab, said the impact of the global pandemic on the economy and the public finances was why the Government would move to a [target of 0.5% in 2021](#) as a “temporary measure.” The Government would, he said, “return to 0.7% when the fiscal situation permits.”²

For some months after this, it was unclear under what precise conditions the Government would return to spending 0.7% of GNI on ODA. However, on 12 July 2021, the Chancellor made a Written Statement to Parliament (approved in a vote the following day) which said that the Government [committed to spending 0.7% of GNI on aid](#) when official forecasts from the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) show that, on a sustainable basis:

¹ UK Government, [Spending Review to fight virus \[...\]](#), 25 November 2020

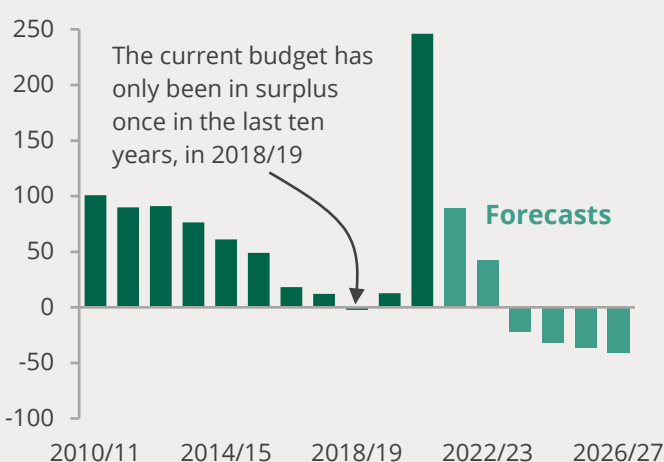
² HC Deb, [26 November 2020](#), c1018; HC Deb, [16 March 2021](#), c170

- The country is not borrowing for day-to-day spending (that is, the country is not running a current budget deficit)
- The ratio of underlying debt (that is, public debt excluding that held by the Bank of England) to GDP is falling.³

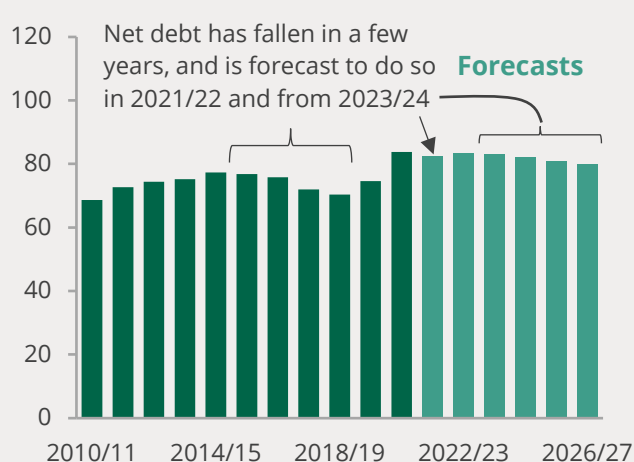
The most recent official forecasts, published in March 2022, show that the economy is recovering more strongly than previously forecast.⁴ This means that the current budget will be in surplus and net debt as a proportion of GDP will be falling from 2023/24 onwards.

The Chancellor's tests for returning to aid at 0.7% of GNI

Current budget deficit, £ billions



Public sector net debt exc BoE, % of GDP



Source: OBR, [Economic and fiscal outlook, March 2022](#)

This means that both of the Chancellor's fiscal tests are now forecast to be met in 2023/24. The forecasts accompanying the Autumn 2021 Budget and Spending Review had predicted that the tests would be met in 2024/25, so the Spending Review had set money aside in that year (although not allocated to any department) to bring the level of ODA back up to 0.7% of GNI.

The Spring Statement in March 2022 acknowledged the fact that the economy was now forecast to perform better than previously predicted, but also said that there was still uncertainty over whether these forecasts would hold. The Government will therefore decide whether to bring forward the return to spending 0.7% of GNI in 2023/24 at the 2022 Autumn Budget.⁵ If it does so, based on current GNI forecasts, the level of aid spent in 2023/24 will be around £18.1 billion.

³ [HCWS172 Treasury update](#), 12 July 2021

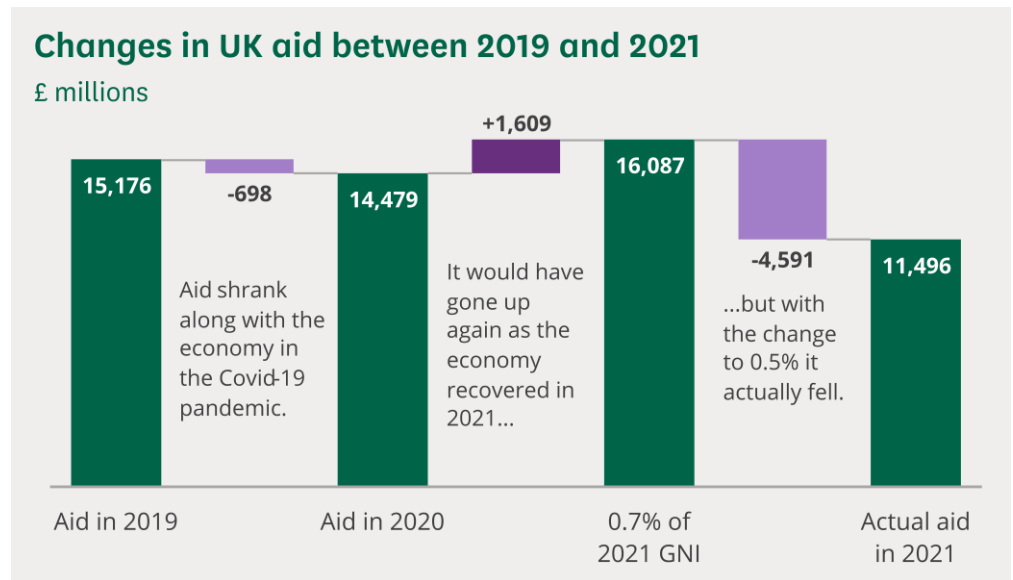
⁴ Office for Budget Responsibility, [Economic and fiscal outlook, March 2022](#), 23 March 2021

⁵ HM Treasury, [Spring Statement 2022](#), 23 March 2022

2.2

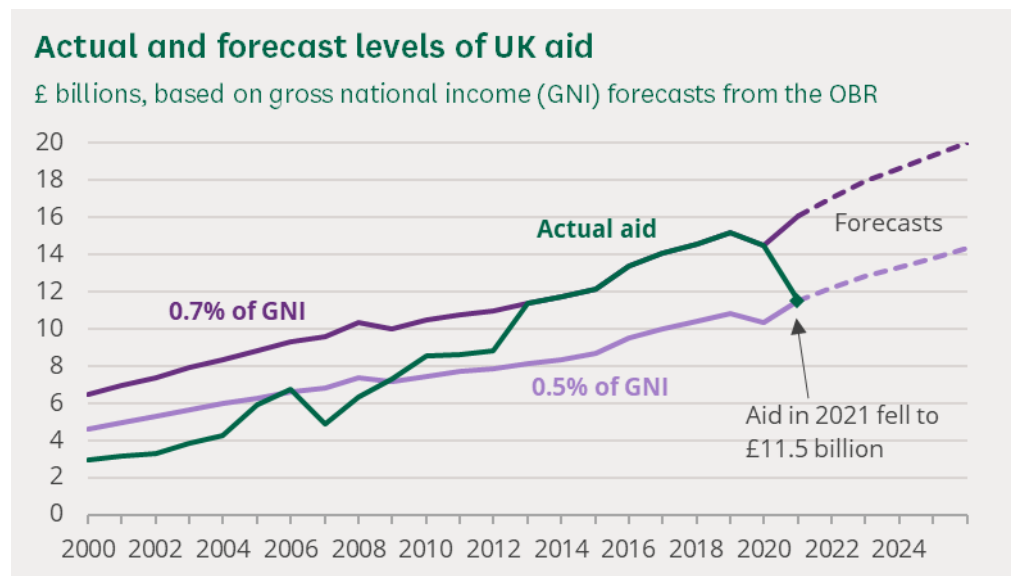
Reductions in 2021

Aid spending in 2021, according to provisional FCDO data, was £11.5 billion. This represents a 21% reduction compared to spending in 2020, with spending falling by nearly £3 billion. Compared to the amount that the UK would have spent if it was still following the 0.7% target, it is around £4.6 billion lower.



Source: FCDO, [Statistics on International Development: Provisional UK Aid Spend 2021](#), 12 April 2022

This is also a large reduction when compared with previous years. As the chart below shows, UK aid has consistently been above 0.5% of GNI since 2009 and met the 0.7% target exactly in every year between 2013 and 2020.



Source: FCDO, [Statistics on International Development: Provisional UK Aid Spend 2021](#), 12 April 2022; GNI figures from OBR, [Economic and fiscal outlook – March 2022](#), 23 March 2022

With the reduction to 0.5% of GNI in 2021, aid fell to similar levels to those seen in 2013 (without taking inflation into account).

The UK has long been one of the most generous aid donors whose aid spending is tracked by the OECD's [Development Assistance Committee](#).⁶ Based on [the Committee's data](#), in 2020 the UK was the third most generous donor in absolute terms and the seventh most generous as a proportion of the size of its economy – only Germany outranked the UK on both measures. Following the move to 0.5%, provisional data suggest that in 2021 the UK had fallen to fourth in absolute terms and ninth proportional to its economy.

Although we do not know the exact effect of the reductions to the aid budget on UK aid programmes, several organisations have expressed concern over their budgets being reduced. The Library briefing [Reducing the UK's aid spending in 2021](#) includes more details.

2.3

Main estimates

What are the estimates?

One of Parliament's longest standing functions is the consideration and authorisation of the Government's spending plans, requiring the government to obtain parliamentary consent before spending public money.

Main Estimates are the documents that contain the detail of those spending plans for a particular year. There is a separate Estimate for each Government Department. Changes are presented at the end of each year through Supplementary Estimates. Each of the Estimates must be authorised by Parliament before they take effect.

Within each Estimate, spending is divided into a number of distinct budgetary limits for each department, covering spending of a specific type determined by HM Treasury. Changes to the categorisation of spending between categories require prior consultation with Parliament. Departmental Expenditure Limits (DELs) cover net spending which is subject to limits set in Spending Reviews and which it is assumed Government departments can control:

- **Resource DEL** (also referred to as 'day-to-day spending') covers costs of running and purchasing goods and services; staff costs; current grants;

⁶ Most wealthy countries report their aid spending to the OECD. There are some countries, notably China, which are also thought to provide economic support to developing countries, but because they do not report such spending we cannot compare it directly with the aid spending mentioned here.

rent; and maintenance costs. It also includes profit or loss on the sale of assets; depreciation; and some impairments; and

- **Capital DEL** (also referred to as ‘investment spending’) covers the purchase, disposal and major improvement of assets; capital grants (i.e. grants to purchase or enhance assets) and loans.

Annually Managed Expenditure covers net spending which is more difficult to control and forecast:

- **Resource AME** covers benefits and state pensions; some impairments; and provisions for liabilities; and
- **Capital AME** covers student loans and some financial transactions.

The [2022-23 Main Estimates](#) were originally published on 12 May 2022 and were subsequently updated on 23 June 2022 to reflect new spending measures to support the cost of living crisis (though this did not affect the FCDO’s Estimate).

Departments also produce an explanatory memorandum, which is published and scrutinised by the relevant House of Commons Select Committee and the [House of Commons Scrutiny Unit](#). This memorandum should compare spending plans to previous years and explain the reasons for changes proposed. Select committees currently publish memoranda on their webpages and the Scrutiny Unit uses the memoranda to prepare briefings for select committees and other Members.

Following publication of Estimates, the relevant committee will approve publication of the associated memorandum. Memoranda which have been published will appear on the relevant committee and Scrutiny Unit webpages of the Parliament website.

The FCDO’s Main Estimate 2022-23

The FCDO plans a Resource DEL (day-to-day spending) budget in 2022/23 of £8,525.4 million, an increase of £668.6 million (+8.5%) compared to its final budget last year.

The increase is driven by higher Official Development Assistance (ODA) expenditure as a result of an improved economic outlook, and has resulted in a £957.5 million (+23.4%) increase in the main ODA spending budget areas set out in the Estimate (bilateral, multi-lateral and central programmes).

This increase is slightly offset by reductions including:

- £221 million (-26.2%) reduction in EU-attributed aid.⁷
- £64.3 million (-3.8%) reduction in operating and front-line diplomacy costs; and
- £42.6 million (-13.2%) reduction in funding for international subscriptions, scholarships and the BBC World Service.

The FCDO plans an initial capital budget of £2,644.6 million, an increase of £872.7 million (+49.3%) compared to last year's final budget. This is similarly driven by increased ODA expenditure. The main ODA spending budgets increased by £683.1 million (+42.3%) compared with the prior year.

Beyond aid, the settlement aims to make the FCDO's overseas estate secure, green and fit for the future, including by continuing capital investment in the FCDO's technology platform and cyber security infrastructure and further increases in the department's presence in East Kilbride.

The Estimate, in line with the new international development strategy, signals a rebalancing of UK overseas aid spending towards capital investment expenditure.

Other notable increases in investment spending include:

- £133.7 million (+91.6%) increase in operating and frontline diplomacy costs; and
- £74.9 million (+681%) increase in funding to the British Council.⁸

FCDO plans a Resource Annually Managed Expenditure initial budget of £560.7 million, a decrease of £158.8 million (-22.1%) compared with last year's final budget. Resource AME is used primarily for accounting adjustments and by definition is volatile. Additional non-cash Resource AME cover has been requested to cover accounting adjustments for financial guarantees, provisions and impairments.

The FCDO plans an investment of £200 million in British International Investment (BII)⁹. Investments in BII are categorised as Capital Annually Managed Expenditure. This compares to an investment last year of £660.7

⁷ Under the EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement, the UK will continue to meet outstanding commitments to EU development programmes, the EU budget (MFF 2014-2020) and the European Development Fund.

⁸ HMG has committed to provide the British Council with up to £200m loan funding to help support their short-term cash flow and for restructuring investment, of this, £85m has been provided for in the Main Estimate, which will be disbursed to the British Council depending on need.

⁹ Formerly CDC Group, the UK Government's wholly owned Development Finance Company. CDC Group was rebranded as [British International Investment](#) (BII) in April 2022.

million. However, further investments may be made in BII this year as part of the Supplementary Estimate.

The Estimates Memorandum states that the senior leadership of the FCDO has been reorganised to shift emphasis to tackle the consequences of the Ukraine crisis, and provide clearer leadership over its geographic work. This includes the announcement of Tim Barrow as Second Permanent Under-Secretary and Political Director who will focus on strategic foreign policy advice and global engagement. The FCDO has established a Director General with the explicit role of leading development work, and a Director General to lead international economics work, including on sanctions.

There have been two Machinery of Government changes with financial implications in the 2022/23 Main Estimate:

- Baseline transfer from Ministry of Defence (MOD) for the National Cyber Fund of £5.09 million; and
- £11.85 million transferred from the Cabinet Office for the UK-EU relationship.

Changes to the FCDO Estimates Structure

The FCDO was created as a result of the merger of the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in September 2020.¹⁰

At the 2020-21 Supplementary Estimates, not long after the departments were merged, previous budget sub-heads for the separate departments were retained as before.¹¹ The merger was subsequently reflected in the 2021-22 Main Estimates by including both former FCO and former DFID spending within a new combined Main Estimate.

The financial year 2021-22 was the first full financial year for the FCDO as a new department, and for the 2021-22 Main Estimates new budget sub-heads were created for the newly merged department. Notably, the majority of what had previously been DFID's main ODA spending budget sub-heads were combined into a single line – “strategic priorities and other programme spending”.

The Chair of the International Development Committee, Sarah Champion MP, criticised the move to reduce level of detail and transparency in the FCDO's explanatory memorandum.

¹⁰ Number Ten, [PM announces merger of Department for International Development and Foreign Office](#), updated 17 June 2020

¹¹ House of Commons International Development Committee, [Memorandum on Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office Supplementary Estimates 2020-21](#), published 2 March 2021

In [correspondence](#) with the Permanent Under-Secretary, Sir Philip Barton KCME OBE, she wrote that:

the lack of detail falls short of what the International Development Committee would expect to see – particularly during a time of unprecedented reductions in UK expenditure on overseas aid.¹²

She also argued that the Committee should have been consulted on such changes.

[HM Treasury Estimates Guidance](#) states that:

Departments should consult HM Treasury (through the relevant Spending Team) before making any significant changes to their Estimate. They may also need to consult their relevant departmental select committee in the House of Commons.¹³

In [his response to Sarah Champion's letter](#), Sir Philip argued that the changes were a “technical rationalisation”, and as such did not consult the Committee.¹⁴

In [further correspondence](#), dated 22 June 2021. Sarah Champion argued that the Committee regards the changes as more than just a technical rationalisation, and that they were sufficiently material and substantive as to have merited consultation.¹⁵

Following consultation with the relevant parliamentary select committees and the Scrutiny Unit, the FCDO has restructured the Estimate for 2022/23. The former Estimate row “Strategic priorities and other programme spend” has been replaced with three estimate rows:

- Regional bilateral programmes (amounts to the overseas network);
- Core multilateral programmes (eg contributions to World Bank etc.); and
- Centrally managed programmes (programmes delivered by UK Directorates including non-ODA spend).

¹² House of Commons International Development Committee, [Letter to the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office regarding FCDO Main Estimates 2021-22](#), 17 May 2021

¹³ HM Treasury, [Supply Estimates: a guidance manual](#), July 2011, p14

¹⁴ House of Commons International Development Committee, [Letter from the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office regarding FCDO Main Estimates 2021-22](#), 8 June 2021

¹⁵ House of Commons International Development Committee, [Letter to the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office regarding FCDO Main Estimates 2021-22](#), 22 June 2021

3 New aid strategy, 2022

3.1 Background to the new strategy

In May 2022, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) published its new ten-year [strategy for international development](#).¹⁶

The strategy [will be in place for ten years](#).¹⁷

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.

Reductions in UK aid spending

As described above, total UK aid spending is estimated to have fallen from £14.5 billion in 2020 to £11.5 billion in 2021.¹⁸

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.¹⁹

A March 2022 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%.²⁰

Foreign policy priorities

In March 2021, the UK Government published its integrated review of foreign, defence, trade, security, and development policy, with the aim of using each of these to complement UK foreign policy objectives.

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

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

¹⁷ International Development Committee, [Sarah Champion MP calls for more and better aid data, 18 May 2022](#)

¹⁸ FCDO, [Provisional UK aid spend 2021](#), 12 April 2022

¹⁹ Commons Library, [Reducing the UK's aid spending in 2021](#), CBP9224, summary and section 3

²⁰ NAO, [Managing reductions in Official Development Assistance spending](#), March 2022, para 11

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.²¹

Further reading on UK aid spending and strategy

- 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.

3.2

The four priorities for UK aid

The new strategy identifies four priorities for UK aid:

- Reliable investment
- Women and girls
- Humanitarian aid and responsiveness
- Climate change and global health

1) Reliable investment

This aims 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,

²¹ Commons Library, [Integrated Review: International development](#), CBP9208, April 2021, pp8-9

and jobs overseas. They will aim to play an important role in delivering investment in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.²²

Other programmes supported will include the UK's Clean Green Initiative. This 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.²³

The focus on trade has been one of the [most controversial elements of the new strategy](#), with some charities and the International Development Committee (IDC) Chair, Sarah Champion, arguing the promotion of trade could mean the reprioritisation of regions most at need of assistance and overlook development priorities such as responding to the growing debt of lower income economies.²⁴

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."²⁵

2) Empowering women and girls

This has a focus on ensuring girls receive 12 years of quality education, supporting reproductive and sexual health, and ending violence against women and girls.²⁶

The Government will [restore spending to 2019/20 levels](#), totalling £745 million in 2022/23.²⁷ 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.²⁸

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.²⁹

²² FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 2

²³ FCDO and 10 Downing Street, [PM launches new initiative to take Green Industrial Revolution global](#), 1 November 2021

²⁴ Devex, [UK development strategy panned as "aid for trade," missed opportunity](#), 16 May 2022

²⁵ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 10

²⁶ As above, paras 13-15

²⁷ IDC, [Oral evidence: Future of UK aid](#), HC 148, 18 May 2022, Q342

²⁸ IDC, [Government obstructing scrutiny after misleading MPs on impacts aid cuts have on women and girls](#), 8 March 2022

²⁹ As above, paras 14, 17

3) Provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to those in greatest need, and work to prevent such crises and build resilience to them

The strategy pledges humanitarian funding totalling £3 billion over the next three years (to 2025). The distribution of spending for each year is uncertain”.³⁰

Appearing before the IDC, the FCDO said this will mean bringing spending back to the levels of 2021.³¹ However, spending in 2021 was the lowest it had been since 2013: It was £0.74 billion in 2021 and £0.83 billion in 2013.³²

Around 25% of this figure has already been committed to crises in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, and Ukraine (£752 million).³³ This may mean fewer countries will receive funding, or fewer will see funding restored to previous levels.

4) Climate change, biodiversity, and global health

The strategy confirms climate change and biodiversity as the UK’s “number one” international priority.

Climate change and biodiversity

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.³⁴

The UK will also ensure 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.³⁵

³⁰ FCDO, [The UK government’s strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 19

³¹ IDC, [Oral evidence: Future of UK aid](#), HC 148, 18 May 2022, Q342

³² 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

³³ **Yemen:** Commons Library, [UK aid and Yemen’s humanitarian crisis](#), CBP9326, pp6-7

Syria: 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

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

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

³⁴ FCDO, [UK government’s strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022

³⁵ As above, para 18

The Library briefing, [UK aid and climate change](#) (updated October 2021) provides more information.

Global health

Health aid will include investments to Gavi, the vaccine alliance, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.³⁶

Despite the strategy's intentions to focus more on bilateral commitments (see next section), the strategy says global health funds will remain "essential partners" to achieving these aims.³⁷

Poverty alleviation and the new strategy

While poverty is not mentioned as 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.³⁸

Analysis for Development Initiatives has also raised concern that a lack of focus on poverty may mean the UK's support for trade and economic development may [result in less inclusive development](#).³⁹

By law, UK development assistance provided by the FCDO must be intended to [reduce poverty and inequality between persons of different gender](#).⁴⁰

3.3

Spending pledges in the new strategy

The strategy does not contain many new spending commitments in addition to those described above. But it does detail the direction of UK aid, and how it will be delivered.

Focus on Africa and the Indo-Pacific

The strategy reiterates the UK's [commitment to Africa and the Indo-Pacific](#) detailed in the integrated review:⁴¹

³⁶ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022

³⁷ As above, para 38

³⁸ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 2022, paras 8, 15 and 25

³⁹ Development Initiatives, [Delivering the UK's international development strategy: Key considerations for UK aid](#), 9 June 2022

⁴⁰ [International Development Act 2002](#), Section 1

⁴¹ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 45, accessed 15 June 2022

- **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.⁴²

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 UN-defined 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."⁴³

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 2020.⁴⁴

Commitment to increase bilateral spending

The Government says it will substantially rebalance its aid funding from multilateral channels (mainly 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.⁴⁵

What impact might this pledge have on funding multilaterals?

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.⁴⁶

⁴² FCDO, [Statistics on International Development: final UK aid spend 2020](#), 29 September 2021, table 5

⁴³ FCDO, [UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, para 54

⁴⁴ FCDO, [Statistics on International Development: final UK aid spend 2020](#), 29 September 2021, table 7

⁴⁵ [HCWS617 20th replenishment of the international development association](#), 22 February 2022

⁴⁶ FCDO, [The UK government's strategy for international development](#), 16 May 2022, paras 37-9

Currently, 68% of UK aid is spent bilaterally.⁴⁷ 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 2024/25.⁴⁸

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.

Only the World Bank is confirmed as seeing reductions in UK contributions

In May 2022, the FCDO said that aside from the World Bank “we have not made final choices on the allocation to particular institutions.”⁴⁹

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.⁵⁰

The World Bank’s IDA was recently found by the UK’s Independent Commission for Aid Impact to offer “good value for money” and representing “strong alignment” with UK aid priorities.⁵¹

Further reading on the 2022 strategy

Commons Library, [The UK’s 2022 aid strategy](#), CBP9567

⁴⁷ IDC, [Oral evidence: Future of UK aid](#), HC 148, 2022-23, 18 May 2022, Qs 300, 302

⁴⁸ As above, Qs 300, 302

⁴⁹ IDC, [Oral evidence: Future of UK aid](#), HC 148, 2022-23, 18 May 2022, Q307

⁵⁰ [HCWS617 20th replenishment of the international development association](#), 22 February 2022; World Bank, [Replenishments](#), accessed 31 May 2022

⁵¹ ICAI, [UK aid channelled through World Bank’s IDA provides good value for money](#), 31 May 2022

4 Press and media articles

The following is a selection of press and media articles relevant to this debate. Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or the accuracy of external content

4.1 Government press releases

[UK invests in future of the Commonwealth with new education programmes](#)

Number Ten Downing Street and FCDO, 25 June 2022

[PM pledges new support for countries on the food security frontline](#)

Number Ten Downing Street, 24 June 2022

[UK provides life-saving support to the Afghan people following devastating earthquake](#)

FCDO, 24 June 2022

[UK Government's humanitarian response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine: Facts and figures](#)

FCDO, updated 20 June 2022

[Foreign Secretary launches new international development strategy](#)

FCDO, 16 May 2022

[UK government's strategy for international development](#)

FCDO, 16 May 2022

[Truss revamps British development finance institution to deliver jobs and clean growth](#)

FCDO, 24 November 2021

4.2 Committee statements

[Sarah Champion MP calls for more and better aid data](#)

18 May 2022

[Sarah Champion MP: “A double whammy against the global poor”](#)

International Development Committee, 16 May 2022

[UK’s development finance institution CDC Group scrutinised by MPs](#)

International Development Committee, 24 March 2022

4.3

Media and other articles

[Delivering the UK’s international development strategy: Key considerations for UK aid](#)

Development Initiatives, 9 June 2022

[Does the UK’s new development strategy support its foreign policy objectives?](#)

Chatham House, 31 May 2022

[The tricky business of implementing the UK’s new international development strategy](#)

Overseas Development Institute, 31 May 2022

[What does the UK’s new development strategy mean for the UK’s multilateral budget and role?](#)

Center for Global Development, 30 May 2022

[UK development strategy panned as “aid for trade,” missed opportunity](#)

Devex, 16 May 2022

[Foreign aid: UK cuts funding to UN in change of strategy](#)

BBC News, 16 May 2022

[UK aid strategy aims to curb China’s “belt and road” influence](#)

The Telegraph, 16 May 2022

[UK’s new aid strategy condemned as “double whammy to world’s poor”](#)

The Guardian, 16 May 2022

[FCDO releases data on the £4.6 billion cut to UK aid](#)

Devex, 13 April 2022

The spending of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on the strategy for international development

[New UK aid strategy will promote “British expertise,” Truss says](#)

Devex, 23 February 2022

[UK CDC Group drops “development” from name amid overhaul](#)

Devex, 25 November 2021

[UK to expand development finance investment to boost growth](#)

Reuters, 25 November 2021

[UK aid cuts hampered pandemic response in world’s poorest countries, report finds](#)

The Telegraph, 21 October 2021

[Basic education worst hit by the UK’s 2020 aid cuts](#)

Center for Global Development, 7 October 2021

5

UK Parliament material

Written statements

[International development strategy](#)

HCWS25, 16 May 2022

[Provisional statistics on international development 2021](#)

HCWS795, 28 April 2022

Written Questions

[East Africa and the Middle East: Humanitarian Aid](#)

24 June 2022 | HL 836

Asked by: The Earl of Sandwich

To ask Her Majesty's Government what estimate they have made of the shortfall in grain allocated to (1) African, and (2) Middle East, countries as humanitarian aid through United Nations agencies in (1) 2022, and (2) 2023.

Answering Member: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon | FCDO

The UK Government is closely assessing the food security situation in the Middle East and Africa, including with our international partners. These regions account for most of the 49 million people living a step away from famine and the 14 countries that are face at least a high risk of political instability from price increases. The pursuit of practical solutions is a key priority for HMG. Over the next three years the UK will direct £3 billion of humanitarian assistance to prevent famine and alleviate suffering. We have already committed funding from this year to UN humanitarian appeals for Somalia (£38.5 million), Yemen (£88 million) and Afghanistan (£286 million). The UK is also the largest overall contributor (£1.4 billion since 2006) to the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). We welcome CERF's recent £83 million allocation to tackle the disruption to global food markets.

[Development Aid](#)

22 June 2022 | HL726

Asked by: Baroness Hodgson of Abinger

To ask Her Majesty's Government, further to the remarks by Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park on 6 June (HL Deb col 1027), when the new conflict and atrocity prevention hub will be established; where it will be based; and what its remit will be.

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | FCDO

The FCDO is creating a dedicated department for conflict prevention and conflict related atrocity prevention within the Office for Conflict, Mediation and Stabilisation. We anticipate that this process will be complete by the end of June, and staff will be based across FCDO's UK offices. The department will design and test a comprehensive approach to upstream conflict and atrocity prevention, while engaging globally with key bilateral partners and multilateral organisations to improve prevention efforts. A new early warning system will also be developed to better identify, understand and respond to conflict and atrocity risks. The department will be the secretariat of a cross-government mass atrocities prevention hub bringing together the expert elements of atrocity prevention that sit with other departments in the FCDO.

[Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#)

21 June 2022 | 19697

Asked by: Wendy Chamberlain

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of the impact of the announcement in the recent International Development Strategy to reduce multilateral funding from 40 per cent to 25 per cent of Official Development Assistance on (a) UK funding to tackle malaria and (b) the UK's contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Answering Member: Amanda Milling | FCDO

The International Development Strategy (IDS) emphasises that global health will remain a top priority. We will continue to deliver our health commitments on COVID-19; build strong health systems; promote a One Health approach and work towards ending preventable deaths of mothers, babies and children. We will maintain essential partnerships with multilateral organisations to achieve these objectives and tackle global challenges that the UK cannot solve alone. The UK remains committed to tackling malaria, which is closely linked to our ambition to end preventable deaths. The Global Fund remains a key partner for the UK in the shared fight against HIV, TB and malaria. We are reviewing the Global Fund's investment case for the 7th replenishment and deciding our precise contribution in line with delivering the new IDS.

[Humanitarian aid](#)

21 June 2022 | 16962

Asked by: Sarah Champion

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what plans the Government has to fulfil its commitment to making the humanitarian system as anticipatory as possible, as set out in the G7 foreign ministers' statement, published on 14 May 2022.

Answering Member: Vicky Ford | FCDO

The UK is a global leader in driving more effective approaches to crises and preventing and anticipating future shocks. The G7 foreign ministers' statement builds on commitments agreed during the UK Presidency in 2021, including the first ever G7 Famine Prevention and Humanitarian Crisis Compact. We are one of the largest donors to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), which is pioneering initiatives on anticipatory action. Last year, we also provided funding to the Red Cross and civil society to strengthen anticipatory approaches to humanitarian assistance.

Scaling up anticipatory action is not just about supporting the humanitarian system, and that is why we have also committed £120 million for regional disaster protection schemes across Africa, the Caribbean, South-East Asia, and the Pacific. As set out in the Government's International Development Strategy, we will continue to step up our life-saving humanitarian work going forward, including by drawing on innovative finance and insurance mechanisms to better manage and anticipate humanitarian emergencies.

[Horn of Africa: Food Aid](#)

17 June 2022 | 15274

Asked by: Chris Law

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if the Government will commit new emergency funding to help mitigate the risks from hunger and malnutrition in the Horn of Africa over summer 2022.

Answering Member: Vicky Ford | FCDO

The UK is a major humanitarian donor to the East Africa region. In 2022 we have provided £72 million to support more than one million people in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan affected by conflict, drought and flooding.

The UK played a critical role in convening the recent UN Horn of Africa Drought Roundtable which took place in late April in Geneva. This included working with states in the region and the UN to ensure appropriate levels of participation. It helped to bring much needed focus on the drought and it mobilised roughly US \$400 million in new funding.

I have written to World Bank President Malpass this week urging further action on food security in the Horn of Africa.

We continue to monitor the situation and our response closely.

Famine: Humanitarian aid

17 June 2022 | 14471

Asked by: Dr Matthew Offord

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment her Department has made of the role of anticipatory action in preventing future hunger crises; and what progress has been made towards implementing that approach to famine prevention.

Answering Member: James Cleverly | FCDO

The UK is a global leader in driving effective approaches to crises and preventing and anticipating future shocks. This includes FCDO's emergency humanitarian assistance and commitment of £3 billion over the next 3 years to the most vulnerable countries.

In 2021 we partnered with UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and Germany to co-host the High-Level Event on Anticipatory Action, securing further commitments from the 75 participating Member States for early action to prevent major food crisis. In addition, we secured a commitment from the World Bank to continue its Early Response Financing at \$1 billion. We are working closely with the Bank on Food Security Crisis Preparedness Plans to support more timely and better coordinated use of this additional finance.

We are one of the largest donors to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). CERF is now expanding its anticipatory action pilots to more countries experiencing food crises such as Burkina Faso, Niger and South Sudan.

We also committed £120 million to expand the use of disaster risk finance and insurance to ensure countries are able to respond rapidly when disasters strike. We will honour our COP26 commitments and boost sustainable agriculture productivity in developing countries.

Development aid: Water

13 June 2022 | 13246

Asked by: Daisy Cooper

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether she has had discussions with her G7 counterparts on jointly contributing US\$600 million annually for water, sanitation and hygiene

in health care facilities in the least developed countries, as called for by WaterAid.

Answering Member: Amanda Milling | FCDO

Improving access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services, including in healthcare facilities, is a key global health priority for the FCDO. It forms a core part of the UK's new Ending Preventable Deaths of mothers, babies and children strategy published in December 2021, and is critical to our wider global health objectives.

The UK will continue to work with our international partners, including through the G7, to ensure WASH is included in efforts to prevent the spread of infections including COVID-19, to prevent future pandemics, and to reduce the threat of anti-microbial resistance. We will also continue to pursue these objectives through our membership of the WASH In Healthcare Facilities international taskforce, through our bilateral programming such as our innovative hand hygiene partnership with Unilever, and through our core multilateral funding including to the World Bank and the World Health Organisation.

Development aid: Health services

13 June 2022 | 13209

Asked by: Derek Thomas

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what steps her Department is taking to (a) invest in global health systems and (b) maintain access to critical routine immunisations.

Answering Member: Amanda Milling | FCDO

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) is working to deliver the objectives set out in our recently published Health Systems Strengthening Position Paper. This includes mainstreaming of health systems strengthening approach across all the UK's health influencing activities and investments through country programmes, research and multilaterals such as the World Health Organisation, Global Fund and Gavi. The UK's £1.65 billion commitment to Gavi's core immunisation programme 2021-25 is the largest of any donor, and will support Gavi to immunise 300 million children and save up to 8 million lives, and enable countries to restore immunisation services during and after the pandemic.

Polio: Disease control

6 June 2022 | 9953

Asked by: Preet Kaur Gill

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what recent assessment she has made of the potential impact of UK budget reductions to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (a) on global polio eradication and (b) recent outbreaks of polio in (i) Malawi and (ii) Mozambique.

Answering Member: Amanda Milling | FCDO

The UK remains committed to polio eradication, and supports the work of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), to which we have provided £1.38 billion since 1995. The GPEI have led efforts that have eradicated wild polio from all but two countries, with last year reporting just six cases of wild polio virus; by far the lowest ever recorded. GPEI have now vaccinated 13 million children in Malawi, Mozambique and neighbouring countries. This recent importation of cases to Africa shows the importance of retaining high levels of childhood immunisation, which is why the UK remains the largest donor to Gavi's core mission. In addition to our support at a global level to GPEI, the UK is a strong partner to the Malawi and Mozambique health sectors, including through our health systems strengthening programmes, which have components aimed at building preparedness and response to health shocks such as disease outbreaks and supporting the provision of childhood vaccines.

The difficult economic situation has meant that we have had to reduce the aid budget, including for programmes such as GPEI. We will return to spending 0.7% of our Gross National Income on Official Development Assistance as soon as the fiscal situation allows.

[Development aid](#)

1 June 2022 | 7956

Asked by: Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether her Department plans to update the International Development Strategy to include specific targets on (a) food security, (b) access to reproductive and sexual healthcare and (c) clean water and sanitation.

Answering Member: Amanda Milling | FCDO

The International Development Strategy (IDS) sets out the government's vision for the future of UK international development, with further details set out in associated strategies. Tackling the worsening global food security crisis, exacerbated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, is a key priority for the UK. We are working with G7 allies to ensure a coherent international response. In addition to humanitarian assistance, the IDS commits us to develop solutions to challenges in our global food system which include root causes of food

insecurity. We will honour our COP26 targets and boost sustainable agriculture productivity in developing countries.

Access to reproductive and sexual healthcare and clean water and sanitation are also priorities. The IDS reiterates our target to support efforts to end preventable deaths of mothers, babies and children by 2030. Our Approach Paper of December 2021: Ending the Preventable Deaths of Mothers, Babies and Children by 2030; explains how the UK will deliver on this to 2024 and our strategic direction to 2030, including through actions to accelerate progress on sexual and reproductive health and rights, address malnutrition and promote access to climate resilient water supply, hygiene and sanitation services. The FCDO is business planning the delivery and measurement of our commitments, including our commitment to spend £1.5 billion between 2022 and 2030 on nutrition.

[Africa: Development aid](#)

30 May 2022 | 7955

Asked by: Lyn Brown

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of the potential impact her Department's International Development Strategy on the lives of disabled people in African countries.

Answering Member: Vicky Ford | FCDO

As set out in the Integrated Review, we remain committed to Africa, and to building partnerships with African countries that lead to a freer, safer, more prosperous, healthier, and greener continent. The UK is proud to have a strong track record of galvanising global progress on disability rights and remains committed to further advancing the rights and freedoms of people with disabilities. The FCDO Disability Inclusion and Rights Strategy, which we published in February this year, sets out our international approach to 2030. It outlines our vision for a sustainable, inclusive and equitable future where people with disabilities are meaningfully engaged and empowered to be able to enjoy their full rights on an equal basis with others. The vision will be delivered by ensuring people with disabilities achieve their rights by having greater voice through full participation, more choice and control in all aspects of their lives, and gain greater visibility through comprehensive and responsive data collection.

[Ukraine: Humanitarian aid](#)

26 May 2022 | 6904

Asked by: Alyn Smith

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how much of the £220 million allocated by the Government for humanitarian assistance and support in Ukraine has been disbursed to date.

Answering Member: James Cleverly | FCDO

To date we have disbursed approximately £85 million of the £220 million, in line with agreements reached with partners. Disbursements include £20 million to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), £25 million to the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR, £10 million to International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and £10 million of our £25 million in matched funding to the Disasters Emergency Committee Appeal, which is being delivered by UK NGOs. It is standard practice for payments to partners to be spread over time to ensure a sustained response.

[Development aid: Health services](#)

16 May 2022 | 394

Asked by: Preet Kaur Gill

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what plans she has to commit new resources at the upcoming global covid-19 summit to help end the covid-19 pandemic and build better global health systems.

Answering Member: Amanda Milling | FCDO

The UK is joining the US and other partners in reaffirming our support to the global response to COVID-19 and renewing our commitment to ending the acute phase of the pandemic in vulnerable countries, as we agreed under the UK G7 Presidency last year. In total the UK committed £2.1 billion in 2020-21 to help end the pandemic and manage its impacts. Since December 2021, the UK has committed £265 million to expand COVID-19 testing capacity globally, boost oxygen supplies, and invest in the next generation of vaccines.

[Development aid](#)

26 April 2022 | 154480

Asked by: Claire Hanna

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, if her Department will make an assessment of the potential merits of resetting the UK's official overseas aid budget at pre-covid-19 levels.

Answering Member: James Cleverly | FCDO

The difficult decision to temporarily reduce Official Development Assistance spend from 0.7% of Gross National Income to 0.5%, was a necessary

response to the economic impacts of the COVID19 pandemic. The UK economy faced the worst economic contraction in over 300 years. In 2020-21 our borrowing was the highest it has been outside of wartime. We will return to 0.7% when the UK's fiscal situation allows; when on a sustainable basis we are not borrowing to support day-to-day spending and when underlying debt is falling.

Development aid: Education

19 April 2022 | 151219

Asked by: Preet Kaur Gill

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, how much ODA spend on education projects for which there is data had girls' education as a (a) component and (b) principal aim in each of the last five years.

Answering Member: Vicky Ford | FCDO

The UK has spent the following on bilateral education ODA in the last five years for which figures are available (2021 data is not yet available and will be published later in 2022 as part of the Statistics on International Development):

2020: £545 million

2019: £789 million

2018: £686 million

2017: £785 million

2016: £964 million

FCDO's education investments are focused on supporting access to quality schooling and improving learning outcomes for all children, especially girls. All education programmes are gender responsive and given the specific barriers that girls face, the vast majority of our programmes also involve targeted interventions to support girls and other marginalised groups. For example, our flagship £500 million Girls' Education Challenge programme and £70 million Girls' Education in South Sudan programme are focused primarily on girls' education.

In addition to our Education ODA, the UK funds many other programmes that support girls' education such as programmes to tackle violence against girls and child marriage, and support to sexual and reproductive health and rights.

British International Investment

2 March 2022 | 127569

Asked by: Navendu Mishra

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, whether her Department has made a recent assessment of the British International Investment's spending commitments to (a) the private sector and (b) the third sector and not for profit organisations.

Answering Member: Amanda Milling | FCDO

British International Investment (BII) - formerly the CDC Group - is the UK's Development Finance Institution. Its mandate is to enhance the role of the private sector to promote inclusive and sustainable economic development. Its mission is to help solve the biggest global development challenges by investing patient, flexible capital to support private sector growth and innovation.

In 2020, BII made £1.22 billion of new commitments to businesses in Africa and South Asia, where the vast majority of the world's poorest people live. BII's portfolio supports 1,200 businesses which directly employ almost 952,000 people and support many more.

Third sector and non-profit organisations are supported through the other parts of the UK Aid programme.

Development aid: Basic skills

2 March 2022 | 127356

Asked by: Yasmin Qureshi

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment her Department has made of the impact of the UK's multilateral education ODA investments on improving learning outcomes for children in literacy and numeracy.

Answering Member: Vicky Ford | FCDO

In May 2021, the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) began a results review of the UK's support to global education between 2015-2020, during which time we supported at least 15.6 million children with quality education. The review will examine UK bilateral aid, as well as aid to two multilateral education funds (Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and Education Cannot Wait (ECW)), and our multilateral aid to education via the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA). Publication of this review is expected in April 2022.

In addition, FCDO publishes annual reviews of UK support to the GPE and ECW online on our Development Tracker (<https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk>), including progress with improving children's learning outcomes. Our 2021 annual review of GPE found that 70 percent of GPE partner countries with available data saw improvements in learning outcomes between 2015-16 to 2019-20. The review encouraged GPE, in future, to focus more on supporting and incentivising developing countries to use assessment systems to generate more and better data on children's learning outcomes in countries receiving GPE funding.

Sustainable development

16 February 2022 | 120684

Asked by: David Mundell

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what his policy is on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including ending HIV, tuberculosis and malaria as pandemics by 2030; and what financial commitments the Government is making to achieve those goals.

Answering Member: Amanda Milling | FCDO

The UK is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals including ending the HIV, tuberculosis and malaria pandemics by 2030. The UK pledged £1.4 billion in the 6th replenishment (2020-2022) to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, making us the 2nd largest donor towards the 6th replenishment and 3rd largest donor since the Global Fund's creation. We are on track to fulfil our 6th replenishment pledge. Our health investments help countries to build stronger and more inclusive health systems to address all causes of ill health. We also invest in research and innovation to help people access new treatments and diagnostics, and support countries affected by these diseases to strengthen their health systems.

Development aid: Food

27 January 2022 | 107688

Asked by: Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi

To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, what assessment she has made of the potential impact on international food insecurity of the cuts to the Government's aid budget.

Answering Member: Vicky Ford | FCDO

Conflict, climate change and now Covid-19 have caused food insecurity and acute hunger to reach record levels and has worst affected the poorest and

most vulnerable. As well as providing humanitarian aid we are investing in building resilience to future crises and supporting sustainable recovery across Africa and Asia.

We have strengthened our food security and agriculture development programmes and investments. We are also working with international partners to strengthen global food security monitoring and analysis to better understand the challenge and further enhance the impact of our work. For example, through our Commercial Agriculture for Smallholders and Agribusiness (CASA) programme and the UK co-chaired multilateral Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme (GAFSP). We are also ensuring better coherence between life-saving humanitarian response and livelihoods-saving early action and a greener recovery, through the G7, our bilateral partners, with UN agencies and development banks.

UK initiatives and announcements at COP26 were supportive of sustainable agriculture, food systems, land governance and natural resource use. For example, a new UK-led multi-stakeholder commitment to support secure land tenure and forestry rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) with a related financial pledge of \$1.7 billion, including the UK's new £105 million Land Facility Programme. Commitments were also made for agricultural research and to support greener policy reforms in agriculture.

Development aid: Climate change

25 January 2022 | HL556

Asked by: Baroness Northover

To ask Her Majesty's Government what consideration they are giving to identifying new and additional sources of finance for loss and damage due to climate change in developing countries.

Answering Member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park | FCDO

The UK is committed to supporting efforts to assist developing countries avert, minimise and address loss and damage.

As COP26 Presidency, the UK will work with the incoming Egyptian Presidency for COP27 and UNFCCC Subsidiary Body Chairs to follow up on the actions set out in the COP26 Decision text. This includes the Glasgow Dialogue which will discuss the arrangements for the funding of activities to avert, minimise and address loss and damage. As Presidency we will also be supporting the process to operationalise the Santiago Network, which will catalyse and deliver technical support to enable countries to cope with the impacts of climate change.

We are also taking action through our International Climate Finance (ICF) - which will total £11.6 billion over the next 5 years, with an extra £1bn in if fiscal conditions allow - as well as through broader humanitarian assistance.

Between 2016 and 2019, the UK spent £2 billion of ICF on adaptation and investments in areas needed to address loss and damage, including around £202 million on humanitarian assistance directly linked to climate change and building resilience to it, and £115 million on financial protection and risk management.

Oral questions

International Development Strategy

HL Deb 6 June 2022, cc1026-30

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will announce their new international development strategy.

Malaria

HL Deb 25 April 2022, cc11-15

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to tackle malaria globally; and what assessment they have made of the findings of the World Health Organization's World Malaria Report 2021, published on 6 December 2021, in particular that after years of steady progress towards elimination, malaria cases and deaths are rising.

International development: Sexual and reproductive health

HL Deb 28 February 2022, cc541-44

To ask Her Majesty's Government what plans they have to make investment in sexual and reproductive health and rights a priority in their International Development Strategy.

International development

HL Deb 8 February 2022, cc1391-5

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish their new strategy for international development.

International development strategy

HL Deb 25 November 2021, cc1107-10

To ask Her Majesty's Government when they will publish their international development strategy.

Debates

[International development strategy](#)

HL Deb, 16 December 2021, cc444-80

That this House takes note of the plans by Her Majesty's Government to announce a new international development strategy for the United Kingdom in 2022.

[UK foreign aid programme](#)

HL Deb, 1 July 2021, cc959-93

That this House takes note of the importance of the UK foreign aid programme.

Committee and other reports

[Managing reductions in Official Development Assistance spending](#)

National Audit Office, 31 March 2022

[The UK aid response to Covid-19](#)

Independent Commission for Aid Impact, October 2021

[Management of the 0.7% ODA spending target in 2020](#)

Independent Commission for Aid Impact, May 2021

[Future of UK aid](#)

International Development Committee, 2021-present

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