

UNITED KINGDOM

1. Measures to accelerate progress towards the MDGs

The UK remains committed to the MDGs, especially on health, and it is the second largest bilateral donor in this sector. In 2008-09 DFID's programme trained over 70,000 health professionals in 22 priority countries. DFID has recently published Frameworks for Action on Malaria and on reproductive, maternal and newborn health, which will be a key focus over the coming years. Internationally, in 2009-10, DFID played a lead role in the development of the Global Consensus for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and the emerging UN Secretary General's "Joint effort" to accelerate progress on MNCH.

2. Changes in development policy, and what drives them

Following the change of government in May 2010, the UK has set out its priorities in development policy as: taking forward direct action to achieve the MDGs (including re-energising the fight against malaria and reducing infant and maternal mortality); delivering 0.7% ODA/GNI from 2013 and enshrining this in law; driving action on climate change; focusing on wealth creation; improving impact in conflict countries; and promoting gender equality. Underpinning all UK aid delivery is a strong focus on results, promoting value for money and full transparency. This is happening alongside reviews of all major spending areas including bilateral, multilateral, and emergency response to ensure they represent value for money.

3. Measures to increase the predictability of aid

DFID has taken steps to implement the Accra Agenda for Action commitment on medium term predictability. It provides rolling 3-year indicative resource allocations to partner countries where those resources are provided through government. Information is provided to the partner government in the format and at the time that they require it and the partner government may publish it in their budget documents. Indicative resource allocations are not firm commitments. When DFID provides this information the factors that might prompt changes are made clear to partner country governments. DFID has been also been innovative in paving the way for increased predictability in some of its partner countries through the use of ten-year Development Partnership Arrangements (DPAs), which set out the annual volume of aid that DFID expects to allocate to a partner country over a ten-year period. In June 2010 the Secretary of State announced the UK Aid Transparency Guarantee, which commits DFID to publishing full information about our projects online in an open and internationally comparable format. Publication is scheduled to commence in January 2011.