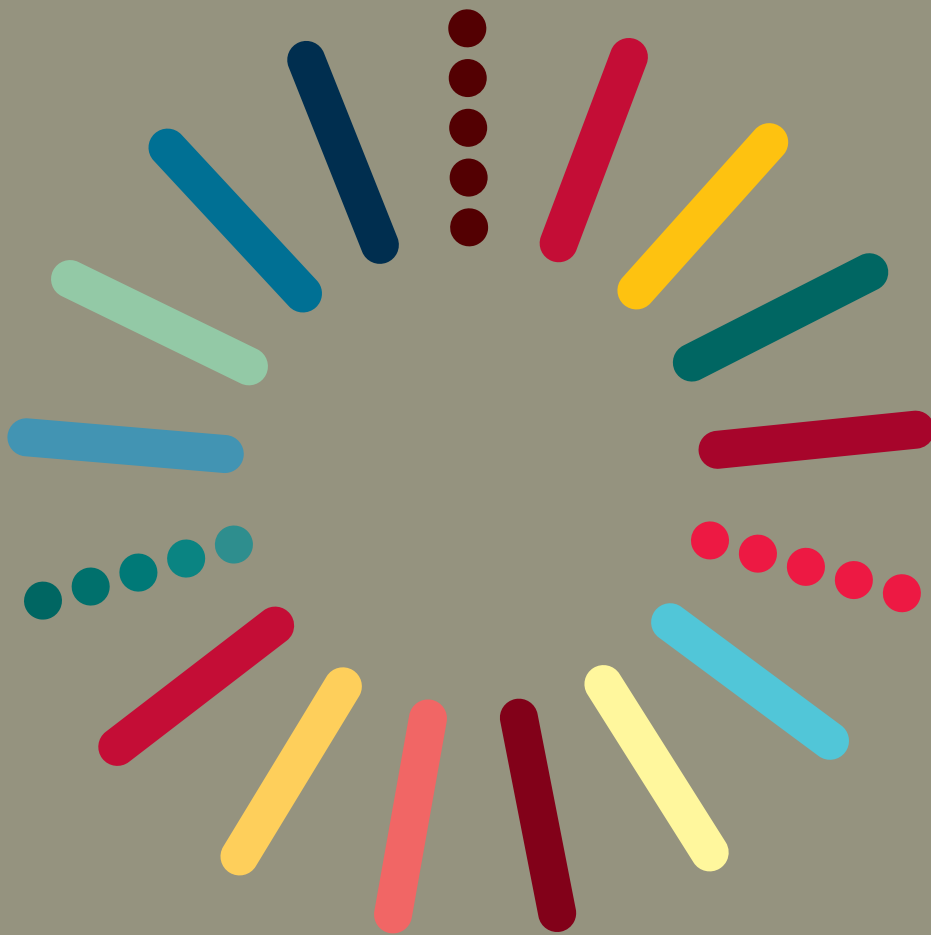


The UK's global contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals

Progress, gaps and recommendations



About Bond

Bond is the UK network for organisations working in international development. We connect and champion a diverse network of over 400 civil society organisations to help eradicate global poverty, inequality and injustice. We work to influence governments and policymakers, develop the skills of people in the sector, build organisational capacity and share expertise.

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progress, gaps and recommendations
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This report was compiled by:



Executive summary

An agenda for change

In 2015, the UK and 192 other countries signed up to the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These ambitious goals include a global commitment to end poverty, reduce inequality and address climate change by 2030. Each year at the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF), governments and other stakeholders come together to review international progress on the SDGs and undertake Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of each country's progress. The UK government is currently preparing its first VNR for the HLPF in July 2019.

The UK government played a central role on the global stage in developing the SDGs. However, when it comes to the implementation of the goals, there are critical gaps in the UK's own policy, programming and political commitment, which mean the UK is lagging behind compared to other countries.

In 2020, the world enters the "decade of delivery", which requires urgent action and investment to make meaningful progress towards achieving the SDGs. The recommendations in this report are intended to be read in the spirit of collaboration between the UK government, international civil society and other stakeholders. Not all of them address the policies and measures we would expect to be in place only four years into the process.

However, all these issues need to be addressed as soon as possible to ensure the success of the agenda by 2030. Our recommendations are relevant for a future UK SDG Implementation Plan that we hope will be forthcoming following the VNR. Such a plan should cover all the targets, as well as resourcing, timelines and departmental responsibilities, and ensure coherence between domestic and international activities. Civil society and other stakeholders should also play their critical role in supporting the delivery of this plan.

The UK's progress from an international perspective

In this report, the Bond network analyses the UK's global contribution to the SDGs and highlights where we believe attention and investment are most needed. We assess progress and gaps for each goal and the collective agenda. We also look at specific targets in detail and provide key recommendations to the UK Government and other related institutions. This report is a tool to guide and strengthen policy and advocacy work in the run up to the HLPF and beyond. It should be a basis for continued collaboration and analysis.

The report covers three specific international dimensions of the SDGs:

1. Official Development Assistance (ODA).
2. The impact of other relevant international policies.
3. The international footprint of domestic policies.

The report presents a perspective from civil society organisations working primarily in the international development sector, though other stakeholders have also been included. However, it does not claim to speak for the whole of UK international civil society. Similarly, as a UK network we do not speak for civil society in other countries. The UK must do more to ensure the content of its own VNR and any actions following the HLPF are directed by the perspectives and approaches of local civil society, especially in the Global South where the UK is investing the most to deliver the SDGs.

Analysis and recommendations for 17 goals

Individual SDG chapters can be found through the following links, along with a full list of recommendations:

- Leave no one behind
- Goal 1: No poverty
- Goal 2: Zero hunger
- Goal 3: Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4: Quality education
- Goal 5: Gender equality
- Goal 6: Water and sanitation
- Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10: Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13: Climate action
- Goals 14 and 15: Life below water and on land
- Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

Cross-cutting issues

The analysis in this report reflects cross-cutting themes that apply to many SDGs and the UK's ability to support the delivery of the agenda as a whole. Examples include:

- Across a range of areas, the UK government is not doing nearly enough to transfer its commitments on leave no one behind into policy or put them into practice. This will require greater investment in human development for all, gender equality and women's rights, and social equality, in direct collaboration with relevant communities and civil society (see chapter on **Leave no one behind** and **Goals 1, 2, 5, 10, 11** and **17**).
- The UK government's approach to privatisation, delivering development "in the national interest" and spending aid through government departments other than the Department for International Development (DFID) has shifted UK ODA's focus away from its primary purpose of poverty eradication and negatively affected the UK's potential impact on the SDGs (see in particular **Goals 1, 3, 8** and **17**).
- The UK government should be playing a much more proactive role towards reforming the international tax system and supporting domestic resource mobilisation, so nations can deliver the effective, inclusive and gender sensitive public services necessary for achieving the SDGs (see in particular **Goals 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10** and **17**).
- Climate action and environmental sustainability are critical to achieving not just the relevant goals but the agenda as a whole, and a great deal more UK effort is required in these areas through funding, programming and ensuring coherence across its international portfolio (see in particular **Goals 2, 7, 9** and **12-15**).
- The SDGs cannot be achieved without national and local ownership to ensure delivery is both context-specific and sustainable. This requires significantly more investment in capacity-building and empowerment programmes, and greater recognition of the critical role of both international and national civil society, trade unions, the private sector and other stakeholders in SDG implementation and accountability mechanisms (see in particular **Goals 16** and **17**).

Policy coherence for sustainable development

Throughout this report, specific policy incoherencies are highlighted, such as the UK government's continued subsidisation of fossil fuels to the tune of billions of pounds while acknowledging the necessity for the Global South to move to greener models of energy production (see **Goal 7** and **Goal 13**).

The goals are interconnected and exist as a comprehensive framework. Unless they are considered together, progress on one goal is more likely to undermine progress against

another, or risk leaving particular countries, communities and groups behind. The delivery of the SDGs is also intricately connected to the delivery of other international commitments, which often address issues touched by the SDGs – for example, the UK's commitments to international human rights conventions, climate and environment agreements, and international labour standards.

This topic is covered in more detail with specific recommendations under **Goal 17 (Target 17.14)**. However, the importance of policy coherence for sustainable development applies to the entire report.

UK support for national and local SDG planning

The 2030 Agenda requires national ownership and policy space, prioritising implementation and accountability by governments. Such ownership entails clear alignment of national development plans and the 2030 Agenda, as well as monitoring and budgeting processes to ensure effective implementation.

The UK could play an important role in supporting governments to develop coherent plans and processes for implementation of the SDGs, as also recommended in a 2016 International Development Select Committee Report.¹

There is a crucial need for civil society and other stakeholders to engage with these planning, budgeting and accountability processes, but at present there is very little support for this. The UK government could do much more to help civil society and other stakeholders to engage with government planning, in line with the 2030 Agenda and as part of its capacity-building approach.

Devolved administrations in other nations in the UK (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) play a vital role in delivering the SDGs in their specific nations, but also have an impact on international delivery. This is either through international programmes or the international impact of domestic actions. For example, the Scotland Malawi Partnership is a multi-stakeholder partnership in action, coordinating some 1,200 different civic links between the two countries, including schools, local authorities, churches and businesses.² The UK government should collaborate on international development much more directly, openly and willingly with devolved governments across the UK, including in the VNR process.

The same applies to national governments and authorities in the British Overseas Territories and Crown Territories. Much more should be done to assess the real situation for implementation of the SDGs in those diverse nations, and the role the UK has in supporting their delivery in full

1. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmintdev/103/103.pdf>

2. https://www.scotland-malawipartnership.org/files/6215/3812/9354/Friendship_with_a_purposeV4web.pdf

engagement with local governments, authorities and local civil society. This could be part of an OT/CT SDG plan to sit alongside or as part of an SDG implementation plan for the UK and its dependent territories.

To ensure national and local ownership of the agenda, the UK government should:

- Support other governments, particularly in the Global South, to develop plans and processes for implementation of the SDGs.
- Support civil society and other stakeholders to engage with these plans and processes, with a particular focus on women and other “left behind” groups.
- Deliver commitments on capacity-building for civil society and other stakeholders made in DFID’s Civil Society Partnership Review (see **Goal 17**).
- Collaborate more directly and openly with devolved governments on their contribution to the SDGs internationally.
- Support the delivery of the SDGs in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies, in line with their national strategies.

About the report

Bond is the UK network for over 400 UK organisations working in international development. The Bond SDG Group is comprised of over 150 of these member organisations. The group advocates for the full, inclusive implementation of the SDGs with a strong focus on their global impact.

The report is an extensive collaborative effort, coordinated by Bond’s SDG Group. It brings together material from across the international development sector and more widely, with direct contributions from over 49 organisations and 14 networks and working groups. Each chapter has been compiled by individuals and organisations with the relevant expertise.

The report was originally assembled as a submission for the UK’s VNR. We have not included domestic progress on the SDGs, which is already addressed comprehensively in the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) Measuring Up report (see the **Annex** for a summary).³ Our analysis complements UKSSD’s and addresses the areas where, in Bond’s view, focus and investment are most needed from an international perspective.

The report does not go into detail on the structure of the VNR itself or the process of consultation. This has been covered in prior Bond submissions to Environmental Audit Committee and International Development Committee inquiries on this topic.⁴

The content and recommendations in this document reflect wide consensus across the sector. However, this does not necessarily mean that all organisations, including leads for each chapter, necessarily endorse every point made. The report reflects the diversity of approaches and ways of working across the sector and Bond’s network. We hope this leads to fruitful discussion and improved collaboration between the UK government and civil society in the run up to, and beyond, the HLPF.

All the goals are interlinked, so we are also pleased this report offers us as civil society the opportunity to develop and improve our integrated approaches, including multi-sectoral ways of working.

3. <https://www.ukssd.co.uk/measuringup>

4. <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/environmental-audit-committee/sustainable-development-goals-in-the-uk-followup/written/89549.html>
<http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/international-development-committee/uk-progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs/written/95870.html>

To ensure the international achievement of the SDGs, the UK government urgently needs to:



List of abbreviations

10FYP	10 Year Framework for Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production	IDC	International Development Committee
AEWA	Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds	IDP	Internally Displaced People
ATI	Addis Tax Initiative	IEI	Inclusive Education Initiative
BEPS	Base Erosion and Profit Shifting	ILO	International Labour Organisation
BRACED	Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters	IMO	International Maritime Organisation
CAFOD	Catholic International Development Charity	IMF	International Monetary Fund
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	INGO	International non-governmental organisation
CCGLP	Connecting Classrooms Through Global Learning Programme	ISDS	Investor to State Dispute Settlement
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child	IUU	Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities	IWT	Illegal wildlife trade
CSSF	Conflict, Stability and Security Fund	LDC	Least Developed Countries
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women	LGBT	Lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans/transgender
DAC	OECD Development Assistance Committee	MDB	Multilateral Development Banks
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	MoD	Ministry of Defence
DFID	Department for International Development	MSY	Maximum sustainable yield
DWA	Decent Work Agenda	N4G	Nutrition for Growth
EDS	Economic Development Strategy	NAP	National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreements	NCD	Non-communicable disease
EU	European Union	NTD	Neglected tropical disease
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office	ODA	Official Development Assistance
FCTC	Framework Convention on Tobacco Control	OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
FGM	Female genital mutilation	PCSD	The OECD Framework for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
FP2020	Family Planning 2020	PPP	Public private partnerships
GCF	Green Climate Fund	RATE	Responsive, Accountable and Transparent Enterprise
GCL	Get Children Learning	SCP	Sustainable consumption and production
GCM	Global Compact for Migration	SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
GDS	Global Disability Summit	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
GEM	Gender Equality Marker	SRHR	UK Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
GFF	Global Financing Facility for Every Woman and Every Child	SUN	Scaling Up Nutrition
GNI	Gross National Income	TRIPS	Doha Declaration on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights
GNR	Global Nutrition Report	UHC	Universal Health Coverage
GPE	Global Partnership for Education	UNFCCC	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change
GPEVAC	Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children	VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
GRB	Gender Responsive Budgeting	VNR	Voluntary National Reviews
GRPS	Gender responsive, quality public services	WASH	Water, sanitation and hygiene
HLPF	High-level Political Forum	WBG	World Bank Group
HSS	Health Systems Strengthening	WHO	World Health Organisation
ICAI	Independent Commission for Aid Impact	WRO	Women's rights organisations
ICF	International Climate Fund	WTO	World Trade Organisation
		WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature



Leave no one behind: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:
Bond

The “Leave no one behind” principle is a major theme throughout this submission. However, as we believe that it should also be a specific, resourced component of any UK SDG strategy, it has been treated separately here.

The pledge that no one should be left behind is a core principle behind the SDGs, as highlighted in the preamble to the UN’s Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁵ The principle points to a growing consensus that the SDGs will not be achieved by 2030 unless those most socially and economically excluded and marginalised are both reached first and put front and centre of planning and implementation. The UK government has championed the principle, including setting out its own pledges in Leaving No One Behind: Our Promise to ensure that:

- Every person has a fair opportunity in life no matter who or where they are.
- People who are furthest behind, who have the least opportunity and who are the most excluded will be prioritised.
- Every person counts and will be counted.⁶

However, as is the case for many other governments, the challenge has been turning the principle into action. Recent national and international reports have highlighted that progress on the “leave no one behind” agenda is failing to meet the needs of the most marginalised people.⁷ Four years since the goals were agreed, this is deeply concerning.

5. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

6. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/leaving-no-one-behind-our-promise/leaving-no-one-behind-our-promise>

7. <https://www.rescue.org/report/sdg-progress-fragility-crisis-and-leaving-no-one-behind>
<http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/2/gender-equality-in-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-2018>

The UK’s leadership and action on leaving no one behind

Four of seven reports by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) in 2016 and 2017 recommended embedding “leave no one behind” across ODA programming and called for further efforts to realise this.⁸ It is not yet clear how the UK government intends to implement “Leave No One Behind” in practice, despite its former championing. In general, the overarching principle must be made clearer and involve leadership from both the prime minister and the secretary of state.

While “leave no one behind” is often simplified as a matter of data disaggregation, this is actually far from the case and alone will not be sufficient for its achievement. In fact, an inclusive and comprehensive approach across all the SDGs is what is required. A sole focus on data neglects, among other things, questions of feasibility, political will and social norms. While relevant left behind groups will change according to context, the UK should take specific mainstreamed actions to engage those on the lowest incomes and those marginalised either through conflict, identity or other status. This should include categories reflected in our recommendations on data disaggregation (see below), as well as caste, sexuality and/or LGBT identity and migratory status, among others.

Since the SDGs came into force, there have been several examples of good practice. DFID has made some progress in its planning and establishment of inclusive policies and approaches. Examples include the new Disability and Inclusion Strategy, the Strategic Vision for Gender Equality, the LGBT Approach, and the Youth Agenda.⁹ The UK also led the

8. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/report/follow-up-2016-17/>

9. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-disability-inclusion-strategy-2018-to-2023>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-strategic-vision-for-gender-equality-her-potential-our-future>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-approach-on-lesbian-gay-bisexual-and-transgender-lgbt-rights>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-youth-agenda-putting-young-people-at-the-heart-of-development>



way by co-hosting the first ever Global Disability Summit in London in July 2018. While these represent important moments, DFID should do more: to put these commitments into practice through specific initiatives, policies and programmes; to develop “leave no one behind” strategies for groups that are not, for whatever reason, going to be included in the UK’s data disaggregation plans; and to address multiple and intersecting identities that impact development outcomes. Increased efforts to achieve the SDGs in humanitarian settings and for internally displaced people would also be welcomed.

More needs to be done to engage and work with civil society, especially in the Global South, working with key left behind groups, as part of the UK’s approaches to consultation, partnership and capacity-building (see **Goal 17**). All UK government departments and bodies working internationally should commit to more meaningful engagement and ongoing dialogue with service users and with civil society, including marginalised groups such as women affected by conflict, youth and children, and those living with disabilities. Ongoing, meaningful dialogue is the only proper way to qualitatively assess whether the UK government is delivering progress on the SDGs for key left behind groups.

To ensure proper cross-government mainstreaming of “leave no one behind”, gender awareness and sensitivity, as well as improved conflict analysis, across all policies and programming, the UK government should develop and provide practical tools, guidance and resources for all UK government staff and implementing partners working internationally. From a coherence perspective, the UK government should do more to ensure that other international actions (for example trade, economic and growth strategies) promote inclusion and do not lead to people being left behind (see **Goals 1, 5, 8, 10 and 17**).

Inclusive data

The collection and use of inclusive, disaggregated data is critical to leaving no one behind, as well as to achieving **Target 17.18** on international support for statistical systems. The UK has played a central role in raising global attention to the importance of disaggregated data for development, especially for people with disabilities through the use of comparable and tested tools like the Washington Group Question Sets.¹⁰ In 2017, DFID launched its own Data Disaggregation Action Plan, committing to work towards disaggregating according to sex, age, disability status and geography.¹¹ DFID’s new Disability Inclusion Strategy recommit DFID to ensure all new programmes will collect, use and analyse disability-disaggregated data for relevant indicators.¹²

10. <http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/washington-group-question-sets/short-set-of-disability-questions/>
11. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/582315/Data-disaggregation-action-plan-Jan-2017.pdf
12. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/760997/Disability-Inclusion-Strategy.pdf

While work is underway to achieve parts of the Action Plan, much more needs to be done to make it a reality. For example, by making the best use of data that exists already and ensuring that household surveys are properly disaggregated. The UK should also do more to ensure that age disaggregation does not leave behind older people, who are typically excluded from statistics.¹³ However, it is worth noting that the UK government did take steps to address this problem internationally through launching a UN Statistical Commission stakeholder group on ageing in March 2018.¹⁴

In July 2018, DFID supported the launch of the Inclusive Data Charter, committing partners to ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit and measurement of social and economic progress.¹⁵ In its draft Inclusive Data Charter Action Plan, DFID made an important commitment to building capacities for data disaggregation in other countries. Other factors, such as ethnicity and migratory status, are included in **Target 17.18** (on capacity-building for data collection) but are not currently in DFID plans. Ethnicity, language and religion are key determinants of exclusion and development outcomes in many countries. These factors can become even more salient in fragile and conflict affected countries where the world’s poorest are increasingly concentrated, leading to the intensification of “horizontal inequalities”.¹⁶ DFID is well placed to advocate for a global commitment towards disaggregating data by ethnicity, language, religion and other characteristics relevant to national context.

In addition, programmes working with children should track vulnerability by disaggregating according to care-giving or living arrangement.¹⁷ While there are challenges to full disaggregation by these characteristics, such as where this may cause stigma or threaten privacy and security, DFID could use alternative or supplementary data collection methods like participant self-reporting that is monitored by trusted civil society partners.

13. <https://www.helpage.org/global-agewatch/blogs/caroline-dobbing-36/making-older-people-count-in-the-data-revolution-847/>
14. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/ageing/news/2018/03/title-statistics-commission-endorses-new-titchfield-city-group-on-ageing/>
15. http://www.data4sdgs.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/IDC_onepager_Final.pdf
16. <http://ida.worldbank.org/theme/conflict-and-fragility>
http://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTWDR2011/Resources/6406082-1283882418764/WDR_Background_Paper_Stewart.pdf
17. https://lumos.contentfiles.net/media/assets/file/All_children_count_but_not_all_children_are_counted.pdf



To ensure no one is left behind, the UK government should:

- Ensure UK policies, strategies and programmes promote inclusion and increase equality internationally, by putting “Leave No One Behind” at the centre of its work. Provide practical tools, guidance and resources to all UK government staff and implementing partners working internationally to support cross-government application of the “Leave No One Behind” principle and gender sensitive analysis across all policy and programming.
- Implement existing inclusion strategies and approaches, including the new Disability and Inclusion Strategy, the Strategic Vision for Gender Equality, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Approach and the Youth Agenda, in collaboration with relevant civil society organisations.
- Engage, collaborate with and fund civil society and other organisations representing left behind groups, especially those furthest left behind, as part of the UK’s approaches to consultation, partnership and capacity-building. Commit to meaningful and ongoing dialogue with service users.
- Do more to ensure that other international actions, for example trade, economic and growth strategies, promote inclusion and do not lead to people being left behind (see **Goals 1, 5, 8, 10 and 17**).
- Continue to advocate for disaggregated data on the global stage, including consistently promoting the use of the Washington Group Question Sets and the Inclusive Data Charter. Use the UK’s influence to advocate for further disaggregation by ethnicity, language and religion and take steps to ensure older people are included in statistics. Take steps to realise commitments in the DFID Data Disaggregation Action Plan and Disability Strategy.
- Put in place strategies for ensuring marginalised groups not included in plans for official data collection and disaggregation are not left behind, for example through more effective use of unofficial data.
- Ensure data collection and disaggregation follow principles of data-protection, self-identification, participation of marginalised groups and independence of official statistics.¹⁸ Ensure as far as possible the security and safety of participants.

18. <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf>



SDG 1: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:
Development Initiatives



The UK's international contribution to Goal 1 rests to a large extent on the quantity, quality and targeting of the financial support it provides for international development, although it is vital to ensure that all other aspects of UK international policy support rather than undermine this investment. Most of the other goals are linked to poverty reduction, for example **Goal 3** (health and wellbeing), **Goal 4** (quality education), **Goal 5** (gender equality) and **Goal 8** (decent work). These links will be explored further in other chapters, though the delivery of the other goals is also critical to achieving **Goal 1**.

This chapter focuses on the central role of ODA and social protection measures. While income is one indicator of poverty, it is important to recognise that poverty is a multi-dimensional and lived experience that affects people's opportunities and quality of life in intersecting ways.¹⁹ It is highly driven by gender inequality and other forms of marginalisation and inequality (see especially chapters on "Leave No One Behind", Goal 5 and Goal 10).

Target 1.a:

Ensure significant mobilisation of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, to implement programmes and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

Full financing for sustainable development is essential to ensure poverty is eradicated by 2030. The world is currently off-track with commitments made at the Addis Ababa Conference on Financing for Development in July 2015 and

19. <https://ophi.org.uk/policy/multidimensional-poverty-index/>

global ODA levels fell for the first time in five years in 2017.²⁰ ODA, while not representing all the financing requirements of the SDGs, is a core part of it given its explicit focus on poverty reduction.

In that context, the UK is to be commended for being one of few to meet its 0.7% Gross National Income (GNI) target for spending on ODA since 2013, enshrining this in law in 2015 under the International Development Act (also contributing the successful delivery of Target 17.2 on ODA). UK ODA as a percentage of GNI has increased at a much faster rate than the average for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) since 2013.²¹ In 2017, it was the world's third largest donor in dollar terms after the USA and Germany, spending £13.4bn on net ODA (2016 prices).²²

However, there are also concerns about trends that will lessen the impact of aid on reducing poverty, as outlined in a recent International Development Committee (IDC) report on the Definition and Administration of ODA.²³ Compared to DFID, other government departments do not meet the same levels of transparency and accountability on aid spending. A 2017 index marked DFID third for transparency of 45 donors, while the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) came 40th.²⁴ Despite this, development funding is increasingly going to other government departments, rising to 29% in 2017.²⁵ Recent ICAI reports on the cross-department Prosperity Fund and Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF) raise concerns about lack of openness, transparency and focus on poverty reduction.²⁶ These issues ought to be urgently addressed before the overall level of ODA funding allocated and spent outside DFID is increased further. As the IDC concluded in its report: "To ensure the primacy of poverty reduction as an objective for all UK ODA, we

20. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/preliminary-oda-data-2017>
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=400&nr=2051&menu=35>

21. <http://www.oecd.org/dac>

22. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/660062/SID-2017b.pdf

23. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmintdev/547/54702.htm>

24. <http://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/the-index/2018/>

25. <https://donortracker.org/country/united-kingdom>

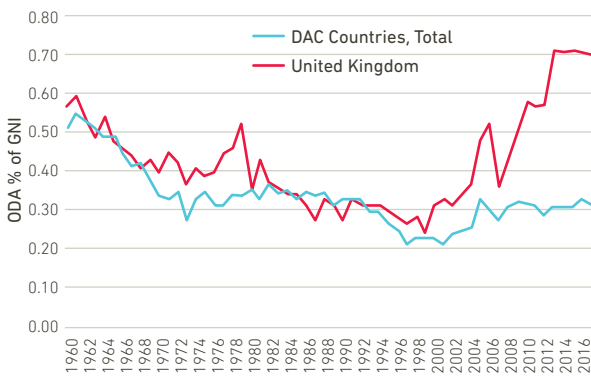
26. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/report/prosperity-fund/>
<https://icai.independent.gov.uk/report/cssf/>



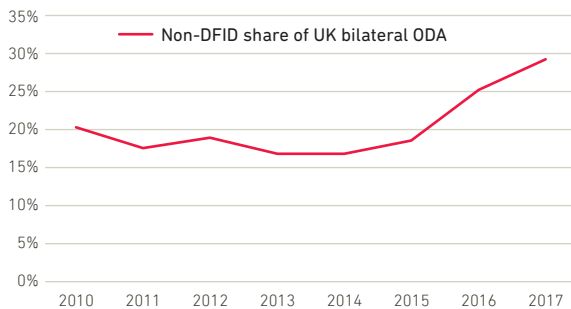
recommend that all ODA, including that administered outside of DFID, should conform in practice with this requirement. Poverty reduction should underpin all of the UK's ODA, helping the poorest and more vulnerable and ensuring that no-one is left behind." This recommendation is welcomed.

The trends above reflect a growing political emphasis on more ideologically-driven, supply-side models of economic growth, as the fundamental driver of development, and the UK's national interests. Since DFID's 2015 Aid in the National Interest Strategy, there has been increasing focus on benefits to UK actors, going as far as to suggest a redefinition of ODA for this purpose.²⁷ Though the UK reports no formally "tied aid", a recent Eurodad report found that 90% of reported UK aid contract awards go back to domestic firms through informal tying.²⁸ This takes a toll on the Global South in terms of value for money and potential spillover benefits through local investment. The trends above present a real risk of undermining the UK's efforts on Goal 1.

UK ODA as a % of GNI compared with DAC average:



Proportion of UK bilateral ODA spent via departments other than DFID:



DFID's Economic Development Strategy (EDS) makes a positive commitment to double investment in building effective tax systems by 2020.²⁹ However, there are also concerns about the coherence of the UK's international policy - for example, the continued existence of tax havens.³⁰ These

27. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-aid-tackling-global-challenges-in-the-national-interest>
28. <https://eurodad.org/development-untied-2018>
29. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-economic-development-strategy-2017> (Page 8)
30. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/report/tax/>

cost the Global South valuable domestic revenue needed for investment in quality public services and infrastructure, including support to build capacity in domestic revenue mobilisation (See **Goal 10** and **Target 17.1**). Research indicates that Zambia, for example, loses approximately \$3bn a year through corporate tax avoidance, evasion and incentives.³¹ More should be done to address tax dodging by companies based in the UK or listed on the London Stock Exchange. The UK should also review the impact of tax incentives in the Global South. Though these can, if used well, be a useful tool to promote decent jobs and growth. However, they can also be used inefficiently and impractically.³²

Macroeconomic policy recommendations for the Global South from international finance institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) have tended to encourage tax regimes dependent on indirect taxes such as VAT to raise revenue.³³ This has a disproportionate impact on the poorest, particularly women, who tend to purchase more household goods subject to VAT.

The UK government could do more to address poverty through strengthening of international systems to reduce tax competition and profit shifting and ensure global financial regulations do not restrict policy space for the Global South. It could also better use its international position by promoting inclusive and representative tax and revenue collection policies that do not fall disproportionately on the poorest, and the allocation of tax revenues to publicly funded, gender-responsive public services and social protection. These actions would also significantly contribute to other goals including Goal 10 on inequality.



Target 1.1:

Target 1.1: By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day.³⁴

The latest World Bank data published in October 2018 confirm that fewer people are living in extreme poverty globally, with the numbers falling by 68 million between 2013 and 2015 to an estimated 736 million.³⁵ The World Bank nevertheless warns that the decline in poverty rates has slowed and predicts this trend is likely to continue. Poverty has even increased in absolute terms in many places. 39 countries saw extreme poverty headcounts increase from 2013 to 2015, putting the Target of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 further out of reach. In light of this, the UK

31. https://www.waronwant.org/sites/default/files/WarOnWant_ZambiaTaxReport_web.pdf?_ga=2.105950795.936215132.1544696217-1252485858.1544696217
32. <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/tax-incentives-in-the-global-south-620468>
33. <https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2017/09/imf-gender-equality-compendium-feminist-macroeconomic-critiques/>
34. This is now measured as \$1.90 a day, the amount used in the quoted World Bank Data.
35. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty>



should do all it can to mobilise resources - public and private, domestic and international - and ensure they are focused primarily on the people and places that are furthest behind and most in need. Without an inclusive approach, this Target will not be achieved.

UK ODA transferred to countries in the Global South

OECD DAC countries have demonstrated a clear trend over the past five years towards more ODA remaining in the country of origin rather than being transferred. UK ODA is no exception, with non-transfer ODA increasing in both volume and share to reach 11% (£1.3bn) in 2016. This appears to have been driven by the trend (discussed above) towards increasing ODA spend through other government departments.

The vast majority (96%) of DFID's bilateral ODA in 2017 resulted in a transfer of cash, technical cooperation or commodities to countries in the Global South. DFID also allocated nearly 50% of its aid to countries experiencing fragility - the highest of any department - with nearly a quarter of its ODA going to "high fragility" countries. In contrast, 51% of Foreign Office ODA and 92% of Home Office ODA was not transferred, but instead spent on administrative costs or on refugees in the UK.³⁶

UK ODA going to the Least Developed Countries

A further consideration for poverty reduction is the percentage of UK ODA directed to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This has decreased over the past several years, falling from 39% in 2011 to 28% in 2016 and 29% in 2017. However, the UK figure remains higher than the DAC average (24% in 2017) and the share of DAC ODA to LDCs has also fallen over the last five years.

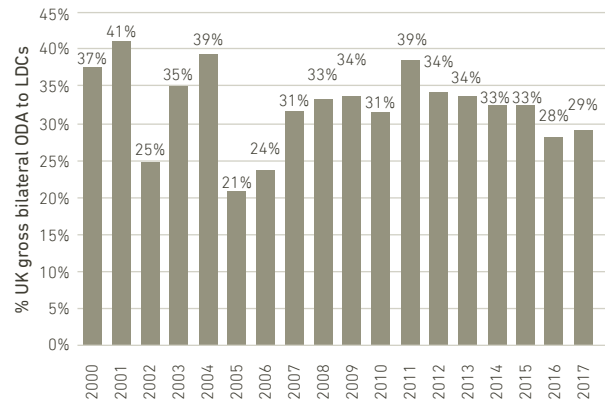
UK ODA going to the countries being left behind

Projections confirm that in the future extreme poverty will be increasingly concentrated in around 30 countries, the majority of which are in sub-Saharan Africa. Low domestic revenues and international finance for these countries most at risk of being left behind means that ODA remains their largest source of international finance, and accounts for more than half of total recorded international finance in 16 of these countries.³⁷ The extent to which UK ODA targets these countries is therefore a useful measure of the UK's contribution to Target 1.1.

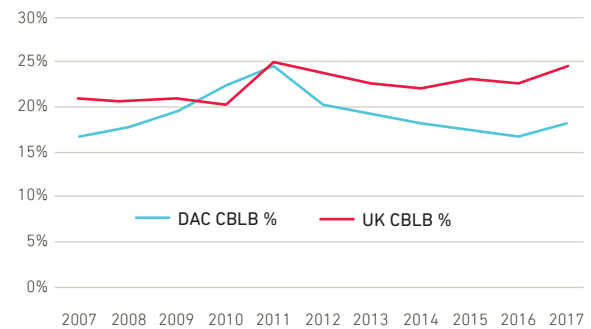
The latest available data confirms that ODA to "Countries Being Left Behind" as a percentage of total gross ODA from the UK has remained relatively constant over the last 10 years. These were 24% (\$2.8bn) in 2017, only slightly higher than in 2007 (21% or U\$1.2bn). The proportion is higher than the DAC average (18% in 2017). However, there has been no significant increase in the proportion of UK ODA going to

these countries since 2015, despite the introduction of the SDGs and the "Leave No One Behind" principle.³⁸

UK ODA to "Countries Being Left Behind" compared with the DAC average:



UK ODA to "Countries Being Left Behind" compared with the DAC average:



Of the UK ODA directed to countries with known poverty levels, just over a quarter (26%) was directed to countries with poverty headcount percentages greater than 40% (ie high levels of poverty) in 2017. This has fallen marginally over the last five years, compared to 30% of ODA in 2012. Conversely, the share of UK ODA to countries with the lowest levels of poverty (or less than 1% of the population in poverty) has increased in recent years, growing from 3% in 2012 to over 10% in 2017. This shows a worrying trend towards increased funding to countries with the lowest levels of poverty.

Goal 1 is a call to action to target international development activity, including ODA, towards eradicating poverty, focusing on the people and countries that are most left behind. The analysis above demonstrates that not enough has been done to target ODA to the countries where it should be targeted, including LDCs, "Countries Behind Left Behind" and countries with high poverty headcounts. This trend must be urgently reversed if **Goal 1** is to be achieved.

36. Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC.
37. <http://devinit.org/post/countries-left-behind/>

38. Ibid.



Target 1.3:

Target 1.3: Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.

Social protection schemes can play a vital role in lifting people out of poverty and enabling them to live in dignity. They are also critical to achieve other goals, including **Goal 5** and **Goal 10**.

More than a third (36%) of people in extreme poverty who received social safety net benefits have escaped extreme poverty as a result of such social safety net programmes.³⁹ Even where these programmes do not successfully get people above the poverty line, they have been shown to reduce the poverty gap by 45%. Globally, around 650 million people in the poorest 20% of people are covered by some kind of social safety net. However, this leaves 856 million people without any kind of social protection.

In many sub-Saharan African countries, ODA plays a key role in funding social safety nets. In countries such as the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Malawi and South Sudan, these social protection programmes are entirely donor funded. Even in middle-income countries such as Kenya and Ghana, donors fund respectively around a third and a fifth of social safety nets.⁴⁰

Global aid for social protection and welfare has occupied roughly a similar share of ODA over the last decade, amounting to around 1.3% of total DAC ODA in 2017.⁴¹ UK support for social protection and welfare has been higher, as a proportion of total ODA, than for DAC donors overall. However, UK spending on this form of aid peaked in 2016 at \$431m (or 3.7% of gross bilateral ODA) before falling sharply to \$263m in 2017 (or 2.2% of gross bilateral ODA). Truly ensuring people do not fall into poverty and no one is left behind will require much greater investment in these programmes. Furthermore, domestic governments need to be supported to plan for the transition of programmes from relying on donor funding to domestic funding in the medium- to long-term.

Successful social protection programmes require greater consideration of the gendered nature of poverty, by targeting the poorest women and addressing the barriers they face in access.⁴² Social protection will be a major theme of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2019.⁴³ This is an important opportunity for advancing the international community's policies and practices in this area,

particularly the gendered impacts. We recommend the UK uses momentum during and following the CSW to review its own work on social protection and take concrete steps to advance women's empowerment and gender equality within social protection systems.

The UK government should also consider other drivers of poverty, such as disability. A recent ICAI review found examples where people with disabilities have been excluded from national social protection programmes supported by DFID (Myanmar), but also examples where DFID's work has led to the inclusion of people with disabilities as a specific target group (Rwanda).⁴⁴ DFID's Disability Inclusion Strategy has social protection as one of its four focus areas, an important step towards the UK taking into account the additional costs and barriers people with disabilities face in access.⁴⁵ All this demonstrates the impact DFID can have on the creation of inclusive social protection systems and the need for influencing social protection policies in direct collaboration with key left behind groups.

However, many policies produced thus far by DFID focus on groups with certain vulnerabilities, such as people living with disability. As addressed in the chapter on "Leave No One Behind", poverty and factors such as gender, disability status, sexuality, age and ethnicity are inextricably linked. The UK government's approach to tackling poverty would be stronger and more effective if it focussed on how vulnerabilities intersect. The UK will not be able to achieve its goal of ending extreme poverty if it does not put this work within the framework of a comprehensive "Leave No One Behind" approach. Such an approach should ensure key left behind groups can systematically and consistently participate in and benefit from development programmes.

39. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialprotectionandjobs/publication/the-state-of-social-safety-nets-2018> (Table 3.26)

40. Ibid.

41. Development Initiatives based on OECD DAC.

42. <https://www.odi.org/publications/10379-informality-women-and-social-protection-identifying-barriers-provide-effective-coverage>

43. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw63-2019>

44. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/ICAI-Disability-Review.pdf>

45. <https://gsdrc.org/publications/social-protection-programmes-for-people-with-disabilities/>



To achieve Goal 1, the UK government should:

- Continue to meet the 0.7% GNI target for ODA and encourage other high- and middle-income countries to do the same. Cease increasing the overall level of ODA spending through other government departments until steps are taken to ensure all ODA is spent transparently and is primarily focussed on poverty reduction and reducing inequality.
- Support reform through the international system and create stronger regulations to reduce tax competition and tax avoidance. Promote tax policies that do not disproportionately impact the poorest, women and other marginalised people.
- Review ODA spending to ensure resources are targeted towards the people and places that need them most, especially LDCs, “Countries Left Behind” and countries with high poverty headcounts.
- Extend UK funding to social protection, given its proven record in lifting people out of poverty. Provide sufficient budget for ensuring that social protection systems are gender sensitive, disability-inclusive and address the needs of other key left behind groups. Work with governments to support progress towards universal social protection and social protection floors.
- Adopt a more comprehensive, diverse and intersectional approach to ending poverty that can be tailored in different contexts to recognise that many vulnerabilities are inextricably linked.



SDG 2: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:
Concern Worldwide and Christian Aid



After years of progress in reducing both absolute numbers and the proportion of the population experiencing malnourishment, the global situation is now deteriorating. Since 2014, the number of malnourished people grew by over 37 million to 821 million, increasing the proportion of global undernourished from 10.6% to 10.9%. Conversely, that of obese adults has increased from 11.7% to 13.2%, reflecting a growing inequality in access to sufficient and good quality food. A variety of factors have driven this shift, including persistent conflict, and climate shocks, such as the 2015/16 El Niño weather cycle. As climate change accelerates, the potential for more substantial deterioration grows (see **Goal 13**).⁴⁶

Malnutrition is a complex and multi-sectoral issue that can only be addressed by tackling both its direct and underlying causes. Improvements in one cause alone, without addressing these underlying factors, are unlikely to be significant or sustainable. Other sectors that should be incorporated, with implications for the UK government's work on these issues, are agriculture, health (see **Goal 3**), social protection (see **Goal 1**) and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) (see **Goal 6**).

Target 2.2:

By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons.

In 2013, the UK government showed leadership by co-hosting the first ever Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit in London, mobilising £2.7bn to address the direct causes of undernutrition.⁴⁷ The UK announced a tripling of its nutrition-specific investments between 2013 and 2020, committing to an additional £655m to nutrition-specific programmes, including £32m to create a catalytic fund, the Power of Nutrition.⁴⁸ It also committed an additional £604m to nutrition-sensitive programmes and the establishment of a Global Panel on Agriculture and Food Systems for Nutrition, to strengthen evidence and policy leadership. As of 2016, the UK is on track to fully deliver these financial commitments, although it lags slightly behind on its nutrition-specific disbursements.⁴⁹

The UK is now collaborating closely with the Japanese Government for a 2020 Summit to be held alongside the Tokyo Olympics. Current commitments end in 2020, so the summit in 2020 will be the next big opportunity to raise the UK's ambition and momentum. However, there is currently a risk of nutrition falling off the agenda again. Good nutrition is critical in boosting human survival, human potential, and economic prosperity, and offers great returns on investment.

47. https://www.dsm.com/content/dam/dsm/cworld/en_US/documents/nutrition-for-growth-commitments.pdf

48. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/207271/nutrition-for-growth-commitments.pdf

49. http://www.action.org/uploads/documents/Follow_the_Funding_Nutrition_Report_101618_final.pdf

46. <http://www.fao.org/state-of-food-security-nutrition/en/>



In light of this, current levels of investment and effort on **Goal 2** are not sufficient.

In 2015, the UK government made a commitment to improve nutrition for 50 million by 2020.⁵⁰ As of 2018, it reports having reached 42.1 million children, women, and adolescent girls with nutrition relevant programmes.⁵¹ Around 9% of these were reached with the ideal high-intensity programmes, which deliver a package of integrated interventions leading to the greatest possible impact on nutrition. The majority (nearly 60%) were reached with medium-intensity programmes, and a further 16% with low-intensity programmes. DFID should look at the means of improving its existing medium-intensity programmes, to increase the overall number and scale of high-intensity programmes being delivered.

Better cross-sector working is essential to enable a whole-of-DFID approach to tackling malnutrition. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 50% of undernutrition - a major form of malnutrition - is associated with infections caused by unsafe water, poor sanitation and unhygienic practices, including not washing hands with soap.⁵² Yet, DFID nutrition strategies, programmes and policies do not systematically include WASH (see Goal 6). Similarly, there are various steps that can be taken in WASH programmes to improve their nutrition-sensitivity, including better targeting to areas of highest undernutrition, incorporating nutrition objectives and outcomes, and integrating nutrition behaviours into hygiene promotion activities. Funding for cross sector-integration, including between malnutrition and WASH, should be ring-fenced, so it is actively mandated, and included in WASH and nutrition strategies, policies and programmes.

A 2014 report by ICAI on DFID's contribution to improving nutrition raised several technical concerns. This included recommendations that DFID better target its nutrition interventions on reduction of stunting; and towards the needs of the most vulnerable women and children.⁵³

While recognising the increased investment and numbers reached through nutrition interventions since then, it is difficult to assess at this present point whether DFID has successfully met these recommendations or is on track to meet its commitments under **Goal 2**. Reaching those furthest behind will require more and better investment, coordination, and focussed interventions. The UK government must work with other donors and stakeholders to ensure nutrition is improved in the countries and population groups that bear the greatest burden of malnutrition. This includes populations in fragile and conflict-affected states where malnutrition rates have been persistently high.

Accountability

The N4G Summit emphasised the need for strong accountability for progress against commitments and

50. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/725014/Nutrition1.pdf

51. Ibid.

52. <https://apps.who.int/iris>

53. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/ICAI-REPORT-DFIDs-Contribution-to-Improving-Nutrition.pdf>

global nutrition targets. The UK and others committed to the publication of an annual Global Nutrition Report (GNR), to track progress on country plans, spending on nutrition, and monitor progress on malnutrition reduction. DFID continues to invest in the GNR and provide an update on its 2013 commitments. Moreover, through its role on the GNR Stakeholder Group, it plays an important role in ensuring the rigour and relevance of evidence is maintained and the report makes concrete recommendations for further nutrition improvements.

DFID has also commissioned a series of annual reports to track its nutrition spending.⁵⁴ These reports enable civil society to hold the UK government to account for the quantity, geographical spread, and nature of DFID's nutrition-specific and nutrition-sensitive spending.

In 2018, the UK and other donors within the OECD DAC Working Party on Development Finance Statistics agreed a proposal to introduce a new policy marker to improve tracking of and accountability for donor nutrition investments.⁵⁵ This marker, which comes into effect in 2020, will help to step up donor accountability by enabling greater assessment of cross-sectoral nutrition investments.

Establishing policy priorities

DFID's 2010 Nutrition Strategy expired in 2015. Albeit delayed, in 2017 DFID released a refreshed position paper, *Saving Lives, Investing in Future Generations and Building Prosperity*.⁵⁶ The paper sets out the UK's plans and contributions to improve nutrition and ensure faster progress towards **Goal 2** and the World Health Assembly targets for 2025.⁵⁷ The paper identified priorities such as scaling-up, and addressing the nutritional needs of women, children, adolescent girls and those in fragile and conflict-affected states. While these are positive priorities, there are some gaps in focus, including the systematic integration of other development sectors (see above regarding WASH). While the paper recognises the importance of investing towards reducing obesity and the potential impact of not doing so, it states DFID will not work directly on the issue, limiting its scope only to not implementing interventions that may promote obesity. This perpetuates the idea that obesity is not a result of poverty and is a gap in coherence with the UK's commitments under **Goal 3** (health and wellbeing).

The 2017 EDS commits DFID to challenge itself and others to make economic development work better for health and nutrition, and so maximise its impact on poverty reduction and prosperity.⁵⁸ This is a welcome addition. Given the positive impact of nutrition on human capital and economic progress, DFID should follow this with an organisational

54. See latest report: <http://devinit.org/post/dfids-aid-spending-nutrition-2016/>

55. [http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT\(2018\)38/REV1&docLanguage=En](http://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC/STAT(2018)38/REV1&docLanguage=En)

56. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/saving-lives-investing-in-future-generations-and-building-prosperity-the-uks-global-nutrition-position-paper>

57. <https://www.who.int/nutrition/global-target-2025/en/>

58. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/587374/DFID-Economic-Development-Strategy-2017.pdf



review of its approach to boosting economic development in low- and middle-income countries to ensure it includes a focus on nutrition.

Engaging with other actors

Since the establishment of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) movement in 2010, DFID has been an active member of the SUN Donor Network and expressed continued support to the SUN Movement 2016–2020 Roadmap.⁵⁹ Through its engagement, DFID helps to catalyse global momentum for addressing malnutrition in more than 60 high-burden countries, supports civil society capacity in the majority of these countries, and supports governments towards improved ownership of malnutrition and accelerated action.

The UK's support for **Target 2.2**, through its investments, accountability structures and political leadership, has been consistently high since 2013. However, as its current commitments (particularly on nutrition) end in 2020, continued efforts, focus and scale up beyond that point are vital for ending all forms of malnutrition by 2030.

Target 2.3:

By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.

In a growing number of systems, agricultural productivity is either stagnant or declining due to the multiple effects of environmental degradation and climate change, coupled with the expansion of chemical agriculture that both drives up greenhouse gas emissions and reduces adaptive capacity (see also **Goal 13**).

This combination is predicted to reduce global crop yields by 2050 by an average of 10%, and by up to 50% in some regions.⁶⁰ Most degradation will occur in Central and South America, sub-Saharan Africa and Asia; areas where poverty is most concentrated. Small scale producer land tenure systems, especially the common property land tenure many operate under, continue to be weakened, not least by international land deals now covering 148.2 million acres.⁶¹

DFID needs to do more explicit analysis on the way conventional, productivity-oriented chemical agriculture has driven deterioration in food security and increased degradation of both land and climate, to ensure the UK is not inadvertently supporting such harmful processes.

59. <https://scalingupnutrition.org/about-sun/the-sun-movement-strategy/>

60. <https://www.ipbes.net/assessment-reports/ldr>

61. <https://landmatrix.org/en/>

DFID's Conceptual Framework on Agriculture (2015) placed an emphasis on commercialisation and its harmful impact on nutrition, but this was only weakly linked to the Global Nutrition Position Paper (2017).⁶² Both represented climate change as a peripheral issue, regarding it as something for future action or relegating it to "cross-cutting issue" status. Also, the two papers defined farmers only according to economic indicators, not reflecting the cultural, environmental and social factors that small scale farmers, who represent 60% of the global total, also value, or indeed their aspirations for a better livelihood.

Agriculture is a diverse and vibrant sector made up of people that require relevant and context-specific support in order to enhance their sustainability, resilience and productivity. The paper in its current format does little to recognise this, or indeed the significant role of women, who are estimated to manage up to 90% of staple food crop production.⁶³

The situation facing agricultural workers, producers and small scale farmers, many of whom are women facing particular barriers due to lack of land rights, smaller plots of less fertile land, and exposure to gender based abuse, exploitation and violence when working in global supply chains, is also of particular relevance to Goal 8 (decent jobs).⁶⁴ DFID's EDS mentions the need to create productive jobs in agriculture, but this has tended to support the promotion of large scale agribusinesses above small scale farmers. This has a concomitant negative impact on poverty reduction (**Goal 1**), gender equality (**Goal 5**) and environmental sustainability (**Goal 15**).⁶⁵

Target 2.4:

By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

38% of the world's cropland is now degraded, costing an estimated \$40bn annually, excluding the hidden costs of increased fertiliser use, loss of biodiversity and loss of unique landscapes.⁶⁶ Widespread use of agrochemicals is a major driver of this degradation, with research confirming the need to reduce environmental levels of reactive

62. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-conceptual-framework-on-agriculture>

63. https://farmingfirst.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/Global-Forum-for-Rural-Advisory-Services_Fact-Sheet-on-Extension-Services.pdf

64. <http://www.fao.org/gender/resources/infographics/the-female-face-of-farming/en/>

65. <https://waronwant.org/media/dfid-and-agribusiness-africa-toxic-mix>
66. <https://www.gaiafoundation.org/post-library/agriculture-at-a-crossroads-international-assessment-of-agricultural-knowledge-science-and-technology-for-development-iaastd/>



nitrogen (largely from chemical fertilisers) by 75% to avoid catastrophes. Such catastrophes include: climate change, since 6% of greenhouse gases are emitted as nitrous oxide; contamination of groundwater (see **Goal 13**); and large scale ocean anoxic events (see **Goal 14**).⁶⁷ Continued intensification, especially through an anticipated doubling of chemical fertiliser and pesticide use by 2050, will drive further degradation and climate change.⁶⁸

The UK should be doing much more to address the interrelationships between land degradation and climate change in its international work on nutrition and agriculture (see **Goal 13**).

Policies that focus on agricultural commercialisation to the exclusion of other drivers of hunger are unlikely to be successful. Instead, programmes should focus on: empowering producers and farmers associations based on their priorities, with an emphasis on women producers; providing support and advisory services that meet demand and are relevant to context; increasing capacity to access markets; and improving resilience and sustainability. Reversing land degradation and adapting to climate change - and its consequent effects on food production and hunger - will require a wholesale transformation to agro-ecological approaches that have also shown enhanced productivity, resilience, profitability and carbon sequestration performance when compared to conventional, chemical agriculture.⁶⁹ The UK, in particular DFID, should do more to research and integrate such methods into its programming.

This hidden catastrophe erodes the basis of small scale farmers' ability to build resilience through drawing on the rich diversity built up over centuries of selective breeding. Far from promoting fair and equitable sharing of genetic resources and traditional knowledge, legislators continue to promote measures that disempower, marginalise and fail to compensate.

The Arusha Protocol for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (2015) does not recognise farmers' rights and fails to acknowledge the contributions made by farmers to the conservation and development of plant genetic resources. For example, in Tanzania, the country for which the Protocol is named, this makes up 90% of seeds used.⁷² The Protocol and the laws that it promotes are designed to facilitate expansion of the commercial seed sector at the expense of genetic property rights, agro-biodiversity and sustainability of farmers. It fails to facilitate the conservation of varieties from which future resilience will be developed.

Instead of supporting implementation of the Protocol, the UK should emphasise supporting the rights of small scale producers, especially women producers. This should be done through strengthening land tenure, so they can make long-term investments in resilience, and through genetic property rights that protect them from unrestricted exploitation by commercial interests and guarantee their right to produce, sell and exchange seeds, as set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in Food and Agriculture.⁷³



Target 2.5:

By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed.

In the last century, there has been a loss of 90% of the genetic diversity in the planet's 20 main crops and 75% of crop diversity.⁷⁰ In addition to this, 30% of livestock breeds are at risk of extinction and six are lost every month.⁷¹

67. <https://www.nature.com/articles/461472a>

68. http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDRS/Resources/477365-1327599046334/8394679-1327599874257/Pingali-Global_Agricultural_Performance.pdf

69. <http://www.fao.org/3/i1235e/i1235e00.htm>

<http://www.fao.org/family-farming/detail/en/c/282591/>

http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/rome2007/docs/Organic_Agriculture_and_Carbon_Sequestration.pdf

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-08/time-for-climate-justice-15-climate-resilient-agriculture-july-2015.pdf>

70. <https://pubs.iied.org/pdfs/G03516.pdf>

71. <http://www.fao.org/3/y5609e/y5609e02.htm>

72. <https://acbio.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Tanzania-Seed-Law-2016.pdf>

73. <http://www.fao.org/plant-treaty/en/>



To achieve Goal 2, the UK government should:

- Make equitable improvements in DFID's nutrition work by focusing on the groups and geographical areas that have been left behind, including adolescents, young children, women and people living in fragile and conflict affected states. Review DFID's decision in its 2017 Nutrition Policy to not work on obesity in recognition of the link between obesity and poverty.
- Ensure continued international attention and investment on nutrition, including through international opportunities like the N4G Summit. When current UK commitments expire in 2020, announce new and catalytic investments at the Japan 2020 Summit. Leverage the UK's role on the OECD DAC and in the SUN Movement to influence other donors and governments to make nutrition commitments through ODA and domestic resources.
- Ensure a whole-of DFID approach to tackling malnutrition. Provide ring-fenced funding for cross-sector integration, including between malnutrition and WASH. Include cross-sector integration in nutrition and WASH strategies, policies and programmes.
- Better join up DFID's agricultural and nutrition policies. Mainstream both through the UK's work on economic empowerment and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Make sure that international programmes on agriculture focus on: empowering producers, groups and associations; providing context-specific support and advisory services that meet demand; and improving resilience and sustainability.
- Support the rights of small scale producers, especially women farmers. Support their strengthened land tenure to enable long-term investments in resilience. Support small scale producers to obtain genetic property rights, as set out in the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources in Food and Agriculture.



SDG 3: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:

Frontline AIDS. Section contributions by the UK Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Network and Action for Global Health



Half the world's population lacks access to essential healthcare, while 100 million people are pushed into poverty each year, paying out of pocket for health. In some countries, for instance India, paying for healthcare is the leading cause for people falling into poverty. Income and wealth remain amongst the most important determinants of life expectancy, as well as access to good healthcare and medicines.

Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is the ultimate aim of **Goal 3**. UHC means ensuring that everyone can get the essential health services they need without discrimination or financial hardship, the latter of which can be avoided through equitable financing.

World Health Organisation (WHO) research shows that, even in the most optimistic scenarios for economic growth, there is still a massive gap between available funding for health services and that required to achieve UHC.⁷⁴ In this context, it is concerning that the share of UK aid to health (as a proportion of all UK aid) dropped significantly in the years 2015 and 2016. While available data shows that UK bilateral health aid at least rebounded in 2017, there are ongoing concerns about the quality of UK aid for health, including an increase in health aid channelled outside of DFID and a corresponding decline in health systems-focussed approaches. With the withdrawal of direct budget support, the UK should demonstrate more publicly how it is compensating for the loss of investments for core health systems strengthening, including health worker salaries.

The UK has channelled increasing health ODA via its development investment arm, the CDC Group - projected to receive up to 8% of the UK ODA budget over the coming four years - which requires returns to be generated on the aid invested.⁷⁵ CDC's Strategic Framework for 2017-21 states that private for-profit healthcare providers can provide

74. [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(17\)30263-2/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(17)30263-2/fulltext)

75. The UK has recently approved a significant increase in financing for CDC of up to £703m per year.

choice and raise standards.⁷⁶ However, for-profit approaches in healthcare often rely on fees or expensive private insurance models to generate returns, meaning many such investments are in hospitals or clinics that are unaffordable for most.

This results in the poor being excluded and increases inequality.⁷⁷ Even "affordable" models may not be genuinely affordable for the poorest, when any small fee can deter people from accessing healthcare.

Alternatively, brokering public-private partnership arrangements (PPPs) between for-profit actors and governments risks significant cost escalation, as well as equity concerns.⁷⁸ Evidence shows that publicly funded healthcare is more effective, efficient and more equitable than privately funded systems.⁷⁹

Those marginalised according to their disability, indigeneity, ethnicity, HIV status or proximity to those affected by HIV, sexual orientation and gender identity, nationality or citizenship are at higher risk of ill-health, less likely to get the healthcare they need, and tend to have significantly worse health outcomes than majority populations. To support better understanding of the health needs of marginalised people and the barriers they face, the UK could do more to fund research and support communities and governments to collect relevant disaggregated data in a sensitive and respectful way (see chapter on "Leave No One Behind" for more on this).

Without neglecting other benefits of migration or the human right to freedom of movement, it is important to consider the impact of health worker migration on UHC in the Global

76. <https://assets.cdcgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/25150902/Strategic-Framework-2017-2021.pdf>

77. For example: <https://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/investing-for-the-few-the-ifcs-health-in-africa-initiative-325654>

78. <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/equity-and-quality-education-public-private-partnership-0>

<https://policy-practice.oxfam.org.uk/publications/a-dangerous-diversion-will-the-ifcs-flagship-health-ppp-bankrupt-lesothos-minis-315183>

79. For example: <https://www.unison.org.uk/content/uploads/2016/07/23809.pdf>

South. The UK's policy of proactively recruiting health workers from lower- and middle-income countries can have a negative impact on the health systems of those countries, particularly in parts of Africa and Asia, fuelled by global health inequalities. For example, the UK is home to over 4,700 doctors who trained in Nigeria, providing a substantial subsidy from Nigeria to the UK.⁸⁰

The UK is one of the largest donors globally towards SRHR and the largest bilateral donor to the UN Population Fund, issues that cut across many of Goal 3's Targets. DFID has made welcome commitments to an integrated and comprehensive approach to SRHR since 2015, including in ministerial statements at the 2017 London Family Planning Summit and the recent Strategic Vision for Gender Equality: Her Potential, Our Future.⁸¹ In the Vision, DFID also commits to going further to integrate HIV and AIDS within its work to achieve universal SRHR for all.⁸² This is significant progress in DFID's thinking from the previous Strategic Vision where HIV was not mentioned. The UK government's leadership, through the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) global partnership and the 2017 Family Planning Summit, has ensured that family planning is high on the global agenda.

There is a need, however, to ensure family planning is included within a comprehensive approach to SRHR. For women to be truly able to choose for themselves, neglected areas of safe abortion, adolescent SRHR, gender based violence and infertility must be included (see also **Target 3.7**).

is very welcome, the GFF has in its initial years faced some challenges and its model presents some inherent risks.⁸⁴ The UK should use its role within the GFF to increase its focus on comprehensive SRHR, on marginalised girls and women, and embed meaningful civil society engagement.

Currently, one in three healthcare facilities in countries in the Global South do not have clean water, meaning women must give birth in dangerously dirty environments. For example, one in five babies that do not survive their first month die from sepsis – a disease linked to dirty water and unhygienic environments.⁸⁵ This points to a need to integrate DFID health strategies better with its work on WASH (see **Goal 6**).

The (limited) data available on indigenous women and adolescent girls worldwide shows they are significantly less likely to benefit from health services, and have worse maternal health outcomes and higher maternal mortality rates than majority populations in both lower- to middle-income countries and industrialised countries.⁸⁶ Factors include: language barriers, lack of income, poor access and disrespect for indigenous beliefs and practices, amongst others.⁸⁷ Disaggregated data and inclusive and sensitive programming are key to begin to address these issues in development work. Failure to track systemic factors leading to poorer health outcomes and access will render the achievement of **Targets 3.1** and **3.2** unachievable.

Targets 3.1 and 3.2:

By 2030, (Target 3.1) reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births; and By 2030, (Target 3.2) end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-five mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.

Complications during pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death for 15 to 19 years old girls globally.⁸³ DFID has played a significant role in ensuring the needs of adolescents and young people's SRHR are recognised and addressed. However, adolescents' access to comprehensive SRHR education and services remains a sensitive area in many contexts and must be addressed through holistic programmes that engage parents and the wider community.

While the UK's commitment of new funding to maternal, child, newborn and adolescent health via the Global Financing Facility for Every Woman and Every Child (GFF)

Target 3.3:

By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases.

DFID's bilateral funding for HIV has fallen substantially from a high of £221m in 2009 to just £13m in 2017, a decrease of 94%.⁸⁸ As standalone bilateral HIV programmes have been closed, DFID has shifted towards integrating HIV into wider health and development programmes. However, spending on these programmes has been inconsistent and has not made up the shortfall. Instead, DFID has shifted towards supporting the global HIV response through multilateral funding mechanisms. For example, the UK's 2016 pledge of £1.1 bn over three years to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria was warmly welcomed by civil society, as was continued funding for Unitaid, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Robert Carr Fund.⁸⁹

80. <https://data.gmc-uk.org/gmcdata/home/#/reports/The%2520Register/World%2520maps/report>

81. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/family-planning-summit>

82. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-strategic-vision-for-gender-equality-her-potential-our-future>

83. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescent-pregnancy>

84. <https://www.wemos.nl/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Joint-Open-Letter-to-the-GFF-by-Wemos-and-CSOs-05112018.pdf>

85. <https://washwatch.org/en/>

86. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2018/4/indigenous-womens-maternal-health-and-maternal-mortality>
[https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(16\)00345-7.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(16)00345-7.pdf)

87. <https://translatorswithoutborders.org/the-language-lesson-what-weve-learned-about-communicating-with-rohingya-refugees/>

88. <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development/about/statistics>

DFID's approach to transitioning investment and changing aid relationships in middle-income countries, such as South Africa and India, has led to some of the populations most affected by HIV and AIDS being deprioritised, risking the resurgence of the epidemic. DFID's last position paper on HIV expired in 2015 and there are no plans to renew it. However, DFID has made good progress in integrating HIV into wider DFID strategies.⁹⁰ This increased strategic integration should be better reflected at the programmatic level.

In 2018, the UK hosted the Malaria Summit and announced £160m in new financing commitments, as part of its overall commitment to invest £500m per year to fight malaria until 2020/21.⁹¹ While significant commitments have been made in high-burden countries, such as Uganda and Nigeria, plans to end bilateral funding after five years pose a challenge to malaria elimination efforts.

DFID stepped up its funding for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in 2018 with the launch of the ASCEND programme, funding up to £200m for five NTDs. Beyond this, DFID should ensure that the focus on preventive chemotherapy and transmission control better accounts for morbidity management and disability prevention needs, which is critical in reflecting the range of interventions needed for people with NTDs. NTD surveillance is another vital component of an effective health system and the UK should support their integration into national health systems as a priority.

Target 3.4:

By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and wellbeing.

In the 2018 UN Political Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), the UK committed to "mobilize and allocate adequate, predictable and sustained resources for national responses to prevent and control NCDs and to promote mental health and wellbeing, through domestic, bilateral and multilateral channels, including international cooperation and official development assistance..."⁹²

The UK has already allocated over £70m of ODA to the Prosperity Fund's Better Health Programme, which will run from 2019-2023 in eight countries and help, among other things, to develop national strategies to prevent and treat

89. <https://stopaids.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Stocktake-Review.pdf>

90. For example: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-strategic-vision-for-gender-equality-her-potential-our-future>; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-education-policy-2018-get-children-learning>; and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-governments-humanitarian-reform-policy>

91. <https://dfidnews.blog.gov.uk/2018/04/19/commonwealth-heads-of-government-meeting/>

92. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/73/2 (specifically Paragraph 46).

NCDs, develop quality indicators and provide targeted care education and training. However, civil society is concerned that the Fund's secondary objective of creating opportunities for international and UK businesses could mean markets are opened up to for-profit healthcare companies in the Global South, and lead to the exclusion of the majority of people.

There is a significant gap in upholding human rights, equality and equity for people with mental health conditions when compared to others. This translates as a far bigger treatment gap. DFID recognise the need for parity between mental health and physical healthcare investment, but this needs urgent attention in its bilateral programmes. When it comes to mental health, all countries have a long way to go, and vast inequities exist in the distribution of and access to mental health resources, not only between but also within countries.⁹³

Target 3.5:

Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol.

The UK was an early implementer, funder and champion of harm reduction for people who use drugs. An evaluation of one programme in Vietnam found that this approach had prevented 31,000 HIV infections.⁹⁴ This work had an enormous impact, not only on the HIV epidemic in these countries, but also on social development in general, in places where people who use drugs were treated as criminals and left behind from social services.

The UK's 2017 Drug Strategy includes an international section, which pledges to "address HIV infections in people who inject drugs in low and middle income countries" by "advocating a public health approach that respects human rights and addresses stigma and discrimination."⁹⁵ In practice however, DFID's bilateral funding for harm reduction has ceased and it is unclear whether these programmes have been picked-up by national governments. The UK has also successfully lobbied for changes to the funding model of the Global Fund, with the result that less money is now going to these programmes. At the international level, such as at the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the UK maintains progressive positions in support of evidence-based harm reduction and drug treatment.

93. [https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)31612-X.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(18)31612-X.pdf)

94. <http://www.oecd.org/derec/unitedkingdom/DFID-WB-Supported-HIV-AIDS-Programmes-Vietnam-2003-2012.pdf>

95. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drug-strategy-2017>

Target 3.6:

Halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.

1.35 million people die each year as a result of road traffic injuries, particularly in the Global South.⁹⁶ Road traffic injuries are also the leading global killer of children and young people aged five to 29, and unsafe routes to school are a barrier to education.⁹⁷ Despite the growing health burden, global road safety is seriously underfunded and the UK's contribution to tackling road safety in low-income countries is tiny relative to other comparable health issues.

DFID works well at a strategic policy level with the World Bank through the Global Road Safety Facility. However, while DFID makes significant investments in transport infrastructure projects (see **Goal 11**), it does not do enough to ensure the roads it funds are safe for users and the communities that live alongside them. It could do much more to ensure that they meet minimum safety standards, such as those based on the International Road Assessment Programme star rating.⁹⁸

To complement its welcome support for the Global Road Safety Facility, the UK should also consider making a significant contribution to the UN's new catalytic Road Safety Trust Fund. As Target 3.6 is due to expire next year, UK support for an extension to 2030 – in line with the vast majority of SDG Targets – would be welcome.

Target 3.7:

By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.

A significant proportion of DFID's health budget goes towards population programmes and reproductive health (31%).⁹⁹ Family planning is a key pillar of sexual and reproductive healthcare services and DFID has been a longstanding supporter and procurer of contraceptive supplies. DFID is one of the largest procurers of donated contraceptives across 46 countries, making a £340m contribution over seven years.

As a result of their investment, an additional 17.9 million

96. https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/road_safety_status/2018/en/

97. Ibid.

98. <https://www.irap.org/>

99. <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/sector/2/categories/130>

women and girls were able to access a method of contraception between 2016 and 2017, contributing to a 0.7% average increase to contraceptive prevalence across countries.¹⁰⁰ DFID played an instrumental role as a core convenor of the FP2020 global partnership, leading to the securing of national level commitments and increased levels of domestic resource mobilisation. As FP2020 draws to its conclusion in 2020, the UK should leverage its convening power to ensure meaningful national ownership, and also ensure that a focus on family planning is framed within an integrated approach to SRHR in post-FP2020 discussions.

Since 2015, DFID has stated its commitment to an integrated, comprehensive approach to SRHR. In 2018 it affirmed a commitment to champion and encourage implementation of a comprehensive, integrated definition of SRHR in line with the Guttmacher-Lancet Commission on SRHR, a bold new agenda that is articulated through various policies on SRHR and gender.¹⁰¹ However, work remains to translate this vision into reality (see **Target 5.6** for more details).

Target 3.8:

Achieve UHC, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.

The UK has supported global efforts to increase access to medicines, vaccines and diagnostics for specific diseases relevant to the Global South, especially via support of Gavi (the Vaccine Alliance), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria and Unitaid. However, DFID's withdrawal from national budget support and their pursuit of more project-based approaches, often channelled via non-state actors, risks fragmenting health systems, reducing quality improvements in the public sector and undermining progress towards UHC.

The recent ICAI review of DFID's maternal health programme found insufficient action from DFID in addressing barriers women face in accessing health services.¹⁰² Despite international evidence on the harm caused by direct fees, low fees were still being charged in some DFID supported maternal health programmes.¹⁰³ The UK government has significantly withdrawn from international processes aiming to increase momentum on UHC and has not used its influence to ensure institutions like the World Bank are doing the most they can to support countries to remove fees.

In addition, as discussed above, channelling increasing ODA for health via the CDC Group can undermine DFID's efforts

100. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/UNFPA_Supplies_Annual_Report_2017_FINAL.pdf

101. <https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights>

102. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/report/maternal-health/>

103. Ibid.

to deliver UHC in pursuit of for-profit approaches. To ensure genuine progress in lower- and middle-income countries, there also needs to be a fundamental revision of the global macroeconomic policies - such as unfair tax and trade rules - that currently deprive these countries of necessary financial resources (see also **Goal 1**, **Goal 10** and **Goal 17**).

Target 3.9:

By 2030 substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination.

The WHO estimates that 7 million die prematurely from the impacts of air pollution each year, including 4.2 million deaths attributable to outdoor air pollution.¹⁰⁴ While there are multiple causes, vehicle emissions are a significant factor in many countries, particularly in urban areas, and the UK government should therefore do more to support safe and sustainable public transport in the Global South. This includes support to enable the transition to efficient and zero emission vehicles, and dedicated investment in pavements and cycle facilities to ensure that people can walk and cycle in safety.

As well as supporting air quality monitoring, the UK should also promote the use of real-world data, including using remote sensing technology, as The Real Urban Emissions Initiative has done in London, to ensure policies are effective.¹⁰⁵ There is an opportunity for the UK to help expand this approach to other cities globally to inform air quality and vehicle emissions policy, as part of its work to achieve Goal 9 (innovation and infrastructure) and **Goal 11** (sustainable cities and communities).

Target 3.a:

Strengthen the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate.

The UK's contribution of £15m of ODA funding from 2016 to 2021 for the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) 2030 project is much welcomed. The project supports the implementation of tobacco control measures directly in 15 lower- and middle-income countries and indirectly in other parties to the FCTC, to help reduce the burden of tobacco related death and diseases.¹⁰⁶

104. [https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-\(outdoor\)-air-quality-and-health](https://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/ambient-(outdoor)-air-quality-and-health)

105. <https://www.trueinitiative.org/>

106. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/639372/FCTC_2030.pdf

Target 3.b:

Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in TRIPS regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

In 2017, the UK was the single largest individual donor across governments and private donors of the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative, which is one of the furthest-developed examples of de-linked research and development where equitable and affordable access to the end product is built in from the start. However, the UK government did not earmark any of this funding for the research and development of new paediatric antiretrovirals for children living with HIV. Furthermore, funding for HIV Vaccine research and development has been cut by DFID in 2018. It is imperative that the UK government invest more in both areas of research to meet the 2030 objective of ending AIDS.

The UK should seize opportunities at a global level to show its support for the TRIPs Agreement and Public Health. It should also proactively support the flexibilities within the TRIPS Agreement to be used by all World Trade Organisation (WTO) members to protect public health and promote access to medicines for all when they determine they are needed. Maintain overall level of ODA spending on health after the dip in 2015-16. Restore levels of health aid channelled via DFID. Ensure all UK ODA for health complies with aid effectiveness principles and can support health systems strengthening. Ensure UK ODA is not channelled through for-profit models that undermine health systems.

To achieve Goal 3, the UK government should:

- Support strengthening of health systems to achieve UHC at the international level. Provide financial and technical support to build quality public health services and national UHC plans, domestic resource mobilisation, the removal of user fees, healthcare worker training, and sustainable solutions (such as compensation by countries receiving health workers trained in the Global South) for addressing human resource shortage for health. Support reform of the international tax system to ensure developing countries can invest as needed to deliver UHC (see **Goal 1** and **Goal 8**).
- Maintain overall level of ODA spending on health after the dip in 2015-16. Restore levels of health aid channelled via DFID. Ensure all UK ODA for health complies with aid effectiveness principles and can support health systems strengthening. Ensure UK ODA is not channelled through for-profit models that undermine health systems.
- Increase funding to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria. Increase funding to fully integrate HIV across bilateral programmes.
- Lead the establishment of a partnership to transform mental health globally, the goals of which would be the mobilisation and disbursement of funds, as well as enabling the utilisation and monitoring of these funds, as recommended by the Lancet Commission.¹⁰⁷
- Ensure all road infrastructure built with UK aid meets minimum safety standards and increase expenditure on global road safety. Support an extension of Target 3.6 to 2030. Do more to support sustainable transport and infrastructure for safe walking and cycling, and real-world emissions monitoring.
- Increase equitable access to quality medicines, vaccines, diagnostics and research and development, including in middle-income countries where the majority of poor people live.
- Introduce a Health Systems Strengthening Policy ensuring that no one is left behind, that marginalised populations are meaningfully engaged in health policies and programmes, and that data is properly disaggregated (see chapter on “Leave No One Behind”).
- Implement the recommendations of the ICAI review into maternal health programming. Develop a long-term approach to improving maternal health, which focuses on quality of care and investments in health systems.
- Leverage its convening power to ensure meaningful national ownership of Family Planning and that a focus on family planning is framed within an integrated approach to SRHR in post-FP2020 discussions. Link the realisation of SRHR with wider gender equality promotion and women’s rights (see **Goal 5**).
- Implement a comprehensive HIV strategy and an NTD strategy that include preventive chemotherapy/mass drug administration and morbidity management.

107. [https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736\(18\)31612-X.pdf](https://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(18)31612-X.pdf)



SDG 4: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:
Send My Friend to School



Education is a human right, enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Quality, inclusive, and free public education also underpins the delivery of all the SDGs. **Goal 4** builds upon Millennium Development **Goal 2**, expanding the global agenda from a sole focus on access to education to include quality of learning and leaving no one behind. This important change has been reflected in international development agendas and seen a concerted global effort to improve conditions in the classroom to ensure all learners are learning.

Despite this, 262 million children and young people remain out of school and many more are in school but not learning.¹⁰⁸ The most marginalised from education have not experienced the progress they were promised. Across the world, equity gaps between the furthest behind children and the national average are stagnating or growing. This reality means that we are currently at risk of seeing 1.5 billion adults with no education beyond primary school by 2030.¹⁰⁹ The international community, including the UK, must accelerate progress as we enter the decade of delivery (2020 to 2030) as a matter of urgency, to ensure that **Goal 4** and the right to education are fully realised for all children.

Target 4.1:

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.

DFID's 2018 Education Policy, Get Children Learning (GCL), outlines a strong vision for education development with three focus areas:

1. Teacher quality.
2. System reform.
3. Support for the most marginalised groups.

While this commitment is welcome, the DFID should develop an action plan to spell out how these objectives, as well as other UK commitments, such as work towards de-institutionalisation, will be achieved and momentum continued.

Securing more and better financing internationally and domestically should be a key focus for realising **Goal 4**. Overall, bilateral and multilateral aid for education is declining, sometimes drastically and most donor aid does not include amounts earmarked for disability and inclusive approaches.¹¹⁰ The UK remains a leading donor in education, including as one of the biggest donors to the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), a key funding mechanism for global education that supports countries to develop strong national education systems. The UK pledged £225m over three years to the GPE in 2017. However, this amount was lower than civil society working on international education had hoped.¹¹¹

108. <http://data.uis.unesco.org>

109. <https://report.educationcommission.org/report>

110. https://iddcconsortium.net/sites/default/files/resources-tools/files/iddc-report-short_16-10-17.pdf

111. <https://www.results.org.uk/results-uk-responds-uks-pledge-global-partnership-education>

The UK's leadership on the GPE is a positive step towards education for all, including its work to strengthen and reform the Partnership. It is recommended that these efforts should continue to an even greater degree in support of the SDGs.

The UK should also increase the percentage of DFID's aid budget spent on education, recognising that its current rate is only 7.07%, far below the IDC's recommendation of 10% and civil society's call for 15%.¹¹² The UK should invest equitably and adopt "progressive universalism", recognising the challenges associated with new financing models (such as the Education Outcomes Fund and the International Financing Facility for Education) and address these comprehensively.¹¹³ As the vast majority of funding for education comes from national budgets, DFID should also support countries to increase domestic resource mobilisation as part of this agenda.

Target 4.2:

By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education.

Early childhood development and pre-primary education are key determinants of a child's educational attainment and lifelong success. Those who start behind, stay behind, and intervening early is vital for the poorest and most marginalised children. Outlined in GCL, DFID's commitment to expand their research-led approach on early years education is welcome. However, greater investment and action is needed, particularly in the pre-primary years. 85% of children in low income countries do not have access to pre-primary education and pre-primary education receives just 1% of all aid going to children under five.¹¹⁴

To secure its commitments on primary and secondary education, DFID should commit to greater action and investment in quality, inclusive and multisectoral early years education. They should clearly articulate how the research-led approach will be utilised to improve realities on the ground and provide a clear plan and pathway for consistently and steadily improving its focus and investment on early years education, particularly in the pre-primary years.

112. <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/sector> (accurate at the time of writing); and <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmintdev/367/367.pdf>

113. Progressive Universalism has been defined as "expanding provision of quality education for everyone while prioritising the needs of the poor and disadvantaged." See: <https://report.educationcommission.org/report>
114. <https://theirworld.org/resources/detail/bright-and-early-report-on-financing-pre-primary-education>

Target 4.5:

By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations.

In GCL, DFID highlighted three marginalised groups of children which would receive increased support for education: children with disabilities, children affected by crises, and hard-to-reach girls.

As highlighted by the IDC: "the Department should... use its influence... to shine a light on the needs of disabled children" as "this is a vital area of work for DFID."¹¹⁵ The UK outlined its support for education for persons with disabilities at the Global Disability Summit (GDS) in 2018, where it announced the Inclusive Education Initiative (IEI), and with its Strategy for Disability Inclusive Development.¹¹⁶

The momentum for the most marginalised groups must not be lost and DFID should capitalise on its leadership to galvanise real inclusion of the furthest behind in education, including through honouring and implementing commitments made at the GDS, such as fully funding and developing the IEI. DFID's financial commitment to the IEI should be ambitious and it should work with other countries to increase the funding base.

The complex needs of children and young people with disabilities, including the discrimination they face, must be fully addressed in education sector plans supported by the IEI to ensure that no child is left behind. DFID's new Disability Strategy illustrates an ambitious vision for inclusive education and includes a groundbreaking commitment to "work towards the long-term process of de-institutionalisation." DFID should continue to cement itself as a world leader in this area by ensuring the delivery plan for the Strategy effectively implements all commitments.¹¹⁷

Similarly, the UK has taken a leadership role in supporting education for children affected by crises, but there is much more that needs to be done. In 2016, the UK pledged £30m to the Education Cannot Wait fund, which was expected to reach over 1 million children by the end of 2018.¹¹⁸ With a replenishment expected in 2019, the UK should recommit to supporting this fund and reaching children in conflict-affected areas. In 2018, the UK also signed the Safe Schools Declaration and is currently in the process of implementing the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from

115. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmintdev/367/367.pdf>

116. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-disability-inclusion-strategy-2018-to-2023>

117. Ibid.

118. www.educationcannotwait.org

Military Use During Armed Conflict.¹¹⁹ The UK should continue to fully implement the Declaration across all relevant departments, including the FCO and the Ministry of Defence (MoD), and work with other countries on endorsement.

If there is gender disparity in education, there is a risk that girls will be undervalued in their communities and blocked from further opportunities, whereas increases in girls education can be a positive sign of improving attitudes towards women’s rights and empowerment (see **Goal 5**).

The UK is one of the leading countries on girls’ education, including through the Girls’ Education Campaign and the Platform for Girls’ Education. These initiatives are underpinned by the commitment made by the former Foreign Secretary to support 1 million vulnerable girls to achieve 12 years of quality education by 2030 through £212m in UK aid. The Girls’ Education Challenge (phases one and two) similarly illustrate the UK’s commitment to gender equality and reaching vulnerable girls, including those with disabilities. DFID should continue to lead in this field, maintaining the momentum established through these initiatives by fully implementing the recommendations made by the ICAI in 2016.¹²⁰

Minorities and indigenous peoples worldwide have restricted access to education. This is due to hostile school environments, lack of respect for culture or language skills by teachers, and higher risk of arriving at school hungry, ill or tired, which contributes to higher dropout rates and poor performance.¹²¹ The prohibitive cost of school fees may also be a factor, or mismatch between state-taught and community values, such as in the case of Roma students in Turkey or the Fulani in Nigeria, among many others.¹²² The language of instruction in early grades education also has a significant impact on children’s educational outcomes and resulting life chances, as being taught in an unfamiliar language can lead to lower test scores and further risk of being left behind.¹²³ DFID requires data and evidence on language to assist its support for mother tongue education in the early grades and effective advocacy with partner governments.

While honouring commitments is vital, DFID should also do more to ensure that policies and programmes aimed at the hardest-to-reach children are underpinned by appropriate, disaggregated, relevant, and meaningful data collection to ensure they are leaving no one behind (see chapter on “**Leave No One Behind**”).

119. http://protectingeducation.org/sites/default/files/documents/guidelines_en.pdf
 120. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/ICAI-review-Accessing-staying-and-succeeding-in-basic-education-UK-aids-support-to-marginalised-girls.pdf>
 121. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/mandated-areas1/education.html>
 122. https://minorityrights.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/September-2018_MR_Trends_Report_170x240_WEB_FINAL-1.pdf; and <https://www.odi.org/publications/10288-who-being-left-behind-sub-saharan-africa-asia-and-latin-america>
 123. <http://www.unesco.org/education/EFAWG2009/LanguageEducation.pdf>; http://www.adeanet.org/adea/downloadcenter/Ouga/B3_1_MTBLE_en.pdf

DFID should use the opportunity presented by the VNR process to assess progress and to commit to data collection for different groups of children, including children with disabilities, minority ethnic and indigenous children, refugee and crisis-affected children and youth, institutionalised children, and girls.

Recognising that marginalisation is often a product of compounding and complex factors, DFID should also map and address the cross-cutting factors of marginalisation and take an intersectional approach to disadvantage, assessing all policies and programmes to ensure they are reaching the hardest-to-reach learners. This will help to place inclusion at the heart of all DFID education programming, with education in emergencies programmes that are conflict and gender sensitive; education for children with disabilities that addresses all barriers to access and learning; and interventions that address the cross-cutting and compounding factors of marginalisation comprehensively.



Target 4.7:

By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture’s contribution to sustainable development.

In late 2018, DFID launched the Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning Programme (CCGLP), which aims to “build long-term partnerships between schools and communities in the UK and countries around the world.” The CCGLP is expected to reach 3 million children and train 30,000 UK teachers and school leaders, and 30,000 from the Global South.

While this programme is welcome, it lacks ambition. It represents a third reduction in funding compared to its predecessors and runs for three years rather than five. It also needs a stronger focus on critical pedagogy, particularly in terms of developing a social justice rather than charity mindset in schools. Global citizenship education should be central to every young person’s education in the UK, prioritised and embedded within the national education system. There should also be a joined up, cohesive approach to global citizenship education across the education and development sectors, and responsibility for delivery of **Target 4.7** should move from DFID to the Department for Education (with DFID remaining a key accountable stakeholder).

Target 4.a:

Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all.

In 2013, DFID committed to ensuring that all schools directly funded by the Department were disability accessible.¹²⁴ However, physical accessibility is not enough to secure learning for all children in the classroom. It is important that inclusive schools are developed within the community, preventing children from having to move away from their family home to receive an education.

Promoting inclusive education should be done in line with CRPD Committee General Comment 4, including the recognition that inclusive education is a “process of systemic reform embodying changes and modifications in content, teaching methods, approaches, structures and strategies in education to overcome barriers with a vision serving to provide all learners of the relevant age range with an equitable and participatory learning experience and the environment that best corresponds to their requirements and preferences.”¹²⁵

Every child has a right to an education and to feel safe to learn, and for this adequate WASH facilities are as vital as pens and books. Safe, single-sex and private toilet facilities are essential to ensuring all children can access school safely. However, in 2016, UNICEF found that over 620 million children worldwide lacked access to a single-sex, usable toilets at their school, and “a third of schools in sub-Saharan Africa and Eastern and South Eastern Asia had no sanitation service.”¹²⁶

For girls in particular, access to WASH is fundamental to universal access to education and a safe learning environment, since in latrine blocks on school grounds bullying, harassment and even rape are occurrences that can lead to girls dropping out altogether. Girls often have to stay at home if they are unable to safely manage their periods at school, with 40% of girls in Bangladesh reporting missing school during their period.¹²⁷ The UK should step up support for inclusive infrastructure and should expand its commitment to ensuring that all education infrastructure directly or indirectly funded by DFID is inclusive. It should also take a fully gender sensitive approach to the issues faced by girl learners, including by integrating WASH into DFID education strategies.

Target 4.c:

By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially LDCs and small island developing states (SIDS).

GCL recognises that “teaching quality is the most important factor affecting learning in schools,” and the focus on teachers is a very welcome one.¹²⁸ This should be underpinned by a clear action plan working with countries, teachers and teacher unions to increase the number of teachers recruited, make the teaching profession more attractive, and ensure that teachers have the skills necessary to reach and teach the most marginalised learners, including through pre-service and in-service training. The funding committed to GPE in 2017 will facilitate the training of 170,000 teachers but falls far short of the 69 million teacher gap to achieve **Goal 4** by 2030.¹²⁹ These teachers must be supported to teach in the most difficult contexts, including in conflicts and crises and rural locations, to ensure that every child realises their right to a qualified teacher.

124. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-disability-framework-2014>

125. https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CRPD/C/GC/4&Lang=en

126. <https://www.unicef.org/eap/reports/drinking-water-sanitation-and-hygiene-schools>

127. <https://www.wateraid.org/uk/publications/out-of-order-the-state-of-the-worlds-toilets-2017>

of-the-worlds-toilets-2017

128. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-education-policy-2018-get-children-learning>

129. <https://dfidnews.blog.gov.uk/2018/02/02/replenishment-of-global-partnership-for-education/>; and <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000246124>

To achieve Goal 4, the UK government should:

- Develop an action plan that sets out how the objectives of the GCL Education Policy will be achieved. Ensure that the momentum created through this and other commitments, including the GDS and DFID’s commitment to end institutionalisation, are fully realised.
- Commit to greater action and investment in quality, inclusive and multisectoral early years education.
- Map and address the cross-cutting factors of marginalisation and take an intersectional approach to disadvantage. Assess all programmes and policies to ensure they are reaching the hardest-to-reach, particularly with reference to gender, disability status, ethnicity, language and religion (amongst others). Continue and build on the UK’s global leadership in girls’ education and education in conflict and crisis.
- Secure more and better financing for education. Ensure DFID invests equitably, increases the proportion of ODA spent on education to 15%, and supports countries to increase domestic resource mobilisation.
- Ensure that global citizenship education is prioritised and embedded in the UK curriculum.
- Step up support for inclusive infrastructure. Expand the commitment to ensuring that all education infrastructure directly or indirectly funded by DFID is inclusive. Take a disability and gender sensitive approach, in particular by addressing issues with WASH negatively impacting the education of girl learners. Integrate WASH into DFID education strategies.
- Work with countries, teachers and teacher unions to develop a clear action plan for comprehensive recruitment, retainment and training programmes.



SDG 5: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:

Women for Women International. Section contributions by the Gender and Development Network, the UK SRHR Network and the Trades Union Congress (TUC)



The UK government, through its negotiators predominantly led by DFID, was at the forefront in promoting a specific goal on gender equality, together with gender mainstreaming across all the goals. It has made some noteworthy steps towards implementing this in policy and practice. For example, DFID's Strategic Vision for Gender Equality: A Call to Action for Her Potential, Our Future and its commitment to 'Leave No One Behind' is an important recognition of the centrality of gender equality to the SDG agenda and the need for equitable progress.¹³⁰ There were also positive responses to the introduction of the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014, calling on DFID to improve its consideration and monitoring of gender equality in its work to reduce poverty.¹³¹

The importance of tackling structural causes of gender inequality is recognised within Agenda 2030, going beyond addressing the needs of individual women and girls. Moving forward there are a number of areas that the UK government should address, outlined below, to remove these structural barriers and so contribute to the implementation of Goal 5 alongside many of the other Goals. Priority should be given to measures that benefit the many women and girls who face multiple, intersecting, discriminations based on class, race, age, disability, sexuality and other factors, and who experience the greatest obstacles to empowerment.

Gender inequality is not a women's issue – it affects everyone. Therefore, working across various issues (including by working with men) is both necessary and effective for supporting gender equality and women's and girls' rights. This will contribute to changing attitudes

and behaviours to promote women's empowerment and challenge discrimination. There is a need for a UK strategy that is more explicit in how it promotes the rights of women, linking its human rights and development work.

In short, it is necessary for the UK government to pursue a "twin-track" to women's rights: ensuring direct support for policies and programmes that promote the rights of women; and ensuring that the structural barriers to gender equality are recognised through mainstreaming across all policies and programmes, especially the recognition that women in marginalised communities are likely to face greater challenges.

Policy coherence and cross-departmental strategy

The SDGs are a comprehensive framework that recognises the complex needs faced by the most marginalised people, including women and girls, who can experience multiple and intersecting challenges. They provide an important opportunity for the UK government to achieve better policy and practice for promoting gender equality, such as Women Peace and Security, the DFID Strategic Vision for Gender Equality, and other human rights frameworks.¹³²

Policy coherence is absolutely vital if gender equality is to be achieved, both in the UK and internationally. For example, the UK government must ensure that efforts in other areas such as peace and security, or economic policies such as trade, avoid undermining progress on Goal 5. From a women's rights perspective, longer-term approaches should be integrated into "crisis responses", particularly around political empowerment and livelihood support.

130. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/708116/Strategic-vision-gender-equality1.pdf

131. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/9/section/1/enacted>

132. Ibid.; and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-action-plan-on-women-peace-and-security-2018-to-2022>

The commitment to “Leave No One Behind” is yet to be consistently embedded and applied to UK government policy and programming, particularly as it relates to gender equality and women’s rights. As discussed in the chapter on “Leave No One Behind”, reports indicate that the needs of the most marginalised people around the world are not yet being met. Women and girls’ lived experiences of marginalisation, emergencies, extreme poverty, violence and exploitation is multidimensional and interlinked. Delivering the SDGs will therefore require a much more nuanced approach to understanding who the most marginalised members of society are, and investing in them as an immediate priority.

DFID’s Strategic Vision includes a call to “work across girls’ and women’s lifecycles and on multiple areas simultaneously, with particular attention to adolescence.”¹³³ This is welcome, given that the specific needs of girls and especially adolescents are often overlooked. However, more nuanced reporting that captures both age and gender will be essential if DFID is to meet its own call on adolescence, as will be the investment in more targeted policies, programming and funding, to ensure better progress for girls across all of the SDGs. The Strategic Vision also includes a commitment to “protect and empower girls and women in conflict, protracted crises and humanitarian emergencies.” This is vital.¹³⁴ Once again, adolescent girls are often overlooked in humanitarian programming.

Women’s rights organisations and movements (WROs) and trade unions

The recognition in the SDG Framework that improving women’s representation and participation is crucial across all 17 of the Goals (from the household to international decision-making platforms) has largely been welcomed.

However, achieving this requires a monumental increase in funding available for women’s empowerment, particularly to support changes to break down barriers that women face in accessing women’s economic and political opportunities and services, such as decent work, health and education. Some progress was made in this regard in 2018. For example, additional funding via the Jo Cox Memorial Strengthening Grants, specifically its prioritisation of women’s empowerment by supporting women-led civil society. This report strongly welcomes the fund’s accessibility to small organisations in fragile and conflict-affected states.

Despite this, there remain significant opportunities for the UK to further its contribution to the achievement of the Goals – particularly **Goal 5** – through partnerships with women’s rights organisations and movements.

There is a growing body of research that demonstrates that WROs are important catalysts in interventions to promote

133. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/708116/Strategic-vision-gender-equality1.pdf
134. Ibid.

greater gender equality and realise women’s rights.¹³⁵ Research also shows that progress towards gender equality can only be achieved through demand driven approaches – through women’s mobilisation, awareness raising and collaborative action, as opposed to traditional supply driven interventions aimed at empowering individual women.¹³⁶ WROs are particularly well placed to increase women’s consciousness and agency and have pioneered a range of effective models for mobilising and empowering women to come together to know and claim their rights.¹³⁷

Supporting WROs is also a key mechanism to implement the principles of “Leave No One Behind”, with its implication that women who are rural, low caste, LGBTI,¹³⁸ living with disability or HIV positive should all be included and movements representing these groups be specifically engaged in work with women’s rights movements.

However, despite their added value, WROs continue to struggle to secure quality resources necessary to carry out their work. Whilst there has been a slow increase in aid focused on gender equality, this has yet to translate into greater support for WROs. The most recent data published by the OECD DAC shows that only a tiny 1.4%, or \$400m, of gender focused aid has been committed to support WROs and gender equality institutions.¹³⁹

Trade unions and wider labour movements have also continued to play a key role in promoting gender equality in many contexts. Trade unions are organising women workers, informing them about their rights and supporting collective agency at work and in wider society. As the International Labour Organisation (ILO) has highlighted, collective bargaining and tripartite negotiations are an effective mechanism for achieving gender equality. Collective agreements have advanced flexible working arrangements for both women and men and shared family time, and included measures to reduce the gender pay gap, for example.¹⁴⁰ Through broad based alliances, progress is being made to improve social dialogue, legal protections and access to social protection for women in the informal economy, where most women work, in line with ILO Recommendation 204.¹⁴¹ Approaches to funding should factor in the important role that WROs, trade unions and alliances can play in promoting gender equality.

135. <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/american-political-science-review/article/civic-origins-of-progressive-policy-change-combating-violence-against-women-in-global-perspective-19752005/810036AC92E6A7E245A083E3EEE4EFA0>

136. <http://www.awid.org/Library/Women-Moving-Mountains3>

137. www.womankind.org.uk/2013/03/why-support-womens-rights-organisations

138. Lesbian, bisexual, trans and/or intersex.

139. http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/Aid%20in%20support%20ENG%20for%20web%20March%202015_EN_Full.pdf

140. www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms_528947.pdf

141. https://www.ilo.org/ilc/ILCSessions/104/texts-adopted/WCMS_377774/lang--en/index.htm; and <https://www.ituc-csi.org/social-dialogue-to-achieve-the-20691>

Monitoring and accountability for women's rights and gender equality

The International Development (Gender Equality) Act of 2014 calls on DFID to consider whether development assistance will reduce poverty in a way that will also reduce gender inequality.¹⁴² This report particularly welcomed transparency from the UK government in sharing overall CSSF spend on gender equality. The expansion of the Gender Equality Act requirements to all ODA and non-ODA CSSF programmes is also a positive step, but unless this data is collected and published it is difficult to see the extent to which CSSF funds are truly advancing women's rights and gender equality. It also makes it difficult to assess the UK government's overall progress on **Goal 5**.

In practice, it is nearly impossible to gauge how much ODA is spent on women's rights and gender equality. Any funding on these issues should be tracked and reported on to ensure that it is mainstreamed into broader DFID policy and programming, as well as monitoring where it may be necessary for the UK government to increase their investment. This should be done using a Gender Equality Marker (GEM) and be integrated into DFID reporting processes (eg annual reporting).



Target 5.2:

Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

Efforts to prevent violence against women and girls (VAWG) must focus on social change, including challenging harmful social norms, as well legislative and policy changes. To effectively prevent VAWG, efforts must also be multi-sectoral, including health, education and justice. It is also critical that survivors of violence are supported via survivor-centred holistic services, including shelters, helplines, psycho-social support, and that there are robust mechanisms to ensure perpetrators can be brought to justice. The priority that DFID has given to ending VAWG has been welcomed, including investment through the What Works research programme.¹⁴³

Trafficking and exploitation are currently high on the UK's political agenda, although with a focus on the more gender neutral Target 8.7. In 2015 the government introduced the Modern Slavery Act (see **Goal 8**, including for implications on global supply chains and decent work) and in 2017 the prime minister launched a Global Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. However, the latter includes just one reference to women, where it urges

142. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/9/section/1/enacted>

143. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-what-works-to-prevent-violence-against-women-and-girls>

signatories "to protect the most vulnerable; including those affected by conflict and humanitarian situations, people on the move, marginalised groups, and women and children."¹⁴⁴ This should be stronger, given that, of the 45 million people who are affected by forced labour and forced marriage globally, over two thirds are women and girls.¹⁴⁵

DFID policy has a clearer focus. The Strategic Vision includes a pledge "to reduce the number of girls and women affected by trafficking and modern slavery", alongside a call to integrate gender equality in a number of areas including modern slavery.¹⁴⁶ DFID currently funds seven programmes that include work on trafficking and exploitation, alongside other issues, and has recently pledged £20m to the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery. Not enough of them look at the specific age and gender-related vulnerabilities affecting girls below the age of 18, despite evidence suggesting that they now make up almost one quarter of trafficking victims globally.¹⁴⁷ Alongside existing spending, DFID has announced five future programmes. At present the descriptions for all five are gender neutral.

According to the ILO, there is increasing understanding that gender based violence is both a gender equality issue and an occupational safety and health risk. Many trade union bargaining agendas now include provisions on gender based violence in an effort to prevent and address sexual harassment at work, in large part through mobilisation of women in unions (see **Goal 8**).¹⁴⁸



Target 5.3:

Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Since 2015, the UK government has demonstrated its commitment to achieving this specifically by supporting and investing in a number of global initiatives to address child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation (FGM). DFID has demonstrated strong leadership and commitment by making the largest ever investment to support the end of FGM in a generation through £50m in funding in 2018 for work across Africa, building on the momentum from a significant investment of £35m in 2013.¹⁴⁹

144. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/759332/End-Forced-Labour-Modern-Slavery1.pdf

145. <https://www.walkfreefoundation.org/news/initiative/global-estimates-modern-slavery/>

146. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/708116/Strategic-vision-gender-equality1.pdf

147. http://www.unodc.org/documents/Global_Report_on_TIP.pdf

148. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms_528947.pdf

149. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-makes-largest-ever-investment-to-help-end-fgm-worldwide-by-2030>

An evaluation of DFID’s earlier investment towards galvanising an African-led movement of grassroots organisations to initiate local dialogue showed that movement-building and social change communications, especially with youth, have been highly effective at changing the narrative around ending the practice and catalysing social change. Rightly so, there will continue to be a core focus on funding community programmes and grassroots campaigners.

Following the 2014 Girls Summit, DFID has helped to maintain attention on girls’ empowerment and child, early and forced marriage in the international political arena, including by funding a number of effective programmes, such as the £39m Accelerate Action to End Child Marriage. DFID has also made some efforts to integrate child marriage in other bilateral programmes, including the forthcoming Stopping Abuse and Female Exploitation Programme in Nigeria, and child marriage features in some critical initiatives, such as the Girls Education Challenge Programme and some humanitarian programming.

DFID’s policies and programmes on FGM and child marriage should be better integrated into large investments focusing on women’s economic empowerment, education, nutrition, SRHR and social protection, in line with the findings of the ICAI report on DFID’s work on violence against women and girls.¹⁵⁰ This will lead to more sustainable change in the lives of girls and women.

We urge DFID to ensure investments and services are both girl-focussed and address structural inequalities, such as harmful gender norms. There are significant opportunities for DFID to ensure a greater focus on child marriage in humanitarian and fragile contexts, including the Middle East and North Africa region where the level of child marriage is increasing.¹⁵¹

 **Target 5.4:**

Recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.

DFID’s commitments under its EDS on the economic empowerment of women and girls is much welcomed in the sector.¹⁵² This work should focus on addressing the unequal distribution of unpaid care and domestic work, taking a

150. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/report/vawg/>
 151. <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Child-marriage-and-humanitarian-crises-June-2016.pdf>
 152. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-economic-development-strategy-2017>

context-specific approach and investing in the provision of gender responsive water, electricity, transport and public services such as healthcare and childcare.

Women’s and girls’ disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care work underpins and reinforces every aspect of gender inequality. It restricts women’s agency and autonomy, reinforces stereotypes, and acts as an obstacle to moving out of poverty, preventing women’s economic empowerment and leading to their over-representation in insecure, part-time work. It also prevents them from engaging in political decision-making, including collective action to promote their rights. Globally, women perform between two and 10 times more unpaid care work than men.¹⁵³

Recognising, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work would have positive effects across different areas of women’s lives, increasing women’s opportunities to access education, income earning opportunities, participation in public life and leisure time.

Poor and marginalised women and girls, with limited access to public services and technology, carry the heaviest burden. For these low resource families in particular, with little access to private care or to flexible working, a shifting of child care responsibilities from women to men will not be enough, and an increase in the provision of public services must be a major part of the solution. DFID should build into country diagnostics on inclusive growth considerations of how unpaid care work constrains women’s economic opportunities, support the use of time-use studies and gender responsive budgeting (GRB), and measure the economic value of unpaid care work with better data collection and inclusion within national accounts.

 **Target 5.5:**

Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

Women’s collective and individual voice and agency is both a fundamental right and necessary to improve outcomes for women in all aspects of decision-making. Only with this voice and agency can women have an equal say in their homes, communities and formal decision-making spaces, from local to global.

The ability to shape and share in discussions and decisions in public and private life is still all too often limited and remains a key structural barrier to the greater achievement of gender equality and a reflection of unequal power relations in our societies. Without agency, women’s power

153. https://www.oecd.org/dev/development-gender/Unpaid_care_work.pdf

to determine the choices they make is constrained. This is especially true for women from the most disadvantaged socio-economic, ethnic and geographical locations. In addition, women’s equal participation and leadership in decision making at local, national, regional and global levels is still too narrow in scope and too slow in its progress. As a result, many in the sector were pleased to see women’s participation and leadership added as a pillar of DFID’s Strategic Vision on Women and Girls. This new pillar should be accompanied by an implementation plan, including a framework for how country programmes will be incentivised and supported to invest in this crucial area of work.

In addition, DFID could go further by ensuring greater participation and influence of women and women’s groups in the design, implementation, monitoring and review of policies and programmes, including the UK’s contribution to the Goals. This should not be conducted as a one-off activity or consultation, but as part of an ongoing dialogue with a diverse range of women and women’s groups.



Target 5.6:

Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.

The UK government was a strong proponent for the inclusion of SRHR in the international agenda. This leadership has also been important for achieving Target 3.7 (on sexual and reproductive health information, education and services, including family planning) and Target 5.3 (on harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage and FGM).

SRHR is clearly stated as a key strategic area for achieving gender equality within DFID’s Strategic Vision, which calls for a bolder and braver “step up” in access to SRHR to ensure a transformational impact that will enable girls and women to be equal, empowered and safe.

The Vision recognises family planning and contraception as critically important for achieving gender equality (see Target 3.7). It also highlights the link between gender inequality and HIV acquisition and the importance of scaling up universal SRHR in a way that includes “action on sex and relationships education, HIV and other sexually transmitted infections, family planning, safe abortion, and maternal and newborn health.” However, it is not sufficiently apparent how all these related elements are being addressed or linked in DFID’s programmes to maximise synergies and leverage further funding. In order to deliver on “Leave No One Behind”, it is imperative that DFID promotes and protects the human rights of all persons that choose to access comprehensive

SRHR, placing emphasis on “reaching those furthest behind first.” There are key groups within populations that require further attention, for example older people and persons with disabilities, whose SRHR are not being adequately addressed in DFID’s work.

In the face of rising global opposition, DFID must be bolder in the fight for the human rights of all women and girls, who choose to access comprehensive SRHR. DFID has recognised safe abortion as a key life-saving intervention and its policy to address the issue is to be celebrated. The UK government should use its soft power and diplomacy more effectively to ensure that women’s rights, including access to safe abortion, are promoted and protected internationally.

Rights-based approaches are essential for integrating SRHR in efforts to strengthen health systems, including community systems, and in making progress towards UHC (see Goal 3).¹⁵⁴ When DFID’s results framework on Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn and Child Health ended in 2015, SRHR were subsequently supposed to be incorporated into its Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) approach. However, progress in achieving this across the UK’s international development portfolio has been unacceptably slow. Also in 2015, DFID’s HIV and AIDS Strategy came to an end (see also **Target 3.3**).¹⁵⁵ At that time, civil society encouraged DFID to create a broader health strategy that would help the UK government fulfil its contribution towards achieving health-related goals and targets.

DFID should publish its approach to HSS as a priority, which: includes an accountable review framework; is led by the principle of “Leave No One Behind” and a human rights-based approach; and recognises the integral role of SRHR as part of an essential package of services and as part of a continuum of care.



Target 5.6:

Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

Aid alone will not be enough to realise gender equality and in many countries tax revenue is dwarfing aid as a source of development finance. The outcome of the Financing for Development Conference in 2015 recognised the increasing importance of domestic resource mobilisation for development, and the importance of taking a gender sensitive approach in social policy.¹⁵⁶

154. <https://www.thelancet.com/commissions/sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights>

155. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/67523/twds-zero-infos-pos-paper-hiv-dev-wrld.pdf

156. http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf (paragraphs 6 and 20).

Decisions around taxation and fiscal policy are never gender neutral, as a result of the differing gendered roles that women and men occupy in both the productive and reproductive economy. As countries seek to raise increased revenue from taxation, it is critical that such strategies are based on an understanding of the different potential impacts on women and men (see **Goal 1, Target 1.a**).

GRB is a tool that governments and citizens can use to cost policies and programmes for gender equality within national action plans, allocate resources, and monitor the impact of spending and revenue decisions on gender equality. GRB requires technical capacity and political will to be implemented successfully. Nepal provides a good case study and work is now being done around an Act on Public Finance Management in Uganda.¹⁵⁷

To achieve Goal 5, the UK government should:

- Ensure all ODA from across Whitehall is subject to the International Development (Gender Equality Act) of 2014. Track and publish all ODA spend using a GEM and integrate this into DFID reporting processes (eg annual reporting). Publish how much of UK ODA has been spent on women's rights, gender equality and meeting the needs of marginalised groups.
- Develop a clear strategy for better identifying, understanding, investing in and reporting on women and girls across various lived experiences of marginalisation, including age, disability status, ethnicity, caste, education, geography, sexuality and/or LGBTI identity, and child, early or forced married.
- Demonstrate the UK's commitment to delivering gender equality by increasing dedicated, core, longer-term funding for women's rights organisations and movements, or civil society organisations and trade unions working on gender equality.
- Build on the UK's existing work on VAWG by: increasing investment in VAWG programming; meaningfully mainstreaming prevention and response to violence into all DFID programmes; widely promoting the findings of the What Works Programme; and adopting a stronger focus on the trafficking and exploitation of women and girls in international advocacy and programming on modern slavery.
- Ensure interventions on women's economic empowerment take a care sensitive and gender transformative approach in measuring, reducing and redistributing unpaid care work. Create country diagnostics to measure the impact of unpaid care work on inclusive growth and constraints to women's economic empowerment. Recognise the role of collective bargaining and social dialogue in achieving gender equality and support the attainment of decent work for women.
- Ensure that women and girls are able to participate and have their voices heard throughout the processes of developing, implementing and reviewing any policies and programmes, including assessment of progress on the SDGs themselves.
- Support and implement the UN Women's Action Plan for Transformative Financing for Gender Equality.¹⁵⁸

157. For more information on GRB and other financing issues see: <http://static1.squarespace.com/static/536c4ee8e4b0b60bc6ca7c74/t/557e8e07e4b0ff7f4a6b8a5b/1434357255971/Final+GADN+Briefing+FFD+09.06+%281%29.pdf>

158. <http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/news/action%20plan%20on%20>



SDG 6: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:

Compiled by WaterAid and the UK WASH Network



Safe water and sanitation are human rights. Achieving universal access to these essential services underpins the success of the entire sustainable development agenda. **Goal 6** expands the Millennium Development Goals beyond just access to include sustainable services, through greater investment in governance, and recognises that investment and planning must put the needs of the most marginalised first to ensure no one is left behind. Recognising these important changes and the increased ambition of the 2030 agenda, some countries and donors are stepping up the political focus given to WASH.

Too many countries are centuries away from achieving universal access at current rates of progress. According to the United Nations secretary general Antonio Guterres: "If we remain off track to deliver on SDG 6 then we jeopardise the entire 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development... We must tackle weak funding, planning, capacity and governance of water and sanitation services as a top priority."¹⁵⁹

The World Bank estimates that providing safely managed services for water and sanitation targets will require an additional \$114bn per year in the Global South.¹⁶⁰ WASH challenges are growing daily, including demographic pressures, escalating water demand, rapid urbanisation, water insecurity, fragility and instability, and climate change (see **Goal 11** and **Goal 13**). As the global water and sanitation crisis is rooted in power, poverty and inequality, not just in physical availability, transformative change will only take place if there is a political step-change on WASH globally.

The UK's role and responsibility in delivering **Goal 6** lies beyond just DFID, and includes, for example, other government departments and the private sector. It also

includes global supply chains of UK based companies and other UK government financial investments overseas. However, DFID has and will continue to have a central role.

DFID's support has had very positive results, including ensuring 80 million people have gained access to WASH since 2011. However, the UK and other development partners fall short of what is needed in the poorest countries if universal access is to be achieved. Recent years have seen a scaling back of DFID WASH programming, including in countries such as Malawi and Tanzania, and recent figures from the OECD suggest that UK aid commitments to WASH are falling by as much as 67% from 2016 to 2017.¹⁶¹

Furthermore, the lack of fully integrated approaches within DFID remain a barrier to progress on WASH and other areas, including ending malnutrition (**Goal 2**) and ending preventable newborn and child deaths (**Goal 3**). WASH is inextricably linked to health, and integrating investment in health, particularly child health, and WASH interventions can have benefits far greater than the sum of their parts, leading to major health gains and improved cost effectiveness.¹⁶²

Whilst the DFID WASH team has proposed a new WASH approach paper, which is welcome, the main issue is of scale and ambition. The UK should prioritise sustainable WASH by investing in it significantly more than 2% of bilateral aid, and strengthening and integrating WASH systematically into other key areas.

transformative%20financing%20for%20gowe.pdf?vs=5346
159. www.unwater.org/publication_categories/sdg-6-synthesis-report-2018-on-water-and-sanitation/
160. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/847191468000296045/pdf/103172-PUB-Box394556B-PUBLIC-EPI-K8632-ADD-SERIES.pdf>

161. <https://stats.oecd.org/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=crs1>

162. https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/monitoring/coverage/wash-post-2015-brochure/en/

Target 6.1:

By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.

Since 2011, DFID has enabled over 80 million poor people, mostly in rural areas, to gain access to both water supply and sanitation.¹⁶³ A proposed WASH approach paper is projected to address recent challenges (such as an increasing number of protracted humanitarian situations) and state some new priorities, including: urban WASH; strengthening national systems and leadership; the impact of climate change on WASH; and an appreciation that lasting change at any scale requires government action and investment and context-specificity.

DFID must also balance addressing emergency needs in an increasing number of humanitarian contexts with a retained focus on sustainability, both of which are equally central to all of DFID's WASH interventions and goals. With many DFID priority countries suffering from both repeated or cyclical crises, while also remaining poor in addressing underlying poor service delivery and public health, there is an even greater need for building resilience across all DFID departments in a more strategic way. This will help achieve greater impact and value for money by managing and planning for long-term water resource management and preventing public health outbreaks. The proposed WASH approach paper has the potential to deliver transformational results. However, it will require significantly increased investment and political ownership across DFID and the government, instead of just the DFID WASH Team.

Despite DFID's commitment to Target 6.1 and its efforts so far, of the 2.1 billion people, who do not have safely managed water, 844 million do not have even a basic drinking water service.¹⁶⁴ Again, the issue is one of scale. Currently UK government investment in WASH is too low. The UK could support the roll out of pro-poor policies by service providers, including through more affordable tariffs and targeted subsidies. All these should deliver against the commitments and Targets of Goal 6, to help ensure that no one is too poor to access safe water or sanitation. The UK should also invest in the management of water resources, which underpins long-term water security and helps ensure sustainability of WASH interventions.

Target 6.2:

By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations

Globally, progress on sanitation is particularly stagnant. 4.5 billion people do not have safely managed sanitation and 2.3 billion still do not have basic sanitation services. This includes 892 million people, mostly in rural areas, who defecate in the open. Driven by population growth, open defecation is increasing in sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania.¹⁶⁵ 2.3 billion people are without access to adequate sanitation, making achieving the new SDG benchmark of safely managed sanitation even more challenging.¹⁶⁶

The WASH Team's proposed WASH approach paper aims to articulate women and girls as central to DFID's future work in this sector. In response to the ICAI's 2016 recommendations on proper results measurement for WASH policies, DFID developed a new methodology for collecting WASH results that will support an increased focus on reaching women and people with disabilities, and potentially other marginalised groups.¹⁶⁷ Furthermore, DFID's bilateral WASH partners are required to demonstrate how they strengthen gender equality, including through targeting women and girls and those with disabilities.

The lack of fully integrated approaches within DFID remain a barrier to progress on gender and other areas. WASH factors affect women and girls throughout their life course and can continue to hold them back if not adequately addressed, in particular: the burden of water collection; the impact of lack of safe and secure sanitation facilities; and lack of awareness, acceptance and ways to safely manage menstruation with dignity (see also Goal 4). However, WASH was largely excluded from DFID's Strategic Vision on Gender Equality, demonstrating a lack of policy coherence on WASH and gender across DFID. Women and girls must have a fairer division of responsibilities, economic opportunities and greater involvement in decision-making powers, and underlying social and cultural norms surrounding gender roles around all aspects of WASH must be addressed (see also Goals 3, 4 and 5). The role of women's participation is increasingly important as a measure of equity, and DFID should address this further by integrating WASH and gender from both starting points (see also Goal 5).¹⁶⁸ Finally, DFID should devote more attention to hand washing and other hygiene interventions, as well as menstrual hygiene

165. <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/12-07-2017-2-1-billion-people-lack-safe-drinking-water-at-home-more-than-twice-as-many-lack-safe-sanitation>

166. <http://www.unwater.org/new-publication-whounicef-joint-monitoring-programme-2017-report>

167. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/report/wash>

168. <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2018/goal-06>

163. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/html-report/wash>

164. www.unwater.org/new-publication-whounicef-joint-monitoring-programme-2017-report/



management, as part of an integrated approach to women’s and girls’ SRHR (see also Goals 3, 4 and 5).

Recent research in South Asia points to the exclusion and lack of proper WASH support for trans people, especially those in vulnerable situations.¹⁶⁹ This points to a need for much better provision for sexual and gender minorities (or LGBT people) and other minorities in WASH to ensure no one is left behind.

Target 6.5:

By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate.

To date, the UK government’s investment in sustainable development has been rather siloed. This has reduced learning and effectiveness around increasingly fundamental global issues, such as the sustainability of drinking water (ie from a rise in salinity) and a marked decrease in water quality through repeat contamination due to a lack of effective wastewater management (linked to **Goals 11** and **13**). UK ODA should identify research, learning and programming on WASH in a more holistic manner, through a circular economy lens that addresses both efficiency of investment and value for money in the longer term.

A strengthening of standards, guidelines and transparency is necessary so that investments and supply chains don’t deplete water resources and negatively impact workers’ human rights to water and sanitation, and instead support responsible, sustainable, equitable use and consumption of water (linked to **Goals 8** and **12**). Here there are significant opportunities for DFID within the Alliance for Water Stewardship and the Global Water Stewardship Secretariat to drive and recognise responsible water use.

Target 6.a:

By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.

The magnitude of the global WASH crisis requires a comparable response. We encourage the UK to lead in the effort to address this, by investing at a much higher level than the current 2% of UK’s bilateral aid budget in WASH, in

line with its spending on other key sectors, for example, 15% on health and 9% on education in 2017.¹⁷⁰ Lasting services for the poorest and most marginalised will only be achieved through efforts that focus on strengthening all aspects of the environment (or system) into which WASH services and behaviours are introduced. DFID should invest in WASH governance in the Global South, and encourage multilateral organisations such as the multilateral development banks (MDBs) to increase their investment levels in WASH.¹⁷¹

Achieving **Goal 6** globally requires the commitment of the private sector. Private sector engagement can play a constructive role in ensuring WASH access. However, the UK should exercise caution in its approach to promoting private sector delivery of essential services. The UN special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights raised concern that privatisation of sectors, including water, can be premised on assumptions different to those that underpin respect for human rights.¹⁷² As private companies are accountable to their shareholders, the users of services that they provide and the people whom their actions affect, this can lead to tensions in terms of which interests should be pursued.

For example, in the past the UK, including DFID, FCO and the CDC Group, has advocated for PPPs in ways that have on occasion increased costs for government and low-income households and reduced efficiency and quality.¹⁷³ Such contracts can sometimes contractually oblige governments to prioritise deregulation and repayment over other spending priorities, leading to cuts that usually impact the most marginalised.

Delivery of **Goal 6** requires a renewed effort by DFID to ensure financing from, and services provided by the private sector are affordable, well-regulated and underpin respect for the human right to water, among others. DFID also has a potential role in supporting nations to generate and manage their own finances for WASH through wider governance reform work.

The UN special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights has called for strengthened accountability in the WASH sector, through identifying clear roles, responsibilities and performance standards, providing information to affected populations and maintaining transparent decision-making processes. This requires a concerted international effort, including continued engagement with, and influence through, the Sanitation and Water for All Partnership of which the UK is a founding member. Representation in this partnership should extend to the most senior level within DFID, to ensure UK engagement at the global level has the most traction.

170. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/660062/SID-2017b.pdf

171. <http://undocs.org/A/73/396>

172. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/special-rapporteur-presents-report-on-human-rights-to-water-and-sanitation>

173. http://www.world-psi.org/sites/default/files/rapport_eng_56pages_a4_lr.pdf

169. <https://www.developmentbookshelf.com/doi/10.3362/1756-3488.18-00004>

Target 6.5:

Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management.

The DFID WASH team's proposed approach paper commits to focus on ensuring the poorest and most vulnerable are given an increasing share of resources and are involved in decision making processes. This is welcome, as greater accountability in delivery of WASH is needed at local and national level. Those who invest, deliver and receive services should be clear of their roles and responsibilities and supported to fulfil them; and citizens should be informed of their rights under water law, their legal recourse and the responsible authorities.

Equally, government accountability or private sector service provision must recognise the importance of communities, with emphasis on women's and other marginalised groups' engagement, consultation, redress mechanisms and communication, to increase safe access and improve management of water and sanitation services. DFID should encourage governments to be more transparent in their planning and engagement with communities in relation to service delivery, and mandate this through government investment, capacity-building and programming.

To achieve Goal 6, the UK government should:

- Invest significantly more than 2% bilateral aid in sustainable WASH.
- Ensure a whole-of-DFID approach to WASH that focuses on strengthening WASH systems and protecting the human right to water. Ring-fence funding for cross sector integration, including between WASH and health, education, and nutrition investments. Include WASH targets and indicators in all health, education, nutrition, disability and climate interventions, plans and policies.
- Introduce mandatory reporting on women's engagement and economic empowerment to help achieve equity in both WASH programming and policy development.
- Include good governance and accountability measures in both direct programming and government support for WASH, to support stronger civic space and voice and engagement between communities and authorities.
- Continue supporting fragile and conflict-affected contexts and countries that suffer with significantly high water stress, prioritising approaches that build the sustainability and resilience of water systems as well as addressing urgent needs.
- Ensure financing from and services provided by the private sector in WASH delivery are accountable, affordable, well-regulated and underpin respect for the human right to water. Work on governance reform so nations can manage their own public services and generate and manage their own finances for WASH.



SDG 7: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:
Practical Action



Lack of access to modern energy services has severe negative impacts on billions of people and the environment in many countries in the Global South. In particular, the use of traditional fuels for cooking causes widespread health problems, with an estimated 2.8 million people dying prematurely from respiratory diseases each year because of smoke inhalation from solid fuel (especially biomass) stoves.¹⁷⁴ Women and children suffer most and also have to spend many hours collecting firewood, which in many places is also linked to forest degradation. At the same time, lack of access to electricity has economic and social implications, for example restricting the ability to operate small businesses into the evening.

Recent years have seen some acceleration in the provision of electricity access, including access to more remote communities, thanks to the falling costs of solar photovoltaics. According to the International Energy Agency, the number of people without access to electricity fell below one billion for the first time in 2017.¹⁷⁵ However, there were also 2.7 billion people that still had no clean cooking facilities. Overall, global progress on **Goal 7** remains inadequate and is not on track for achieving universal access by 2030.

Funding for energy access needs to scale up massively to achieve the 2030 goal. According to Sustainable Energy for All, \$52bn is needed annually to achieve universal electricity access, but committed finance stands at only half that.¹⁷⁶ Off-grid solutions, which tend to be the best option for the poorest and most marginalised communities, remain disproportionately underfunded, receiving only a fraction

(1.3%) of the overall energy access funding. Clean cooking access requires \$4.4bn per year, yet only receives \$30m, and finance flows into clean cooking solutions have actually been decreasing. With access to energy being a potential enabler for inclusive economic development when combined with other supporting interventions, this lack of progress also has broader implications, undermining the achievement of other SDGs.

International climate fund and other UK energy support

The UK, as the world's third largest aid donor, has a key role to play in helping to address this situation. UK support for energy access is mainly provided through the International Climate Fund (ICF), which has a total funding commitment of at least £5.8bn between 2016 and 2021 (see **Goal 13**). In addition, there are some other regional and bilateral programs such as Energy Africa (currently operating in 14 countries).

According to official statistics, between 2011/2012 and 2017/2018 ICF funding has provided 17 million people with improved energy access through off-grid renewables and other solutions, such as efficient cook stoves and solar lanterns.¹⁷⁷ In total, 590 megawatts of clean energy capacity has been installed, both on and off-grid. In December 2018, the UK government announced that £100m of ICF funds would be provided to triple the funding available for the Renewable Energy Performance Platform, which focuses on energy access in sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁷⁸

While the ICF and other funding for energy access is welcome, it is difficult to assess how effective it has been.

174. <https://www.iea.org/access2017/#section-3-1>

175. <https://www.iea.org/sdg/>

176. <https://www.seforall.org/sites/default/files/EF-2018-UL-SEforALL.pdf>

177. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721993/2018-UK-Climate-Finance-Results.pdf

178. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-invests-100-million-for-renewable-energy-projects-in-africa>

It is not clear from the government's key performance indicators what level (tier) of access has been provided and whether the support has benefited the "last mile" communities that struggle most to obtain adequate energy access. Furthermore, it appears that little of the funding has gone to projects or programmes focused on productive uses for energy (eg to support agriculture) and, mirroring the global picture, funding for clean cooking has been sparse.¹⁷⁹ It is therefore important that the government provides more meaningful measurement and tracking of its energy access programmes using the multi-tier framework.¹⁸⁰

While not insignificant, ICF funding for energy access falls far from meeting the major funding challenge around sustainable energy. Furthermore, it obscures a broader picture of UK support for energy to the Global South that is not aligned with **Goal 7**, the "Leave No One Behind" principle or Paris Climate Agreement.¹⁸¹ In reality, according to a Catholic Agency For Overseas Development (CAFOD) and ODI analysis, energy access only accounts for a small percentage of overall UK energy support to the Global South (including export finance).¹⁸²

- Between 2010 and 2014, only 8% of overall support and 12% of ODA support went to energy access.¹⁸³
- A significant amount (46%) of overall energy support went to fossil fuels.
- Renewables (Target 7.2) and energy efficiency (**Target 7.3**) only received 22% and 2% of overall energy support respectively. The figures for ODA are better, with 36% of support going to renewables.

There is therefore an urgent need to re-align this spending with SDG priorities, especially **Goal 13** (climate action).

Target 7.2:

By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix.

In addition to ICF and other bilateral funding, the UK also makes a large contribution to the energy programmes of MDBs, such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the Asian Development Bank. Over two-thirds of UK ODA support flows via multilateral channels.¹⁸⁴

Energy support from the MDBs plays a critical role in achieving **Goal 7**. However, energy access, in particular

179. As per climate finance project database: <https://www.carbonbrief.org/mapped-how-uk-foreign-aid-is-spent-climate-change>

180. <https://www.esmap.org/node/55526>

181. <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>

182. <https://cafod.org.uk/About-us/Policy-and-research/Climate-change-and-energy/Sustainable-energy/Analysis-UK-support-for-energy>

183. More up-to-date figures to be published in early 2019.

184. Information from ODI and CAFOD.

renewables-based decentralised solutions, only accounts for a small proportion of their energy spending, while a large proportion continues to flow to fossil fuels. Recent analysis by Oil Change International found that less than 20% of MDB energy finance from 2014 to 2017 (an average of just \$3.6bn per year) went to projects aimed at advancing energy access primarily for poor and/or rural communities.¹⁸⁵ Only 2% of energy finance went to off-grid and decentralised energy solutions that are most likely to close the access gap in rural areas.

The World Bank Group (WBG) is the single largest channel for UK energy access support. In Africa, where energy access needs are greatest, it was the second-largest provider of public finance for energy in Africa by total volume in the period 2014-16, a period in which it financed mostly fossil fuel infrastructure.¹⁸⁶ The WBG's commitment to end financing for upstream oil and gas, which started in 2019, is therefore important, but the UK government could do more to champion alignment of the WBG and other MDB energy support to the SDGs, especially **Goal 7** and **Goal 13**.

Target 7.3:

Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.

Investing in energy efficiency has the potential to dramatically reduce energy use and harmful CO2 emissions (see **Goal 13**). In many sectors, technology exists with relatively short payback periods, which means that such efficiency makes good economic as well as environmental sense.

However, often there are split incentives between manufacturer and consumer or a lack of knowledge about potential savings that delay uptake, and which mean that policymakers have a role to play in shaping the market. This is true in the vehicle market, where regulations can help promote a shift to clean and efficient vehicles.

The Global Fuel Economy Initiative, which has set a target of doubling the fuel economy of new vehicles by 2030, works with countries in the Global South to support them to enact policies to promote efficient vehicles and control flows of used vehicles.¹⁸⁷ There is an opportunity for the UK government to do more to support this work, including the transition to electric vehicles, which also has benefits for urban air quality and health (**Goals 3, 11** and **13**).

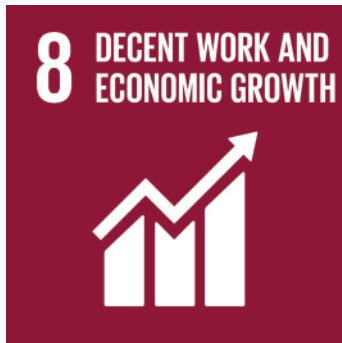
185. <http://priceofoil.org/2018/10/10/shortchanging-energy-access-report-mdb-finance/>

186. http://priceofoil.org/content/uploads/2018/07/africa_finance_report_final_web.pdf

187. <https://www.globalfuelconomy.org/>

To achieve Goal 7, the UK government should:

- Align all the UK's international support for energy in the Global South with achieving the SDGs, especially **Goal 7** and **Goal 13**, and the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement.
- Give greater priority to programmes and projects that promote the principle of "Leave No One Behind" and gender equality. For example provide support for more inclusive and integrated energy decision-making and planning processes.
- Cut energy support spending on fossil fuels (with some possible exceptions for liquefied petroleum gas as cooking fuel, only where no renewable alternatives are easily available).
- Prioritise and significantly scale up energy access funding, as well as support for renewable energy and energy efficiency, through all energy support to the Global South (including export finance). Provide increased support for off-grid electricity solutions and clean cooking.
- Influence MDBs so that they increase their investment on decentralised energy for energy access and phase-out fossil fuels.
- Increase the opportunities for civil society organisations and networks to meaningfully engage in the design of energy development strategies, initiatives and programmes.



SDG 8: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:
the Trades Union Congress (TUC)



Jobs and economic growth are a significant priority for DFID. Decent work is key to achieving a number of SDGs (eg Goals 1, 5, 10 and 13).¹⁸⁸ The ILO's Decent Work Agenda comprises of four equally important, inseparable and interrelated pillars:

1. Employment creation and enterprise development.
2. Social protection.
3. Standards and rights at work.
4. Governance and social dialogue, with gender equality at its heart.¹⁸⁹

The ILO also highlights that freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining are particularly important to enable the attainment of the four strategic objectives.

The interconnected nature of the Goal means that a lack of policy coherence, gaps in policy, and divergence from key concepts like "decent work" lead to key opportunities being missed. As a result, much greater social dialogue is required to achieve **Goal 8** in practice.

The UK's approach is not currently well aligned with global norms. DFID's EDS, Strategic Vision for Gender Equality, and Youth Agenda do not refer to "decent work" or the ILO's Decent Work Agenda (DWA).¹⁹⁰ Instead, DFID strategies and the Strategic Framework (2017-2021) and gender strategy

188. Decent work has been defined by the ILO and endorsed by the international community as being productive work for women and men in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity. http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---exrel/documents/publication/wcms_172609.pdf

189. Ibid.

190. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-economic-development-strategy-2017>; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550229/DFIDyouthagendaapproach4.pdf; and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-strategic-vision-for-gender-equality-her-potential-our-future>

of the UK government's development finance institution, the CDC Group, refer to "quality jobs."¹⁹¹ Still missing is an explicit definition for how "quality jobs" relate to the DWA, or relevant targets and indicators to measure the UK's international contribution to "decent work", including its potential role in helping to achieve gender equality.

Women face glaring and persistent gaps in labour force participation and wages. They remain concentrated in the lowest paid, most vulnerable and poor-quality jobs, very often in the informal economy, and face deficits in collective voice and social dialogue. The DWA offers a critical strategy for addressing such gender inequalities. Alignment with global norms and standards is critical for transparency on the impact of DFID's work and for policy coherence. For example, through the Responsible, Accountable and Transparent Enterprise (RATE) programme, DFID stated it "will provide £26.8m from July 2014 to March 2019 to help multinational and local businesses manage the social and environmental implications of their actions, and be accountable for the consequences for poor workers and communities."¹⁹² It is not yet clear how evidence from RATE is subsequently influencing DFID's own priorities for economic development programming.

DFID's EDS focuses on the role of the private sector in development. However, a more balanced and nuanced approach to the private sector is required for delivery of Goal 8, as well as critical for progress in Goal 10. Emphasis on trade openness and creating an investment climate that is friendlier towards large multinational businesses can be counterproductive for small scale farmers, micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, fledgling domestic sectors and industries that are also part of the private sector. Negative impacts on women and girls, especially those from poor and marginalised communities, can be distinctly pronounced

191. <https://assets.cdcgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/25150902/Strategic-Framework-2017-2021.pdf>

192. <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203448/>

given the prevailing contexts of economic inequality that they face. It can also harm development, environmental and climate change outcomes more broadly.

Instead, countries and regions should be supported to establish domestic policies that best suit their inclusive development agendas and enable decent and green job creation. Donor and private sector partnerships should be required to demonstrate development and financial additionality, and private sector actors - especially UK companies operating overseas - should be mandated to comply with human rights, “do no harm” and development effectiveness principles throughout their operations and supply chains. Government and donors should also ensure a strong gender lens and transparent and accessible accountability mechanisms in cases when human rights violations have occurred.¹⁹³

The UK government’s pursuit of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with African regional blocs potentially undermines progress on **Goal 8**. Trade unions across Africa have expressed concerns that EPAs mean countries would have to bring down protections on key sectors of their economy to enable imports from the UK.¹⁹⁴ Since many domestic producers will not be able to compete with the price of UK goods, decent jobs in industry will be lost and more workers are likely to be forced to take up work in the informal economy.

EPAs do not contain effective enforcement mechanisms to ensure respect for ILO core conventions, with no process for trade unions to take part in independent investigations into suspected abuses of labour standards and no sanctions if violations take place. EPAs, along with other free trade deals the UK government may pursue, will also deprive African and other countries in the Global South of tariff revenues that could have been used to support public services and social protection provisions.

The impacts of trade deals are often deeply gendered, with significant impacts on women as workers, producers, consumers, and users of public services. This understanding should be mainstreamed throughout the UK’s general approach to trade post-Brexit, including by DFID, FCO and the Department for International Trade.

The CDC Group

Links that the CDC Group made to the SDGs in its Strategic Framework and Gender Position Paper have been welcomed. However, there could be more detail on how it will contribute to SDG delivery in practice through the increased amount

193. <https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/international-development-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/dfid-economic-strategy/publications/>
 194. <https://www.etuc.org/en/publication/joint-ituc-africaetucituc-statement-eu-economic-partnership-agreements-central-africa>

of ODA for which it is responsible.¹⁹⁵ This is especially important given CDC’s commitment to increase investments in risky environments, such as fragile and conflict-affected states, where it will be imperative to do no harm.¹⁹⁶

CDC and DFID should ensure that all their investments (and those made by investees) are in line with the SDGs, and are subject to mandatory human rights due diligence, planning and monitoring that includes civil society and trade unions. This should include the officially agreed definition of “decent work” and its four pillars, and ensure that CDC’s Responsible Code of Investing is more in line with the new World Bank Environmental and Social Framework, and supports, not undermines, the Paris Climate Agreement and other global agreements.¹⁹⁷

Inclusive economic development

Inclusive economic development requires that marginalised economic actors, including informal workers, women, people with disabilities and young people in poverty, have equitable access to economic opportunities. For example, investing in the care economy can support women’s access to economic opportunities (see **Goal 5**).¹⁹⁸

DFID’s EDS includes a commitment to creating “more opportunities for the poorest and excluded groups to access improved jobs, labour rights and working conditions.”¹⁹⁹ Though welcome, more clarity is needed on the specific interventions that will ensure genuinely decent jobs are created through these opportunities. Furthermore, the UK should provide support to people facing often multiple, intersecting forms of identity-based marginalisation and discrimination to meaningfully participate in and influence economic development more broadly, including in relation to education, skills, capacity-building and worker representation.

A proper approach to inclusive economic development should incorporate agricultural workers, producers and small scale farmers, many of whom are women and face particular barriers to decent work. DFID’s EDS references “productive jobs” in agriculture but has tended to promote large scale agribusiness above small scale farmers, which has had harmful effects on sustainability, poverty reduction and gender equality.²⁰⁰ For more on this, see **Target 2.3**.

195. <https://assets.cdcgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/25150902/Strategic-Framework-2017-2021.pdf>;
<https://assets.cdcgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/11143751/Gender-Position-Statement.pdf>
 196. <https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/44050/514335/version/2/file/CAFOD%20briefing.%20New%20DFID%20capital%20investment%20CDC%20Group%20November%202017.pdf>
 197. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/08/04/world-bank-board-approves-new-environmental-and-social-framework>
 198. https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/care_economy_en.pdf
 199. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/587374/DFID-Economic-Development-Strategy-2017.pdf
 200. <https://waronwant.org/media/dfid-and-agribusiness-africa-toxic-mix>

The UK government’s international support to promoting inclusive economic development should focus on sectors and systems that are the most important for people living in poverty, recognise the diversity of the private sector, and give greater consideration to the terms under which businesses are integrated into global value chains. It should also take into account the importance of the informal economy to inclusive economic development.

DFID should measure the number and quality of jobs created for women, especially those from excluded groups, through its spending on economic development (including its increased spending through the CDC Group). Measures to report against could include: reduction of the gender pay gap; eradicating verbal, physical and sexual harassment and abuse; addressing barriers to decent work, including unpaid care work and VAWG; improving the distribution by gender across different sectors; numbers of women on permanent versus short-term contracts; and number of women able to exercise their right to freedom of association and collective bargaining.²⁰¹

Inclusive economic development also requires proper recognition of the role that trade unions play. For example, the ILO highlights that collective bargaining is a particularly important mechanism for closing the pay gap between men and women and achieving gender equality (see also **Goal 5**).²⁰²

Global value chains

Global value chains have created millions of jobs for women. However, evidence suggests that these jobs often fall short of decent work standards and women regularly experience violence and harassment. The cheap, abundant labour of women and relative lack of bargaining power serves as a comparative advantage to exporting countries seeking to attract investors.²⁰³

However, RATE’s mid-term evaluation states that most of the responsible business initiatives they supported are not well-targeted for workers in global value chains and have an “undifferentiated approach regarding women and disadvantaged socio-economic groups.”²⁰⁴ The UK’s constructive engagement with stakeholders on the proposed ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the Workplace is welcome.²⁰⁵ However, there are concerns that, like many governments, it is failing to shoulder full responsibility for all the suggested provisions of the Convention, creating potential gaps of coverage between the duties of governments and employers.

201. Evidence from the Gender and Development Network.

202. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---travail/documents/publication/wcms_528947.pdf

203. https://www.ethicaltrade.org/sites/default/files/shared_resources/WJ3589_ETI_Gender_Analysis_Report_LOWRES.pdf

204. <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203448/documents.pii>

205. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_553577.pdf

DFID’s recent Disability Strategy includes economic empowerment of people with disabilities as a focus and makes a number of commitments, including on tackling systematic barriers to employment. It also commits to double the amount of economic empowerment programmes classified as “disability inclusive” by 2023 (from an estimated baseline of 13%). However, the UK should reconsider whether this is a sufficiently ambitious target given their commitment to mainstream disability across everything that DFID does.²⁰⁶ DFID has also committed to working with the CDC Group to ensure “disability inclusion matters to, and is taken into account by, the companies they fund.”²⁰⁷

DFID’s Youth Agenda does not mention decent work (or quality jobs). This report urges DFID to meaningfully engage young people in the Global South, in order to better understand both the economic challenges they face and what decent work and livelihood means to them.²⁰⁸ A meaningful process would involve working with youth-led civil society and trade unions to engage global youth networks and ensure young people are reached in rural and urban settings to build a comprehensive picture.

Formal and informal employment

The informal economy absorbs more than half of the global workforce, including more than 90% of micro, small and medium sized enterprises.²⁰⁹ While DFID’s EDS references the informal sector, the UK government should adopt a broader approach to informal work that considers where people are currently working, and in particular seeks to understand the role, contribution of, and challenges within the informal sector, including the deeply gendered nature of these.²¹⁰

DFID and the CDC Group should support increased formalisation that leads to more decent work by drawing on ILO Recommendation 204.²¹¹ This should include promotion of employment protection, creating an enabling environment for social dialogue, and building the capacity of informal workers to organise. In Kenya, for example, social dialogue involving the national trade union centre helped spearhead the creation of five new labour laws that apply to all formal and informal workers.²¹²

Support for increased formalisation by the UK government necessitates a broader approach to social protection, that

206. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/760997/Disability-Inclusion-Strategy.pdf

207. Ibid.

208. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/550229/DFIDyouthagendaapproach4.pdf

209. https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_377771/lang--en/index.htm

210. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/587374/DFID-Economic-Development-Strategy-2017.pdf. (p. 5 and 21)

211. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_377774.pdf

212. https://www.ituc-csi.org/IMG/pdf/kenya_social_dialogue_informal_web_en.pdf

better supports universal access to social protection and social protection floors (in line with ILO Recommendation 202).²¹³ DFID should avoid using the World Bank's Doing Business Report and World Development Report (2019), which continues to promote the idea that labour market deregulation creates jobs, despite the Bank's own evidence to the contrary.²¹⁴

Access to services

Inclusive and sustainable economic growth requires universal access to gender responsive, quality public services (GRPS) that are underpinned by decent jobs. Provision of quality GRPS is also a key strategy for freeing up women's time and energy for accessing decent work opportunities by redistributing care work from households to the state.

The UN special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights has criticised the extent to which the World Bank and IMF have actively promoted widespread privatisation of basic public services, without regard to human rights implications or the consequences for the poor (see, for example, Goal 6). In many cases they have been supported by the UK government.²¹⁵ The UK government is an influential actor at both these institutions and should use its influence to ensure policy coherence in its multilateral work that supports, not undermines, the SDGs.

Evidence indicates that privatisation of key public services (including PPPs) can often decrease the availability of jobs and reduce job security, due to short-term contracts and secondary sub-contracting motivated by a private sector incentive to increase profit margins. The ability to exercise freedom of association and collective bargaining is further complicated as employees are divided into smaller units so trade unions negotiate with a larger number of employers outside nationally agreed terms and conditions, making it harder to improve them.²¹⁶ The UK government should cease the international promotion of PPPs including Private Finance Initiative type contracts by DFID, Healthcare UK, the FCO and CDC.²¹⁷ These high-risk contracts can often undermine decent work by promoting precarious employment through multiple subcontractors and can lead to significant job losses when a company collapses.²¹⁸ The

213. https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::N0::P12100_INSTRUMENT_ID:3065524

214. <https://www.ituc-csi.org/world-bank-should-scrap>; <https://www.ituc-csi.org/world-bank-s-world-development-20671>; https://siteresources.worldbank.org/EXTNWDR2013/Resources/8258024-1320950747192/8260293-1322665883147/WDR_2013_Report.pdf

215. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=23740&LangID=E>

216. http://www.world-psi.org/sites/default/files/documents/research/rapport_eng_56pages_a4_lr_0.pdf

217. For example: <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203463>; <https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/IN-MCA-U74140WB1983PTC036093-ITCF>; https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/266818/07_PPP_28.11.13.pdf; <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/british-high-commission-launches-ppp-training-in-zambia-2>

218. <https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2018/feb/03/pfi-carillion-capita-critical-list-outsourcing>

UK should instead support **Goal 8** by promoting quality public services as an efficient and effective way to create decent jobs.

Target 8.4:

Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavour to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production, with developed countries taking the lead.

The model of economic development championed by DFID's EDS does not pay sufficient attention to the role of natural resources and systems underpinning economic activity, nor does it commit to ensuring that economic development is environmentally sustainable. If supply chains that source products in less wealthy parts of the world do not also support sustainable economic development, they risk negative social and environmental impacts, as can be observed in, for example, food and fashion supply chains.²¹⁹

DFID needs to revise its EDS to align with commitments to keep the world to 1.50c of warming and take greater account of environmental systems. If economic policy is not designed appropriately, in consultation with stakeholders, economic development risks increasing environmental degradation and climate change, which in turn can increase poverty. Again, the ways in which the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change are experienced are deeply gendered.

The ILO, in its Guidelines for a Just Transition to Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All has highlighted the link between decent work and green jobs as a crucial part of transitioning towards an "environmentally sustainable economy."²²⁰ CAFOD research indicates that, if designed in a careful participatory manner, public transport, agriculture, recycling and renewable energy have transformational potential for boosting green and decent jobs.²²¹

Delivering such jobs requires strategic thinking to ensure interventions, by governments, businesses or other actors do not undermine environmental sustainability or human rights, including labour rights; and that marginalised groups do not suffer negative impacts resulting from a low-carbon shift (see **Goal 7** and **13**).²²²

219. For example: <https://cleanclothes.org/>

220. https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---emp_ent/documents/publication/wcms_432859.pdf

221. <https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/47833/577828/version/2/file/Lukka%20Decent%20green%20jobs%20for%20marginalised%20actors%20Discussion%20paper%2050%20pp%202019.pdf>

222. <https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/47835/577840/version/1/file/CAFOD%20Jobs%20for%20Transformation%2010%20page%20>

DFID has neglected the role of organised workers and their trade unions in creating green workplaces even though workers, through their unions, can raise problems and suggest solutions in Health and Safety Committees and, when enabled, through Environmental Workers' Committees. We recommend greater direct support from the UK government to the integrated creation of decent work and green jobs in collaboration with workers and trade unions to ensure a just transition.



Target 8.7:

Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.

The UK government has demonstrated valuable global leadership on tackling slavery and forced labour. For example, Section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 introduced a transparency requirement for businesses regarding the actions they take to address modern slavery in their own operations and their global supply chains.²²³ This reporting requirement extends right down the supply chain and is international in scope. It is important to emphasise, however, that even in this flagship area of business and human rights policy, government monitoring of performance and enforcement of the new legal requirement to prepare a modern slavery statement is inadequate and it does not extend to the public sector. In addition, the way that the current law is drafted means that a business can report that they are taking no action and still comply with the letter, if not the spirit, of the law.

The CDC Group has requested its contractors to confirm whether they comply with ILO Core Labour Conventions 29 and 105 and relevant UK legislation, including the Modern Slavery Act, but not all contractors responded to this request.²²⁴ CDC should develop robust workplace monitoring procedures, involving trade unions, to ensure contractors and sub-contractors comply with these requirements, rather than relying solely on their self-reporting.

Internationally, the UK has played an important leadership role in pushing for progress on Target 8.7 (see also Target 5.2). At the 2017 UN General Assembly, the prime minister launched a Global Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking, which commits countries to develop national plans to meet the Target and now has over 80 signatories. DFID funds seven programmes

discussion%20paper%202019.pdf
 223. <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2015/30/contents/enacted>
 224. <https://www.cdcgroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/CDC-Modern-Slavery-Act-2018-Statement-Final.pdf>

that include work on trafficking and exploitation, with a total value of £233m, although most of this is for work across several issues. The UK also made a £20m investment in the new Global Fund to End Modern Slavery, while the Home Office hosts an End Modern Slavery Fund that will disburse £33.5m in the UK and overseas from 2016-2020.

The UK continues to identify more victims of modern slavery and trafficking but has been criticised for its response to victim support, in particular a lack of specialist support, in amongst the shortcomings of the current National Referral Mechanism for identifying and supporting victims, which conflates modern slavery with tackling illegal immigration. While primarily concerning the domestic response, internationally further collaboration with the countries of origin of victims is also required to build intelligence pictures and more bilateral agreements are required to aid prevention. A proactive approach, including working with trade unions, to reducing vulnerability to all forms of modern slavery, should be adopted in the UK's international ODA expenditure.²²⁵



Target 8.8:

Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment.

Slavery is one extreme on a spectrum of labour rights abuses. There is scope for the UK government to achieve significant progress on **Goal 8** by delivering on its existing commitment to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.²²⁶ However, the FCO has recently stated that the UK government does not plan to review and update the 2016 National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights with new commitments or to evaluate the extent to which it has changed business practices in relation to human rights.

This is a missed opportunity for achieving policy coherence across different government departments and ensuring that resources are spent effectively. Migrant workers would also benefit from this international approach and the proposed intergovernmental cooperation to improve access to justice across borders if they are mistreated.

In addition, the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Companies are an important tool in protecting labour rights and the UK should support the delivery of **Target 8.8** by restoring this

225. <https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/countries/2018/282775.htm>;
<http://www.antislavery.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Before-the-Harm-is-Done-report.pdf>
 226. [https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/32806/384920/version/4/file/CAFOD%20Business%20and%20human%20rights%20report,%20%27Leader%20or%20Laggard%27%20\(November%202016\).pdf](https://cafod.org.uk/content/download/32806/384920/version/4/file/CAFOD%20Business%20and%20human%20rights%20report,%20%27Leader%20or%20Laggard%27%20(November%202016).pdf)

formerly effective tool to its full potential.²²⁷ DFID’s EDS can also be improved by being explicit about the importance of protecting labour rights and respect international labour standards for achieving the SDGs and decent work.

Trade unions play a vital role in protecting and promoting respect for international labour standards, strengthening democracy, and promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers. In the UK, they have a strong track record of effective development cooperation, using their international structures to influence policies for the benefit of workers and helping to build capacity of unions in the Global South and in fragile and conflict affected states so that working people can claim their rights at work and hold their governments to account. Greater recognition of this role and track record is needed by DFID.

To achieve Goal 8, the UK government should:

- Set clear definitions, targets and indicators to measure “decent work” outcomes, with a strong gender lens, mapping onto ILO’s Decent Work Agenda and international labour standards. Based on this, the CDC Group should also develop a minimum set of standards to guide investment decisions in consultation with civil society organisations and trade unions.
- Review its approach to trade deals, such as EPAs, to include exemptions for public services and binding protections for the environment and international labour standards. This should also include effective enforcement mechanisms, processes for trade unions to take part in independent investigations into suspected labour rights violations, and sanctions if violations take place.
- Explicitly recognise and seek to address the potentially harmful impacts of any existing or future trade agreements on gender and economic inequality. Ensure countries in the Global South have the policy space to invest in, diversify and strengthen their domestic industries and sectors, with a view to creating sustainable, decent and green jobs for all.
- Support the strengthening of and investments in GRPS that advance inclusion and equality and promote decent work for all including for marginalised people, particularly women, people with disabilities and informal workers.
- Build the capacity of trade unions and civil society to deliver decent work for all and increase space for social dialogue. Commit to engage meaningfully with young people, particularly in the Global South, to better understand the challenges they face and what decent work and livelihoods mean to them.
- Use the UK’s influence in the World Bank Group (WBG) and IMF to advocate for evidence-based policies on inclusive economic development that support the achievement of decent work.
- Mainstream environmental sustainability across its international economic strategy and set relevant indicators and targets. Ensure economic development is compatible with a 1.5° climate scenario and is environmentally sustainable.
- Adopt legislation for UK companies and UK public authorities, including CDC, to carry out human rights due diligence throughout their supply chains, with the ability to hold them to account for a failure to act that ends in court. Ensure access to effective remedy for workers, community members and human rights defenders whose rights have been violated, noting the specific violations and barriers to remedy faced by women. Create and implement robust enforcement mechanisms on modern slavery. Support the creation of a UN Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights and ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment in the Workplace.

227. <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/report-uk-national-contact-point-how-human-rights-complaints-are-handled>



SDG 9: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:
Christian Aid



While many of the targets of Goal 9 are important for overall delivery of the SDGs, this report will focus on infrastructure.

Target 9.1:

Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human wellbeing, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all; and Target 9.a: Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, LDCs, landlocked developing countries and SIDS.

The recent report by the intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change demonstrates the need to reach net zero emissions globally by around 2050 (see **Goal 13**).²²⁸ The UK should apply this objective to all its international work on infrastructure as a fundamental determinant in design, including in the materials used and its intended use.

When it comes to transport, this could mean investing in public transport powered by renewable electricity or other sustainable modal shifts, or creating the infrastructure to allow a rapid uptake of electric vehicles.

The UK could play a role in securing building codes that ensure all new buildings require very low energy inputs and are supplied by renewable energy sources. Retrofitting should also be applied as much as possible to minimise energy use.

Targets 9.1 and **9.a.** should only be achieved through the development of infrastructure that is designed to be resilient to climate impacts (see also **Goal 13**). Planning for water provision and waste water infrastructure that can cope with increasing numbers and of the most extreme weather events will be increasingly important.

Infrastructure development must be economically and environmentally sustainable, pro-poor, gender sensitive and inclusive. For example, new schools should be accessible to children with disabilities and public services, such as education, energy and water, should be affordable for the poorest households. Any changes in land use associated with infrastructure development, in particular that supported or delivered by the UK, should avoid adverse impacts that can perpetuate or worsen inequality, for example, by undermining the land rights of indigenous peoples or other vulnerable groups.²²⁹

In many countries in the Global South, conventional power infrastructure has not effectively ensured access to energy for people in remote areas or in areas susceptible to disaster risk. It has also tended to contribute to dependence on polluting fossil fuels, with implications for climate change and for financial resilience in those countries that are heavily dependent on fossil fuel imports.

The expansion of centralised energy systems and large scale infrastructure projects, such as large dams, has been very costly in financial terms and in terms of environmental impacts that are felt disproportionately by women and the very poor. In general, these initiatives have not been successful in addressing the unmet energy needs of people living in poverty, particularly for household cooking requirements with important implications for women's health and unpaid household workloads.

228. <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

229. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-04/Amazon-Strategy-April-2018.pdf>

Lack of access to clean, modern and sustainable energy also hinders economic development and perpetuates poverty. It deprives people living in poverty of opportunities to improve their productivity and quality of life, and so reinforces inequality.²³⁰

There has been recent progress in and increasing cost-effectiveness of decentralised renewable energy systems and infrastructure (see also **Goal 7**). Considering the many potential advantages of decentralised renewable energy for the most energy-poor in terms of resilience, affordability and environment, the UK should support the implementation of **Goal 9**, as well as **Goal 7**, by contributing to the promotion of locally appropriate, pro-poor and gender sensitive infrastructure for clean, efficient and renewable energy access and sustainable development.²³¹ This is recognised in DFID's 2017 EDS, which notes "the need to step up efforts on energy [and] infrastructure..."²³²

The Global Commission on the Economy and Climate has highlighted various areas to prioritise that the UK should consider in this assessment of progress under this Goal.²³³ These include:

- Tackling price distortions, such as subsidies for fossil fuels and carbon, to create better incentives for investment and innovation for clean technologies, including renewable energy infrastructure measures to reduce pollution and congestion.
- Strengthening policy frameworks and institutional capacities for investment.
- Transforming the financial system to enable the delivery of the scale and quality of investment needed in order to augment financing from all sources.
- Increasing investments in clean technology, research and development, and deployment to reduce the costs and enhance the accessibility of more sustainable technologies.

Countries in the Global South will require around \$4tn per year to invest in low-carbon clean infrastructure.²³⁴ However, the Paris Climate Agreement only makes provision for richer countries to transfer a minimum of \$100bn per year to poor countries to finance adaptation and mitigation (see **Goal 13**).

Private financing plays an important role, but much more needs to be done to ensure it works for long-term economic, social and environmental benefits, rather than short-term financial returns. For example, Christian Aid's research into private financing from some of the largest

UK-headquartered banks found continued over-financing of fossil fuel industries.²³⁵ On the other hand, in 2015 the French government introduced legislation requiring investors to report on how they are managing climate change-related risks in their portfolio, as well as an assessment of their contribution to meeting the international target of limiting global warming. Other governments including the UK must play a similar role in regulating private finance and the UK should take this into account in its international work on infrastructure development.

PPPs, whereby the private sector provides infrastructure assets such as schools and roads and services like education, water and sanitation that traditionally have been provided by governments, are increasingly being promoted as the solution to the shortfall in financing needed to achieve the SDGs. However, these have been found to often have hidden or unanticipated costs that place a heavy burden on the public purse, may involve agreements that shift the burden of risks on the public sector, and result in higher costs for citizens (see also Goal 8). They can also be complex to negotiate and lack transparency, undermining local ownership and democratic accountability.²³⁶

In view of this, it is recommended that DFID avoid promotion and incentivising of PPPs for social and economic infrastructure financing and instead promote high quality, publicly funded, democratically controlled and accountable public services and investment in public infrastructure.

230. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-08/energy-for-development-south-asia-addressing-energy-inequality-sustainably-february-2015.pdf>

231. Ibid.

232. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-economic-development-strategy-2017>; and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-international-development-single-departmental-plan>

233. https://newclimateeconomy.report/2016/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2016/08/NCE_2016_Exec_summary.pdf

234. Ibid.

235. https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2016-11/our-future-in-their-plans-nov-2016_0.pdf

236. <https://eurodad.org/HistoryRePPPeated>

To achieve Goal 9, the UK government should:

- Ensure all infrastructure spending is consistent with reducing greenhouse gas emissions, keeping to a 1.5° warming scenario and achieving global net zero emissions by 2050, thereby minimising stranded assets (see **Goal 13**).
- Ensure support for infrastructure development that is “future-proof”, resilient to climate impacts and meets the necessary social conditions for sustainability, including being pro-poor, gender sensitive and doing no harm.
- Develop a comprehensive plan to ensure access to clean and sustainable energy for all, and to finance and diffuse appropriate infrastructure and technologies for this purpose as part of the UK’s broader international investment strategies.
- Support countries in finding the best financing method for public services and social and economic infrastructure, which are responsible, transparent, environmentally and fiscally sustainable, and in line with their human rights obligations. Prioritise tax revenues as the most sustainable and accountable source of finance.
- Ensure good and democratic governance is in place before pursuing large scale infrastructure or service developments. This should include informed consultation and broad civil society participation and monitoring by local communities, trade unions, and other stakeholders. Uphold the right to free, prior and informed consent, and ensure the right to redress for any affected communities, including key left behind groups.



SDG 10: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:

Oxfam. Section contributions by Christian Aid, Development Initiatives, the Trades Union Congress (TUC) and the Bond Disability and Development Group



Inequality is an obstacle to eradicating extreme poverty. It harms economic growth, undermines a country's social contract, fosters instability and violence, and hampers progress in a number of other areas, especially health. **Goal 10**, with its reference to inequality both between and within countries, has enshrined in itself the principle that each country carries responsibility for tackling economic inequality at home as well as globally. The UK government's foreign policy in all of its forms (including aid as well as international trade and finance and migration policy) should be aligned with this principle.

The UK has not so far shown a clear commitment to achieving all aspects of **Goal 10**. It has taken action on some relevant policy areas, including leading the international agenda with the Disability Summit and the Addis Tax Initiative (ATI). However, there are parts of the UK's international development strategy that are undermining progress on the Goal. For example, an increasing reliance on development finance intermediaries and other private sector actors raises questions about how well these funds will contribute to reaching those most at risk of being left behind.



Target 10.1:

By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average.

Data for this indicator exists for 47 out of the 135 countries that received UK bilateral aid in 2017. Of these 47, in only 28 countries did income (or consumption) grow faster for the

bottom 40% of the population than the average, suggesting limited inclusive growth.²³⁷

Inequality issues are relevant both to those left behind and to runaway wealth and incomes at the top of the distribution. For example, in 2018 the wealth of the world's billionaires increased by \$2.5bn a day, while the wealth of the poorest half of humanity, 3.8 billion people, fell by 11%.²³⁸ Between 1980 and 2016, the poorest 50% of humanity only captured 12 cents in every dollar of global income growth. By contrast, the top 1% captured 27 cents of every dollar.²³⁹ Therefore, progress in **Goal 10** should be monitored with a wider range of indicators, including the Palma Ratio (comparing income of the bottom 40% with income of the top 10%), as well as indicators of wealth concentration and of social mobility wherever possible.

Another way to assess UK ODA's contribution towards Goal 10 is whether it reaches those at the lower end of the global distribution: the P20, or the people in the poorest 20% of the global income distribution. Two of the UK's top 20 country recipients, India and Nigeria, host respectively 34% and 8% of the global P20, and for all 20 countries for which data are available at least a quarter of the total population belongs to the global P20.

However, if we look at the overall UK aid allocation between 2006 and 2017, aid to countries with above average shares of people in the global P20 decreased from \$6.4bn to \$2.5bn. In the same period, the share of aid to these countries dropped from 74% to 32%.

237. These 28 countries are: Rwanda, Colombia, Brazil, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Viet Nam, Kyrgyz Republic, Peru, Kosovo, Chile, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, Panama, Georgia, Belarus, Costa Rica, Honduras, Bolivia, Mongolia, Uruguay, Paraguay, Ecuador, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Moldova, Mauritania, and Togo. Based on the World Bank's Global Database of Shared Prosperity, data analysis available upon request: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/global-database-of-shared-prosperity>
238. <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/public-good-or-private-wealth>
239. <https://wir2018.wid.world>

To achieve **Target 10.1**, governments also need to address the intersecting inequalities that the bottom 40% experience, and the ways that economic inequality is inextricably linked to gender inequality. For instance, for many low paid women workers, the creation of higher paid jobs alone will not be enough, as they face barriers in access to employment caused by unequal, unpaid care work or social norms that delegate higher paid work to men. Identity-based inequalities also result in discrimination and exclusion from education and skills, and other barriers to economic inclusion. DFID needs to ensure its EDS fully mainstreams gender inequality and addresses structural barriers, for example by prioritising investments in social and physical infrastructure that reduce unpaid care and domestic work.

according to numbers reached.²⁴³ DFID has made some progress in this area, such as adapting their payment by results framework for the Girls' Education Challenge. Ethnicity is also key marker of social exclusion. Ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples face clear practical barriers to development, often having the highest rates of poverty and living in the most remote areas, lacking transport and sanitation services. These inequalities are perpetuated through their systematic exclusion, leading to multiple sources of deprivation and discrimination mutually reinforcing one another.²⁴⁴ By disaggregating data only by sex, age and disability, the indicator for **Target 10.2** does not go far enough for tracking progress against the Target as a whole (see chapter on "Leave No One Behind" for more information on inclusive data).



Target 10.2:

By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, economic or other status.

DFID has made strong commitments to different groups of people that may experience inequality, such as people with disabilities and women and girls. However, more could be done to set out a clear and systematic approach for taking into account the different forms of discrimination people experience and how discrimination links to poverty and inequality. In this section we look at disability and ethnicity in more detail. However, the socio-economic exclusion of a wide range of different communities and groups is relevant to the delivery of this Goal (see also chapter on "Leave No One Behind", the delivery of which is essential to the delivery of **Target 10.2**).

Worldwide, people with disabilities continue to be left behind in many socio-economic aspects of life.²⁴⁰ This is the case for instance in education, where the gap in attendance and attainment between children with disabilities and their peers without disabilities is growing in many cases.²⁴¹ DFID has made a strong public commitment to disability inclusion through their recent Disability Strategy.²⁴² However, the approach to disability is not currently consistent across government departments that spend ODA.

The UK's approach should prevent funding mechanisms and processes from entrenching inequalities by disincentivising delivery partners from working with those that are most excluded and difficult to reach, such as people with disabilities, for example, by measuring progress simply



Target 10.3:

Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

In order to ensure that the needs of the very poorest groups are addressed as a priority in delivering the SDGs, wealthier countries such as the UK should consider how their actions can help reduce social exclusion and inequality within their own borders and globally.²⁴⁵

For example, caste is an important cause of entrenched, multi-dimensional and intergenerational poverty, particularly in South Asian countries with which the UK retains important aid and trade relationships and other diplomatic and cultural links. Such relationships create collective responsibility, especially when trade relations can be linked to human rights violations such as modern slavery and caste discrimination (see **Goal 8**). Action to address caste discrimination, in collaboration with civil society groups in the UK as well as abroad, is an important issue for domestic policy with implications for achievement of the SDGs internationally.²⁴⁶ More analysis should be done into similar actions the UK government can take to address inequality at home and abroad, in full consultation with civil society groups.

DFID's programmes need to take account of the reality and effects of discriminatory attitudes and policies in their

240. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320757084_The_Disability_and_Development_Gap

241. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/12/01/children-with-disabilities-are-being-left-behind>

242. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-disability-inclusion-strategy-2018-to-2023>

243. <http://data.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/committeeevidence.svc/evidencedocument/international-development-committee/uk-aid-allocation-of-resources/written/27422.pdf>

244. <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/10281.pdf>; <https://www.odi.org/sites/odi.org.uk/files/odi-assets/publications-opinion-files/10280.pdf>

245. https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2016-07/UN-high-level-political-forum-leave-no-one-behind-global-equity-july-2016_0.pdf

246. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/85521/caste-discrimination-summary.pdf

partner countries and work hard to challenge, address and/or work around such discrimination. Examples include the many countries where the UK implements programmes where LGBT people face discriminatory laws, policies and practices, with a consequent impact on development outcomes.²⁴⁷ Currently, there is little evidence in the public domain that DFID is fully cognisant of, in its strategies or programming, the discrimination that is a daily reality for many.

On gender, DFID's Strategic Vision for Gender Equality rightly recognises the importance of changing social norms for gender equality.²⁴⁸ Achieving progress on this takes long-term investments and DFID should continue to make it central to their work and gather evidence on successful approaches.

Seeking to overcome barriers to reaching those who are furthest behind without tackling discrimination will not be effective, and DFID should do more to address discriminatory laws, policies and practices that cause people to be left behind, in collaboration with local stakeholders and as part of a cross-department strategy that includes FCO.



Target 10.4:

Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality.

Strong international evidence exists that progressive actions by governments in fiscal, wage and social protection policies are effective in tackling economic inequality; policies that are also possible in low- and middle-income countries.²⁴⁹ Donors and international institutions have direct and indirect impacts on these policies in beneficiary countries.

Fiscal policies and domestic resource mobilisation

The Financing for Development Conference in Addis Ababa in 2015 focused on securing sufficient funds to achieve the SDGs. Since the conference, domestic resource mobilisation (DRM) – touching on issues of taxation and other fiscal policies – has become one of the most important issues for the international development agenda.

247. <https://ilga.org/state-sponsored-homophobia-report>

248. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-strategic-vision-for-gender-equality-her-potential-our-future>

249. https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1036&context=econ_facpub; <https://econpapers.repec.org/paper/tulceqwps/30.htm>; <http://www.oecd.org/social/in-it-together-why-less-inequality-benefits-all-9789264235120-en.htm>; and <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2015/03/pdf/jaumotte.pdf>

The UK government has played an important role by championing the ATI, requiring donors to make three commitments:

1. To double support for DRM.
2. To step up DRM in order to deliver the SDGs and inclusive development.
3. To pursue policy coherence in relation to DRM, including minimising their own negative spillover, for instance by reviewing tax treaties and championing global tax transparency rules.²⁵⁰

The UK committed to doubling its spend on improving tax systems in the Global South by 2020 from a 2014 baseline annual spend of £25m. However, in 2017 the UK had only reached £27m (see Goal 1 for more on the role of taxation in reducing poverty).²⁵¹

The UK has positioned itself as a global leader in international tax transparency and anti-corruption since its Presidency of the G8 in 2013. As part of that agenda, the UK: signed up to the Extractives Industries Transparency Initiative; fast tracked its implementation of the European Union (EU) Accounting and Transparency Directives, requiring extractive companies to publish payments to governments on a country-by-country and project-by-project basis; and created a central public register containing the details of the beneficial ownership of UK companies.

Through a Sanctions and Anti-Money Laundering Act 2018, the government introduced a requirement for Overseas Territories to introduce public registers, despite initial rebuffal since 2013 (see **Goal 16** for more on this topic). In the meantime, the EU placed a number of the UK OTs and Crown Dependencies on its tax haven “greylist”. These jurisdictions have implemented legal changes to try stay off the “blacklist”, somewhat improving their tax laws so that companies will need to engage in some business operations in those territories rather than just shifting paper profits. This could have a significant impact on delivery of Goal 10.

Through the Finance Act 2016, the government acquired the power to introduce public country-by-country reporting requirements for multinational companies regarding their tax affairs. This measure can substantially help tax authorities including in the Global South collect more of the taxes they are due. However, the UK has not yet implemented this power, ostensibly because it is seeking a multilateral agreement first. Steps should be taken to fast-track this measure.

The government's Anti-Corruption Strategy mentions the Unexplained Wealth Orders, which have been used in a limited number of cases.²⁵² The UK also played a key role

250. <https://www.addistaxinitiative.net/>

251. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/750989/DFID-Annual-Report-Accounts-2017-18-amended-Oct18.pdf

252. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-anti-corruption-strategy-2017-to-2022>

in the international tax reform process led by the OECD – known as the base erosion and profit shifting, or BEPS, process. Countries in the OECD’s Inclusive Framework are discussing new international tax reforms. The UK should support proposals that limit tax competition by providing a minimum effective tax rate and fairer taxing rights, particularly for countries in the Global South.

Less clear commitment has been shown by the government towards policy changes that would halt the “race to the bottom” on corporate income tax rates. Since the Global South relies relatively more heavily on corporate tax revenues, they have an even greater interest in ensuring this trend is reversed. The UK should play its important role as a donor by supporting them on this agenda.

Social spending and universal access to health and education

Good quality, gender-responsive and universal public services free at the point of use and universal social protection are the most powerful tools available to governments to achieve Goal 10. Evidence from 150 countries spanning a period of over 30 years shows that, overall, investment in health, education and social protection reduces the gap between rich and poor (see **Goal 1**, **Goal 3** and **Goal 4**).²⁵³ A recent study of 13 countries in the Global South found that spending on health and education accounted for 69% of the total reduction in inequality.²⁵⁴ Social protection schemes based on universal or categorical transfers are better at tackling poverty and inequality than means-tested targeted schemes.²⁵⁵

The sharp decline in UK-provided budget support that can support core funding for strengthening and expanding universal public services is a significant concern. Fees for public services like health and education block access and drive up inequality as well poverty, because they result in hospitals or schools that are unaffordable for most (see also chapters on **Goals 3**, **4** and **8**). However, the UK government has initiated and provides financial support to a number of health and education programmes in which fees are charged for pupils and patients, increasingly channelling funds for social spending through its development finance arm, the CDC Group (see other chapters, in particular Goal 3 and Goal 8 for more on the CDC).

Instead, to finance public services the UK government should scale up its practical and vocal support for fairer tax systems both nationally and internationally to ensure low- and middle-income countries have the resources necessary to tackle inequality through improved and scaled up free universal public services and universal social protection

253. https://scholarworks.gsu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1036&context=econ_facpub
 254. http://www.commitmentoequity.org/publications_files/Comparative/CEQWPNo30%20RedisImpactGovntSpendEducHealth%20March%202015.pdf; <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Books/Issues/2018/02/26/Inequality-and-Fiscal-Policy-42811>
 255. <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/public-good-or-private-wealth>

systems. For those countries where such tax resources are insufficient, the UK should help support public services through long-term, predictable, coordinated and, where possible, on-budget aid.

Wage and labour market policies

Formal and informal worker’s organisations, especially trade unions, and collective bargaining institutions, play a critical role in tackling inequality. They both reduce inequality by raising wage floors, and trade unions negotiate better rates for workers at the bottom of the pay scale and advocate for better redistributive policies. Collective bargaining also reduces inequalities between groups of workers.²⁵⁶ Evidence from the OECD and ILO, as part of the Global Deal for Decent Work and Inclusive Growth, indicates that good labour relations are a way to reduce inequalities in jobs and wages and better share prosperity (see also **Goals 5** and **8**).

Unions representing large numbers of women in the informal economy, such as the Self-Employed Women’s Association in India and the International Domestic Workers’ Federation, help self-employed, often poor and disempowered women improve their working and living conditions and strengthen their rights at work and beyond (see **Goal 5**). Tackling inequality requires protecting the right to freedom of association and collective bargaining, and taking steps to shore up collective bargaining.²⁵⁷ It is also important to support the legal rights and capacity of informal workers to organise.

DFID’s EDS should recognise these positive roles played by trade unions and other workers’ organisations. The UK should also work with partner governments, multilateral institutions and the private sector to ban slave labour and poverty wages and to insist on safe, secure and decent work, as well as supporting bargaining for at minimum a living wage.



Target 10.7:

Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies.

Voluntary migration is a response to global inequality, both between and within countries, and often springs from a desire to improve one’s own life chances and those of one’s family. Migration is commonly regarded to have a net positive impact on global equity, for example through transfer of remittances and new skills.²⁵⁸ Meeting this Target will require a considerable shift in mindset, from regarding migration as negative, to viewing migration from a positive global equity

256. For example, <https://iloblog.org/2015/03/03/want-to-tackle-inequality-shore-up-collective-bargaining/>; and <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/fandd/2015/03/pdf/jaumotte.pdf>
 257. Ibid.
 258. <https://www.iom.int/speeches-and-talks/world-move-benefits->

lens, especially considering its contribution to the social and economic inclusion of the migrants themselves.

In 2018, 65 million people remained forcibly displaced due to conflict and violence. The fact that low- and middle-income countries, such as Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey, host 85% of the world’s refugees is a cause for concern.²⁵⁹ In addition, most people forcibly displaced by conflict, violence or natural disasters remain internally displaced within their own countries, often with little hope of returning home, and face lack of protection, adequate shelter, or legal recognition.²⁶⁰ Internally Displaced People (IDPs) do not receive the international recognition afforded to refugees.

migration

259. <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/refugees-compact>

260. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-09/FAIR%20Deal%20for%20IDPs%20briefing%20paper%204-Ambition%20and%20inclusion.pdf>

The UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement require that states and local authorities, as well as humanitarian and development actors, effectively support IDPs, but as of March 2016 only 27 states had enacted laws, policies or national instruments specifically on internal displacement.²⁶¹

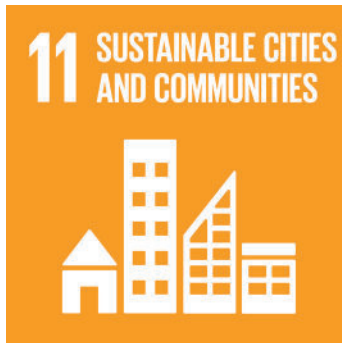
The UK government should play its role to support the reduction and eventual eradication of inequality by supporting far greater action, especially by countries in the Global North, by hosting refugees and supporting refugees and IDPs in other countries. Support countries receiving aid to create plans to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor (monitored through a range of indicators of wealth and income, including the Palma ratio). Set targets within bilateral aid for reaching the bottom 20% of the global population.

261. <http://www.internal-displacement.org/internal-displacement/guiding-principles-on-internal-displacement>

To achieve Goal 10, the UK government should:

- Ensure country diagnostic tools fully reflect and assess the different and intersecting forms of discrimination people experience, including the strong link between economic and gender inequality, and the impact these have on poverty levels. Adopt a systematic approach to assess whether funding mechanisms and processes have unintended consequences that drive rather than reduce inequality. Ensure disability inclusion is consistent and systematic across all departments spending ODA and all cross-departmental funds.
- Take steps to prevent human rights abuses in supply chains. Address caste discrimination and the exploitation of subordinated castes and other marginalised groups in global supply chains.²⁶² Adopt a joint FCO and DFID approach to address discriminatory laws, policies and practices that cause people to be left behind.
- Implement measures included in the Finance Act 2016 allowing for the introduction of public country-by-country reporting requirements for multinational companies regarding their tax affairs. Do more to support fair and sustainable tax systems, including through the ATI, and promote inclusion of all countries on equal footing in the BEPS second round of international tax form negotiations. Ensure the UK’s tax policies support and do not undermine the potential for countries in the Global South to set their own tax policies and collect tax revenues (see Goal 1). Engage positively in international negotiations to avoid a race to the bottom in corporate tax rates.
- Recognise and champion the crucial role that gender-responsive and universal health, education and social protection play in reducing inequality, particularly when they are publicly financed and delivered for free. Support countries to remove user fees and build social protection floors. Support the strengthening and expanding of public services through long-term, predictable, coordinated and, where possible, on-budget aid. Put in place further measures to ensure the work of DFID and the CDC Group work does not drive up inequality through profit-making interventions in public services in the Global South.
- Recognise the positive role that trade unions play in helping raise wage floors for workers, especially those on poverty wages, advocating for better redistributive policies and reducing inequalities between groups of workers, and the progress to reduce inequality made by broad-based alliances involving informal worker organisations. Work with partner governments, multilateral institutions and the private sector to ban slave labour and poverty wages and to insist on safe, secure and decent work, as well as supporting bargaining for at minimum a living wage.
- Host at least the UK’s fair share of refugees. Ensure that poorer countries receive adequate support to host refugees. Ensure that refugees and IDPs get the help they need to address the wide-ranging consequences of their displacement, including through humanitarian and long-term development efforts. Support local actors to prevent forcible displacement. Support states to integrate the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement into their national laws and policies and report on progress.

262. <https://www.didlaw.com/changes-to-the-law/a-new-protected-characteristic-caste-discrimination>



SDG 11: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:
Sightsavers and Real Equality for All (Reall)



Rates of urbanisation are growing exponentially. Globally, 3.5 billion people, or 55% of the population, live in urban areas and by 2045 this is forecast to grow to 6 billion.²⁶³ 24% of the urban population live in informal settlements – around 1 billion residents – and by 2030, this number is expected to rise to around 3 billion, all of whom will be in need of decent homes.²⁶⁴ **Goal 11** covers a vast range of issues, from improved housing, transport and town planning, to reducing air pollution, accessible green spaces and disaster risk reduction.

These issues are critical to the Agenda as a whole and reflect significant links with other SDGs, such as Goal 3 on health, **Goal 6** on access to clean water and sanitation, **Goal 10** on reducing inequalities and **Goal 13** on combating climate change. Furthermore, commitments made under **Goal 11** are consistent with those in other international frameworks, notably the UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, which underpins the commitment in **Target 11.5** to reduce the number of deaths and economic impact of disasters; and the New Urban Agenda (Habitat III), which outlines the shared international vision for well-planned, well-managed and sustainable urbanisation.²⁶⁵

DFID is a leader in responding to the urbanisation agenda. In 2017, the UK government spent £1.2bn, or 13.5%, of all UK ODA on areas such as research, urban and rural development and planning, multisector aid and environment protection policy.²⁶⁶ This represents the third largest area of UK ODA, after humanitarian aid and health. DFID has a

range of policies relating to the implementation of **Goal 11**, including support for sustainable transport systems and urban infrastructure.

DFID's 2017 EDS highlights "the need to step up efforts on energy, infrastructure, urban development, manufacturing and commercial agriculture", and this is further reflected in DFID's 2018 Single Departmental Plan.²⁶⁷

ICAI recently published a review into DFID's transport and urban infrastructure investments, concluding that DFID had a coherent strategy, consistent with its overall objectives, and could demonstrate clear impact in its identified niche.²⁶⁸ DFID fund a number of major programmes: the Infrastructure and Cities for Economic Development; the Cities and Infrastructure for Growth programmes, through which the UK government has pledged up to £165m over the next five years; and the Community Led Infrastructure Finance Facility, managed by Reall and which has been working since 2002 to provide affordable housing in the Global South.

Nevertheless, there remain a number of areas that need to be improved, especially as urban growth rates are soaring. Cities can be engines of growth leading to development and poverty reduction across numerous sectors. For example, by stimulating the supply of secure, quality, accessible and affordable homes, positive impact is made across a range of indicators: health levels, including mental health, improve with the potential to lessen job or school days lost to illness; household incomes often increase due to informal service provision, and rents in slums or informal settlements are often higher than in formal housing; safety, especially for women and children is increased; and so on. Additionally, housing development is a significant sector for job creation.

263. <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview>
264. Ibid.

265. <https://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>; <http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/>
266. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/762108/Statistics-International-Development-Final-UK-Aid-Spend-2017a.pdf

267. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-economic-development-strategy-2017>; and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-international-development-single-departmental-plan>

268. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/html-report/infrastructure/>

The private sector is key for the investment that is needed to provide sustainable housing and infrastructure in urban settings, but there needs to be a positive policy environment to stimulate pro-poor investment.

Affordable housing, as an alternative to slum dwelling, is a critical path out of poverty, for example through the health benefits of improved sanitation, or by giving access as an asset owner to credit from financial institutions. Whilst DFID has a significant number of programmes, there are some areas where they could play a more constructive role to unlock more investment from the private sector for achieving **Goal 11**. These include: better internal coordination to ensure that staff working on urban development and the private sector are aware of and able to make the most of each other's programmes; and supporting governments to change policies on land access, approval rates for inclusive developments and formal banking systems that cater for low income communities.

ICAI concluded their review into DFID's work on transport and urban infrastructure with the critique that it "lacks a systematic approach to inclusion." In particular, DFID programmes often emphasise the value of economic growth over the impact on poor people, women and people with disabilities.²⁶⁹ A positive relationship between economic growth and reducing inequalities cannot be assumed and ICAI recommend that DFID needs to specifically address poverty reduction in its urban development work, including targeting marginalised groups, women and people with disabilities, ensuring that they monitor "intended and unintended impacts on target groups."²⁷⁰ DFID has accepted this and outlined the need to learn from successful programmes and to take "forward work on inclusive infrastructure following the Disability Summit in July 2018."²⁷¹ Following up on this recommendation will be critical.

Goal 11 includes two Targets that reference people with disabilities (**11.2** on accessible transport; and **11.7** on green and public spaces) and as a whole recognises the need for inclusive human settlements. DFID's recently published Strategy for Disability Inclusive Development states that the UK government will increase investment into disability-inclusive infrastructure.²⁷² The accompanying Delivery Plan references the Infrastructure and Cities for Economic Development Programme and programmes in Uganda, Nepal and India as examples from which to create DFID's approach to disability-inclusive infrastructure.²⁷³ DFID needs to ensure that this strategy is translated into more and better disability-inclusive programmes and that inclusion and accessibility are mainstreamed throughout all of DFID's urban development work. DFID's recent commitment to embedding universal design

in its programming, to ensure buildings and environments consider the needs of people with disabilities from the start, is welcomed, but a recent ICAI review found that commitments to universal design are not always carried through into terms of reference or implementation.²⁷⁴ More on the importance of inclusive infrastructure can be found under **Goal 9**.

DFID's EDS recognises the need for expanding job opportunities for young people and people with disabilities and increased investment in this area is a deliverable under the new DFID Strategy for Disability Inclusive Development.²⁷⁵ Nevertheless, there is little information about how this will be achieved in the context of building sustainable cities and communities.



Target 11.2:

By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons.

This Target is essential to the achievement of **Goal 11**, with links with significant other SDGs and Targets, including:

- **3.6:** To halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.
- **8.5:** On full and productive employment for all, including for women, young people and persons with disabilities, for which accessible transport, especially public transport, is a critical factor in access.
- **13.2:** To integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. Transport is a major source of CO2 emissions. Therefore, commitments made in the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement will not be possible without significant investment in sustainable transport.

269. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/html-report/infrastructure/>
270. Ibid.

271. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/758904/transport-urban-infrastructure.pdf

272. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-disability-inclusion-strategy-2018-to-2023>

273. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/>

[system/uploads/attachment_data/file/760999/Disability-Inclusion-Strategy-delivery-plan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/attachment_data/file/760999/Disability-Inclusion-Strategy-delivery-plan.pdf)

274. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/ICAI-Disability-Review.pdf>

275. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-disability-inclusion-strategy-2018-to-2023>

Target 11.5:

By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations.

The UN Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction highlighted the fact that between 2005 and 2015 over 700,000 people lost their lives as a result of disasters. In addition 1.4 million people have been injured and 23 million made homeless.²⁷⁶ Overall, 1.5 billion people were affected by disasters, and marginalised communities were disproportionately affected.

The UK government has stated that building resilience is a core element of DFID's approach to both development and humanitarian programmes and ICAI concluded in 2018 that "between 2011 and 2015, DFID resourced and implemented a largely successful disaster resilience mainstreaming process", giving a "green-amber" rating for DFID's work in this area.²⁷⁷ The humanitarian Rapid Response Facility now provides transitional shelters, rather than tents, and materials, recognising that humanitarian aid in the immediate response is rarely only for the short-term. DFID's leadership in this area is welcome, but areas that require greater investment and attention include:

- Improving and updating context analyses, linked to resilience strategies, to ensure that every programme DFID supports includes an assessment to the impact on resilience and the opportunities to build resilience.
- A commitment to the principle of building back better. Post-disaster, crisis and conflict reconstruction is an opportunity to embed accessibility, rather than reinforce previous discriminatory barriers.

To achieve Goal 11, the UK government should:

- Promote better coordination between donor agencies working on urban development. DFID should play a key role in ensuring there is coherence in donor support for sustainable, resilient and inclusive urbanisation.
- Work with national and local governments to stimulate relevant legal and regulatory changes that would reduce bottlenecks, improve efficiency and increase the financial viability of delivering housing and service provision for poor communities.
- Promote better access to capital and investment opportunities for housing and infrastructure that reduces poverty and works for poor and vulnerable groups, by helping to stimulate and support local financial markets (including affordable mortgage provisions).
- Explicitly recognise the need for a holistic approach to urban development, through linking between **Goal 11** and other SDGs. Outline how UK ODA supports to create inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements in order to help achieve the wider agenda. This includes the need to:
 - Ensure city-wide planning addresses all issues from jobs to climate resilience, transport, education and housing. Embed cross-cutting issues such as gender and accessibility in all plans.
 - Expand the current commitment that all education infrastructure DFID directly funds meets accessibility standards to ensuring that it covers indirectly funded education infrastructure (see **Goal 4**).
 - Include universal design and accessibility as core principles in all development. For example, ensure that the planned efforts to improve healthcare infrastructure are fully accessible, including to people with physical and sensorial disabilities (see **Goal 3**).

276. https://www.unisdr.org/files/43291_sendaiframeworkfordrren.pdf
 277. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/67489/hum-emer-resp-rev-uk-gvmt-resp.pdf; and <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/report/resilience/>



SDG 12: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:
Cruelty Free International



As the world's economy and population continue to grow and with it the subsequent demand for resources, to achieve sustainable development by 2030 requires drastic changes in the way we consume and produce both goods and resources. For example, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)'s Living Planet Report in 2018 shows population sizes of wildlife decreased by 60% globally between 1970 and 2014.²⁷⁸ This shocking finding has major implications for delivering the SDGs given that the natural world underpins our lives and economies. Human behaviour has driven this decline, and patterns of consumption and production are the major cause.

Decoupling economic growth from resource use and environmental degradation is one of the most critical and complex challenges facing humanity today, requiring political leadership that will effectively transform both business practices and individual consumption. Given its relatively high levels of wealth and income, the highly-industrialised nature of its society and its technological capacity to accelerate the development of greener technologies, the UK is in a unique position to champion sustainable consumption and production (SCP) worldwide. However, the UK government rarely refers to SCP domestically or internationally. The first and last time a definition for SCP was set out was in 2003.²⁷⁹ This is despite the growing bank of evidence highlighting the effects our overconsumption is having and will continue to have on the environment, resulting in a growing demand from consumers for governments and businesses to act more sustainably.

Whilst the UK government has recently published two domestic SCP-relevant strategies, there is currently no recognition of SCP, or sustainability more broadly, within DFID's five headline priorities.²⁸⁰ **Goal 12** is one of only two goals, along with **Goal 15**, that is not referenced in them.²⁸¹

There is a worrying lack of prioritisation or even recognition of the benefits of taking action to address SCP, including the pivotal role DFID can play in achieving it globally through ODA spending and engagement in global multilateral institutions. The UK government, through DFID, should recognise the interlinked nature of **Goal 12**, whereby progress here can accelerate progress on other goals, such as decent economic growth (**Goal 8**) and climate action (**Goal 13**).

There is very little data publicly accessible on the work that the UK government has done since 2015 to help achieve **Goal 12** worldwide. One example of UK leadership in tackling unsustainable global consumption and production is a 2015 partnership between the UK and UN Environment to fund the Global Industrial Symbiosis Programme. This was designed to help participating countries increase their ambition in reducing emissions and help deliver actions under the 10 Year Framework for Programmes on SCP (10YFP).²⁸²

278. <https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/living-planet-report-2018>

279. <https://www.ukssd.co.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=12f0ad5f-7eb7-41b3-a9e5-125e38f42318> (Chapter 12)

280. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-growth-strategy>; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/department-for-international-development-single-departmental-plan-department-for-international-development-single-departmental-plan-december-2018#dfids-objectives>

281. Ibid.

282. <https://www.international-synergies.com/projects/global-industrial-symbiosis-programme-gisp/>

Target 12.1:

Implement the 10YFP, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries.

The 10YFP is a global commitment to accelerate progress towards achieving **Goal 12**, and the One Planet Network is a network designed to convene and mobilise action for implementation.²⁸³ To date, no government department, neither DFID nor the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), has published comprehensive enough information about how the UK engages with the 10YFP.

Playing a leading role in building the strength of the 10YFP as a convening platform for stakeholders to share innovative solutions towards greater SCP would bring benefits for the UK, enhancing its global credibility and providing growth opportunities globally for British businesses and institutions using the technological capacity and expertise that exists within the UK. Upgrading the UK's role within the Framework should feature centrally within a newly published government action plan on SCP to unify national and global SCP incentives in a coherent way.

Target 12.2:

By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

The current model of economic development championed by DFID in its EDS does not pay sufficient attention to the role of natural resources and systems in underpinning economic activity, nor does it commit to ensuring that global patterns of consumption and production are environmentally sustainable.

Currently, the UK government's economic strategy is based on and facilitates an unsustainable economic system. DFID must build sustainability considerations more systematically into its EDS by recognising the overarching importance of ensuring the environmental sustainability of partner countries' development trajectories. Failure to do so will not only lock countries into outdated, unsustainable technologies and growth models, but will in turn severely hamper global progress towards many of the other SDGs, particularly **Goals 8 and 13**.

283. <http://www.oneplanetnetwork.org/who-we-are>

Target 12.6:

Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle; and Target 12.a: Support developing countries to strengthen their scientific and technological capacity to move towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production.

The UK provides some of the world's most innovative ideas and technologies in the field of sustainability in British business and civil society. Using its financial support and political leverage, the UK government should prioritise the mobilisation of those organisations and institutions able to provide key technological and logistical support to help both governments and private sector companies develop more sustainable practices.

DFID funding can be hard for small businesses in the Global South to access, for example because of extensive due diligence requirements, and greater steps should be taken to ensure funding opportunities are accessible for smallholder producers to help improve their capacity to move towards SCP.

In conjunction with this, the UK government should make it a requirement that all large British companies report comprehensively on their sustainability impacts in line with the SDGs, given the global footprint of British businesses.²⁸⁴

Target 12.7:

Promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities.

Domestically, the government has implemented its Greening Government Commitments 2016 to 2020 policy, whereby government procurers "must ensure they buy more sustainable and efficient products and engage with suppliers to understand and reduce the impacts of their supply chains."²⁸⁵

While most procurement is done at the local level, its impact is felt internationally due to the globalisation of supply chains. The UK government must raise awareness of the global impact that supply chains increasingly have on the environment across its Whitehall departments, by requiring all public procurement measures to consider and report on their social and environmental sustainability. This should be

284. <https://www.ukssd.co.uk/measuringup>

285. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/greening-government-commitments-2016-to-2020/greening-government-commitments-2016-to-2020>

linked explicitly to the achievement of the SDGs, beyond just a footnote as in the recent Ministry of Justice 2018 Guidance Document, to ensure that the UK plays its part in driving sustainable public procurement practices worldwide that are critical to achieving Goal 12.²⁸⁶



Target 12.8:

By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Recognising the importance of empowering individuals to make more sustainable consumption choices, the UK government should champion the uptake of initiatives, such as eco-labelling or certification schemes, that spread awareness of the impact a certain product or service has on the environment. The UK can take immediate steps on the global stage to accelerate progress towards this Target, by supporting existing initiatives that facilitate awareness on living in harmony with nature. These could include securing a global ban on cosmetics animal testing, promoting sustainable palm oil options in UK supermarkets and providing greater funding to Fairtrade certified farmers, as well as taking a leading role within the 10YFP's sustainable lifestyles and education programme.



Target 12.c:

Rationalise inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption by removing market distortions, in accordance with national circumstances, including by restructuring taxation and phasing out those harmful subsidies, where they exist, to reflect their environmental impacts, taking fully into account the specific needs and conditions of developing countries and minimising the possible adverse impacts on their development in a manner that protects the poor and the affected communities.

The UK government continues to spend billions of pounds each year on fossil fuel subsidies, through official ODA finance as well as non-ODA sources, such as multilateral banks like UK Export Finance. For example, in 2015-16, the UK spent \$11bn in government support for the production and consumption of oil, gas and coal both at home and abroad.²⁸⁷ The UK government should lead by example in the transition towards a more renewable energy-based society by addressing its continuing fiscal and public finance support

to fossil fuels since the Paris Climate Agreement was signed in 2016. DFID in particular should use its influence with MDBs, as well as other donors and financial institutions, to champion a shift in their portfolios towards investment in renewables, away from coal and other fossil fuels (see more in **Goal 7** and **Goal 13**).

As a member of the EU, the UK contributed to several EU policies and initiatives addressing SCP and Agenda 2030, such as the SWITCH to Green Initiative and EU Cities for Fair and Ethical Trade Award.²⁸⁸ Following the UK's departure from the EU, we hope to see continued close alignment of sustainability policies in partnership with the Union, and that it continues to set and meet high-level standards for carbon emission reductions, green energy subsidies and other areas that will help achieve **Goal 12**.

To achieve Goal 12, the UK government should:

- Lead by example in the transition towards a more renewable energy-based society by ending fossil fuel subsidies. Instead fund renewable and sustainable energy sources.
- Require all large British companies to report comprehensively on their sustainability impacts in line with the SDGs, given the global footprint of British businesses.
- Upgrade the UK's role within the One Planet Network, formed to support implementation of the 10YFP, to play a leading role in the global transition towards more sustainable consumption and production patterns. Champion and create a supportive environment, through incentivisation and subsidies, for companies to spread awareness and empower consumers with information, through certification schemes and eco-labelling for example.
- Build sustainability considerations more systematically into DFID's EDS by recognising the overarching importance of ensuring that partner countries' development trajectories are environmentally sustainable.
- Amend funding and procurement opportunities to ensure they are accessible for smallholder producers in the Global South to help improve their capacity to move towards SCP.

286. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/ministry-of-justice-and-the-environment>

287. <https://www.odi.org/publications/11131-g7-fossil-fuel-subsidy-scorecard>

288. <https://www.switchtogreen.eu/?p=128>; <https://www.trade-city-award.eu/>



SDG 13: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:
the Bond Development and Environment Group

Climate change is one of the greatest development challenges of our time, and it is now clear that the eradication of poverty and inequality cannot be achieved without also addressing the causes and consequences of climate change. This requires a twin-track approach of both reducing the actions that are causing climate change (mitigation) and adapting to the now unavoidable climatic changes that are unfolding (adaptation).

Countries in the Global South face the devastating consequences of climate change through slowly unfolding changes to average climatic conditions that dramatically alter food production, water availability, economic development, and disease patterns at scale; extreme weather events; and higher costs of development to avoid “lock-in” to a carbon-intensive future.

The responsibility for large scale mitigation lies with industrialised countries, including the UK, which must rapidly decarbonise their economies and reach net zero before 2050. This is required in order to meet commitments made under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) process to pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C so as to prevent the most catastrophic consequences of climate change.²⁸⁹ The priority focus for those suffering the negative consequences of climate change in the Global South, in particular vulnerable LDCs and low-lying SIDS, must be to protect their citizens from the damaging consequences of climate change, and to adapt to the changed and changing climate in order to prevent losses, suffering, and a rolling back of development gains.

289. The UK is a signatory to the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a global agreement to “stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system”: <https://unfccc.int/>; and <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

Climate change is a threat multiplier that exacerbates poverty and inequality. For example, for the third year in a row there has been a rise in world hunger, and the Food and Agriculture Organisation cites climate variability and extremes as a key force behind this rise, as well as being one of the leading causes of severe food crises (see Goal 2).²⁹⁰ Climate change also exacerbates challenges related to water availability, flooding, and situations of water stress. According to the World Bank, already more than 60% of humanity lives in areas of water stress, where the supply of water cannot or will not continue to meet demand, and climate change is simply exacerbating this situation and makes finding solutions even harder (see **Goal 6**).²⁹¹

Progress achieved to date on development priorities cannot be taken for granted and must now be shored-up against climate change impacts. Where development is still needed, it is now harder (and more expensive) than ever to achieve across all sectors in a changing and more changeable climate. As a result, new resources and capacities are needed to adapt and to invest in low carbon development pathways.²⁹² Under the UNFCCC process, industrialised countries including the UK committed to provide “new and additional” financial resources to countries in the Global South to address this “new and additional” challenge of climate change, which comes on top of and exacerbates development challenges. This international climate finance is urgently needed by countries in the Global South in order to adapt to the consequences of climate change and to pursue low carbon development pathways.²⁹³

“New and additional” financial resources were understood to be new and additional to pre-existing commitments to

290. <http://www.fao.org/3/I9553EN/i9553en.pdf>

291. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/28096/9781464811791.pdf>

292. This is defined as development that minimises future greenhouse gas emissions and protects carbon sinks, while bringing about economic growth, social inclusion, and equity.

293. Which can provide new opportunities for decent and green jobs that contribute to low carbon and sustainable societies (see Goal 8).

provide 0.7% of GNI as aid. However, to date the UK’s climate finance has come from the aid budget, with the justification that the aid budget has grown. This is not a sustainable approach to meeting the UK’s international climate finance commitments, and by 2021 it is likely that the UK’s climate finance will exceed that which the aid budget can reasonably provide.²⁹⁴ Therefore real “new and additional” sources of public finance will be required, and the UK needs to urgently explore and establish innovative sources of finance, such as the proposed Climate Damages Tax.

Whilst specific climate finance is needed to enable the specific transformational changes needed in the Global South to address the causes and consequences of climate change, as a threat multiplier climate change must also be mainstreamed throughout all development, ODA spend, and foreign investment. The UK has not yet achieved this and policy incoherence remains. For example, 22% of UK ODA energy spend between 2010 and 2014 supported fossil fuels in the Global South rather than renewables (see **Goal 7**).²⁹⁵ A joined-up approach to climate action across government is needed. With limited resources, one part of government or ODA spend should not be undermining another.

Target 13.1:

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries.

The UK is, however, a global leader in its support for climate change adaptation, committing 50% of UK climate finance to this urgent priority. While the global community as a whole is committed to a balance of finance between mitigation and adaptation, the evidence shows that this ambition falls far short in reality, and climate change adaptation remains woefully underfunded globally. This undermines efforts by countries in the Global South to eradicate poverty, avoid harm and thrive in spite of a changing climate. The UK’s commitment to at least 50% of ICF is important, demonstrates leadership in supporting the priority needs of countries in the Global South, and must be retained.²⁹⁶

UK ICF has reportedly supported 47 million people to “cope with the effects of climate change.”²⁹⁷ One of the programmes funded by DFID and implemented by a number of UK-based International non-governmental organisations (INGOs) contributing to this is Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters (BRACED). BRACED seeks to build resilience and adaptation to climate extremes and disasters in 13 countries across the Sahel, East Africa, and South and Southeast Asia. It has reportedly

294. UK INGOs call for no more than 10% of the aid budget to be used for climate finance.
295. <https://cafod.org.uk/About-us/Policy-and-research/Climate-change-and-energy/Sustainable-energy/Analysis-UK-support-for-energy>
296. The UK’s International Climate Fund.
297. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-publishes-latest-results-in-tackling-global-climate-change>

already helped over 5 million people and aims to assist up to 10 million people to cope with – and become more resilient to – extreme weather events and climate extremes.²⁹⁸

However, the failure of the UK to recognise and support “loss and damage” undermines progress to strengthen resilience in the Global South. “Loss and damage” refers to the consequences of climate change impacts that cannot be avoided or adapted to. As a result of slow progress on mitigation, and insufficient spending on adaptation, the Global South is also now facing impacts of climate change that go beyond what is possible to adapt to, such as super-charged storms, extreme droughts in the context of overall drying trends, and loss of land from rising sea levels.

“Loss and damage is recognised in the Paris Climate Agreement, to which the UK is a signatory, but remains an issue that the UK is yet to support or finance. Countries in the Global South suffering the worst consequences of climate change deserve the UK’s urgent support and solidarity on this issue. Innovative sources of finance will be needed in order for the UK to provide this much needed additional resource.”²⁹⁹

Target 13.1:

Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the UNFCCC to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100bn annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalise the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through its capitalisation as soon as possible

From 2011-12 to 2017-18, UK ICF reportedly mobilised £3.3bn public and £910m private finance for climate change purposes in the Global South, including through the GCF.³⁰⁰ From 2020, the UK will increase its ICF as part of global efforts to mobilise \$100bn a year. For the year 2020-21, the UK has committed to provide at least £1.76bn for climate finance, and this report calls on the UK to commit to this as a minimum annual amount for all subsequent years to maintain its commitment to this global goal.

The UK has also been active on the GCF Board in the establishment and operationalisation of the GCF, and steps up into the GCF co-chair role for 2019.³⁰¹ The UK’s commitment to the GCF is valuable, and this report supports continued leadership and an ambitious UK contribution to the first replenishment process underway in 2019.

298. Ibid.
299. Such as the proposed Climate Damages Tax, or other sources to generate public finance.
300. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/721993/2018-UK-Climate-Finance-Results.pdf
301. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/home>

Target 13.b:

Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in LDCs and SIDS, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalised communities

Whilst the GCF is now progressing, many countries, particularly LDCs, still struggle to access finance from the GCF as well as other sources of international climate finance. Only an estimated \$9bn of annual public climate finance went to the 48 LDCs in 2015-16, representing just 18% of the total.³⁰²

Existing processes leave many countries reliant on consultancy firms to develop proposals and policies. This does not support the kind of long-term capacity-building and institutional change that is required to implement those projects and policies, effectively manage and monitor large scale climate finance, and deliver transformational change. Given the challenges faced by countries in the Global South, and in particular LDCs, to access climate finance (and the UK's commitment to "Leave No One Behind"), UK ICF should prioritise capacity-building support for LDCs and for sub-national institutions, which would enable international climate finance to be channelled to where it is most needed and enhance country ownership and institutional support.

This requires more of a focus on longer-term, bottom-up commitments, rather than quick wins. Climate change adaptation to meet the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalised is location-specific and requires location-specific actions and investments. Inclusive investments are needed that specifically understand and address the needs of those who are most vulnerable and/or who otherwise would not benefit, such as a result of disability, gender, or other forms of social marginalisation.³⁰³ Effective climate change adaptation requires an explicit focus on "Leave No One Behind" (see chapter on "Leave No One Behind").

However, such approaches are poorly supported by international climate finance mechanisms, and the UK should do more to promote mechanisms that really do reach those most affected by climate change. Finance is needed by both local and national entities, and local structures are vital to reach those people and communities most impacted by climate change. The duration of support is also important, as capacity-building and innovative approaches take time to take hold, as well as to generate the evidence and learning needed to influence system-wide changes and go to scale.

Finally, when it comes to the private sector, the UK focuses too much of its attention on large scale foreign investment,

rather than the in-country small- and medium-size enterprises which provide 80% of employment in low income countries.³⁰⁴ The vast majority of the private sector in LDCs is informal and there needs to be more focus and recognition of this for supporting low-carbon climate resilient development, particularly in the energy sector and for smallholder farmers, who produce the majority of food for domestic markets (see also **Goal 2** and **Goal 7**).

However, recent changes to the UK's ICF form and function threatens to move support away from climate change specific actions and from these much-needed capacity-building and institutional support priorities. DFID has transitioned its portion of ICF spend from a central fund approach to a decentralised mainstreaming approach, which attributes a percentage of a project's costs to the ICF based on relevance to climate change. There has been a lack of consultation and transparency by government regarding how and why this decision was taken, and how it is implemented. Concerns remain that by diluting climate finance throughout projects that would have happened anyway, UK ICF is not contributing to the kind of transformational change needed for developing countries to address the challenges of climate change.

To achieve Goal 13, the UK government should:

- Commit to long-term, predictable and reliable UK ICF of at least £1.76bn a year for transformational support to the Global South to adopt low carbon development pathways and adapt to climate change.
- Establish new and additional sources of public finance to meet the need for the UK to increase climate finance commitments from 2021 in line with the global finance goal, as well as to finance "loss and damage" in climate change vulnerable countries.
- Reaffirm the UK's commitment to 50% of ICF for adaptation to climate change.
- Ensure that the UK ICF is a mechanism which catalyses transformational change to address climate change in countries in the Global South.
- Ensure all UK policy and financing commitments, not just for ODA but across government, support efforts to limit global warming to 1.5°C, are consistent with the Paris Climate Agreement, and enable countries to pursue low carbon climate resilient development pathways.

302. <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/climate-finance-shadow-report-2018>

303. See for example on disability: https://www.cbm.org/article/downloads/82788/E-discussion_on_climate_change_and_disability.pdf

304. http://www.edinburgh-group.org/media/2776/edinburgh_group_research_-_growing_the_global_economy_through_smes.pdf



SDG 14 and 15: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:
the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.



Natural resources and systems are fundamental to human life; underpinning our wellbeing and our economies. But these systems are under increasing pressure from humans and our impacts. Species have declined a staggering 60% since 1970, the main cause of which is habitat loss and degradation.³⁰⁵ Failing to address this looming crisis could push our planetary boundaries over dangerous tipping points.³⁰⁶

The UK ODA budget is important because the UK is one of the few countries to deliver the commitment to spend 0.7% of our GNI on overseas aid. However, environmental considerations are far from wholly integrated into the government's approach to development. ODA often catalyses private sector investment. Where it invests in initiatives that do harm, such as fossil fuels or some large scale infrastructure projects, the negative environmental outcomes from inappropriate economic development can damage future economic prospects and the wellbeing of local communities, costing more to clean up later (see **Goal 7**, **Goal 9** and **Goal 13**).

A key issue affecting our ability to deliver **Goal 14** (life under water) and **15** (life on land) is that the UK's international responsibility is not just about funding and financing projects to tackle biodiversity loss (while this is important), but about integrating biodiversity issues as a proactive consideration into broader development and investment planning.

Our international actions to achieve **Goal 14** and **Goal 15** are vital because, as the world's sixth largest economy, the UK and its citizens have a large and growing global footprint on the environment of other countries. Significantly more needs to be done to tackle consumption and the impact our demand for key commodities has on globally important areas for

biodiversity, if we are to succeed in our commitments to the SDGs (see also **Goal 12**).

Goal 14: Life below water

Target 14.1:

By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

Over the last 18 months, the UK has been significantly vocal on efforts to tackle plastic pollution. The Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance was launched during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London in April 2018. It represents an agreement between the UK, Ghana, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and Vanuatu to jointly tackle marine plastic by banning microbeads, cutting down on single use plastic bags, and other steps to eliminate plastic waste.³⁰⁷ As part of this initiative, the UK prime minister announced a £61.4m funding package to boost global research and help countries across the Commonwealth stop plastic waste from entering the oceans in the first place. The Alliance has now expanded to include Australia, Fiji, Kenya and St Lucia.

The UK has put in place many ambitious plans to end the sale of various types of single use plastic and should use its experience to be a global voice for change. A large amount of UK plastic waste now ends up in nations with detrimental records on marine pollution, such as Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Poland, source countries for much of the world's

305. <https://www.wwf.org.uk/updates/living-planet-report-2018>

306. <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries/planetary-boundaries/about-the-research/the-nine-planetary-boundaries.html>

307. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/commonwealth-countries-unite-to-tackle-ocean-plastic-pollution>



marine debris.³⁰⁸ The UK should ensure it is not just offsetting the problem of marine pollution but tackling it at its source; through broad scale programmes to reduce the amount of waste plastic entering the environment, the introduction of a nation-wide deposit return scheme for drinks containers of all materials and sizes, a ban on problem plastics, and by making corporate producers of waste pay for disposal costs and commit to eliminating single-use packaging in the 2020s.³⁰⁹

While action on plastic is important as it accounts for 50% of ocean litter, the other half consists of other types of damaging pollution for our marine ecosystem. Chemicals are a significant issue and 80% of this type of pollution is because of activities on land.³¹⁰ There are now over 200 “dead zones” globally, where nothing can survive because of the extent of the ecosystem damage, and the number of these zones doubles every decade. In 2013, the UK played the lead role in the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) reclassifying dangerous (to seabird and other marine life) forms of polyisobutylene in order to ban their discharge at sea. Similarly, the UK should press for curbs on discharging polluting palm oil and paraffin waxes. The UK must also complete its ratification of the IMO’s Ballast Water Management Convention and encourage others to do likewise.

Target 14.2:

By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

The UK already leads the world in protecting its own waters, with 23% fully protected and over 90% of this area in the UK’s Overseas Territories – vital areas for biodiversity.³¹¹ The Blue Belt Programme is part of this protected area commitment and supports the UK’s delivery and research through £20m of funding from 2016 to 2020.³¹²

The UK government has recently supported a call to treble marine protection globally from a 10% by 2020 target to a 30% target by 2030.³¹³ While it has been a voice for ambitious protection, it also needs to lead by example and champion better management and enforcement of these protected areas – their quality as well as their quantity. In this regard,

308. <https://oceanconservancy.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/full-report-stemming-the.pdf>; and <https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2018/06/14/china-plastics-ban-malaysia-vietnam-poland/>
309. <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/what-we-do/oceans/plastics/>
310. <https://www.worldoceannetwork.org/won-part-6/care-wod-2014-4/thematic-resources-pollution/facts-figures-pollution/>
311. <http://www.mpatlas.org/protection-dashboard/country-ranks/>
312. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-blue-belt-programme>

313. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/gove-calls-for-30-per-cent-of-worlds-oceans-to-be-protected-by-2030>

the Target that will replace 14.2 after the current one expires in 2020 should be broken down into:

1. Percentage of seas designated.
2. Percentage of designated seas well-managed for nature - with the need for an increased proportion of seas designated, and greater ambition and delivery on their management.

Marine systems are dynamic and transboundary and so are the human systems and pressures placed upon them. The UK imports about twice as much seafood as it produces and exports, and while UK fish stock management is improving, unsustainable fisheries are still a major global problem.³¹⁴

With the UK’s impending departure from the EU, there is an opportunity to be a world leader in sustainable fisheries management. To merit this gold standard, the UK must commit to rebuilding and maintaining commercial fish stocks above levels capable of producing the maximum sustainable yield (MSY), aim to eliminate the by-catch of non-target species, and require all vessels over 10 metres to fit remote electronic monitoring such that their catches can be fully documented.

Target 14.4:

By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce MSY as determined by their biological characteristics.

Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing (IUU) significantly adversely impacts legitimate commercial fishers, undermines small scale fisheries, as well as harming fish populations. It is estimated that IUU costs the global economy up to \$23bn annually, which represents around 20% of global seafood catch.³¹⁵

This is also a significant problem in the high seas (an area of international waters that covers about 45% of the planet’s surface), where no legal instrument currently exists to protect biodiversity. Recent satellite technologies have transformed surveillance abilities and help detect and stop IUU fishing. The UK has started to lead the way in piloting and using them for its own marine protection in the UK Overseas Territories. If formalised, this surveillance of high seas activity would extend improved management to an additional 3.9 million km

314. <https://www.ukssd.co.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=cdd573d3-ad46-447f-b034-88b865fc7fab>; and <https://www.mcsuk.org/news/what-will-happen-to-the-fish-market-after-brexite>
315. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2013/02/25/illegal-unreported-and-unregulated-fishing-frequently-asked-questions>



of ocean, almost double the existing Blue Belt. While these are not marine sanctuaries, the UK would be single-handedly bringing monitoring and surveillance to vast tracts of ocean and could invite other countries to follow its lead and tame malpractice on the high seas.

Goal 15: Life on land

Target 15.a:

Mobilise and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.

The UK is a significant funder of projects and programmes that contribute to **Goal 15** globally. Analysis of Target 15.a has therefore been integrated across the response to focal targets of forests, biodiversity, and illegal wildlife trade (IWT) below.

Target 15.2 and 15.b:

Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally; and Target 15.b: Mobilise significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation.

The UK government is a significant donor for forests, providing an estimated £1.1bn in ODA to forest-related activities between 2010 and 2018, principally through the ICF (see Goal 13). DFID has accounted for 51% of this forest spending, the Department of Energy and Climate Change/ the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for 35% and Defra for 14%. This financing has contributed to the funding of many forest related programmes and bilateral projects, such as DFID's Forest Governance, Markets, and Climate programme. Nearly half of the funding has gone to the three main global forest ecosystems in Brazil, the Congo Basin, and Indonesia.

According to analysis undertaken by the NGO Coalition on Forests, and based on government figures, in the first tranche of the ICF from 2011-12 to 2015-16, forest spending was £700m (18% of the total ICF budget), which was slightly under the 20% target.³¹⁶ Over the first two years of the current ICF

316. UK NGO Forest Coalition evidence to the International Development

tranche in 2016-17 and 2017-18, expenditure on forests averaged £146m per year, representing 12.6% of ICF total spending. The 50% increase in ICF spending over the period 2016-21 gives reason to think that UK forest funding will continue to increase over the next few years. Forests are central to tackling the climate crisis, sustaining biodiversity and meeting the SDGs. It is therefore important that the ICF forest funding targets are met. These funds also need to be part of a coherent strategy for forests, focused on improving forest governance, securing tenure and other rights for indigenous peoples and local communities, and supporting community livelihoods. They must also follow relevant principles and safeguards.³¹⁷

There is a limited ability to judge the effectiveness and impact of these funding streams. The government has rigorous control over its bilateral funding programmes and, while these may be more resource intensive to manage than multilateral funds, they can have a more direct impact tailored to national priorities and situations.³¹⁸

However, over the past eight years, 64% of UK aid spending on forests has gone to multilateral agencies – of which 44% (about £450m) has been channelled through four international trust funds. The sharp rise in funding envisaged for 2020-21 will lead, almost inevitably, to an increase in UK contributions to the GCF, and indeed the bulk of the total forest-related UK funding is channelled through multilateral funds. It is vital that the government has a strategy for its work with multilaterals and, in particular, for the different strands of its work on forests. As suggested by the 2015 ICAI review of multilaterals, the government needs to hold multilateral agencies to account for what they achieve, and this applies equally for work on the natural environment.³¹⁹

The UK's ability to meet its international objectives on forests also depends highly on tackling its deforestation footprint. Commercial agriculture accounts for almost three quarters of the destruction of tropical rainforests and this is largely driven by industries such as soy, palm oil, timber, pulp and paper, beef and leather, rubber, and cocoa. The UK, as the world's sixth largest economy, is a major importer and consumer of these commodities and the nature of UK trade in them will have significant impacts on our commitments to the SDGs, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the UNFCCC. A recent report estimates the total land footprint associated with UK imports to be 33.5 million acres, 44% of this in high or very high-risk areas for deforestation.³²⁰

This footprint issue has been acknowledged in Defra's 25-year Environment Plan, but there is a need to measure the UK footprint and its impacts better, especially for key commodities, as part of our contribution to the SDGs and

Committee Inquiry on UK Aid for Combating Climate Change (not yet published).

317. Ibid.

318. Ibid.

319. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/ICAI-Report-How-DFID-works-with-multilateral-agencies-to-achieve-impact.pdf>

320. <https://www.wwf.org.uk/riskybusiness>



other processes.³²¹ The December 2018 Defra Indicators Framework consultation is, however, very light on this subject stating: "There are no specific goals in the 25 Year Environment Plan for this indicator, however the Plan commits us to leaving a lighter footprint on the global environment by enhancing sustainability and supporting zero deforestation supply chains."³²² Another core consideration is the need to ask UK business for better transparency of their total supply chains and procurement to ensure they are deforestation free.

Target 15.5:

Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

The Darwin Initiative is an existing UK government grants scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally based projects worldwide. Darwin projects integrate many of the SDG principles and aim to finance innovative work that cuts across nature and sustainable development issues.

Over the last 25 years, 1,123 Darwin projects have been financed in over 159 countries with a total of £153m awarded by the UK government. It has, however, a very small annual budget – awarding an average of £5.6m per annum since 1992 – with a typical project lasting for up to three years and costing approximately £250,000–£350,000 for the duration.³²³ The UK can continue to build on the success of the Darwin Initiative by increasing the amount available for projects per year and to offer funding for longer periods, as a lot of the issues the projects aim to tackle need long-term solutions.

Core funds are also needed outside of ODA for species recovery and to properly manage protected areas, marine sanctuaries, and the high seas, which fall outside the ODA definition. There is a compelling need for UK government leadership to catalyse and mobilise complementary private and philanthropic investments, in addition to committed funding through mechanisms outside of ODA, such as replacements for EU-LIFE and BEST after the UK leaves the EU.

As with the forest Target above, the global footprint of the UK and its investments are having major impacts on nature

321. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

322. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766207/indicator-framework-consult-document.pdf

323. <http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/assets/uploads/2014/05/The-Evolution-of-the-Darwin-Initiative-from-biodiveristy-research-to-global-conservation-impact.pdf>; <http://www.darwininitiative.org.uk/project/year-awarded/2018/>

worldwide. These impacts are especially driven through infrastructure development and increasing land conversion for agriculture and the production of other commodities (see also **Goal 2**). The UK is a large contributor to the World Bank, which regularly invests in these multi-million pound development projects. However, often these projects have devastating social and environmental costs despite there being some standards and safeguards in place. More needs to be done to address transparency and to ensure that development projects do not undermine environmental objectives. UK companies deliver a lot of this footprint impact and, as with deforestation free supply chains, there is a need to develop better transparency and accountability mechanisms. Examples could include mandatory reporting by the corporate sector of environmental impacts or the application of a minimum of UK legislative standards when working outside of the EU to safeguard other countries' environments.

2020 will be a vital moment internationally for the environment. The UK can continue to demonstrate international leadership and commitment through promoting an ambitious post 2020 architecture for the CBD that drives real action to reverse biodiversity declines. This should also be integrated across all conventions, including the UNFCCC, UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA), and address the urgency of the climate, environment and biodiversity extinction crisis.

Target 15.7 and 15.c:

Target 15.7: Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products; and Target 15.c: Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) is estimated to be worth between S\$7 and S\$23bn a year and is a significant driver of many species' decline globally.³²⁴ The UK is a strong global advocate for tackling the IWT and recently hosted the IWT conference in London in October 2018.

The conference called upon the international community to act together to support and build urgent collective action to tackle the illegal wildlife trade as a serious crime carried out by organised criminals and to close markets for illegally traded wildlife. It also recognised the importance of working with local communities, recognising the essential

324. <https://www.zsl.org/conservation/how-we-work/illegal-wildlife-trade-crisis/illegal-wildlife-trade-impacts>



engagement role and rights of local communities and indigenous people to ensure a sustainable solution to addressing IWT.

The UK has taken specific measures as part of its contribution to tackling IWT. Recognising that the UK has been the largest exporter of “legal” ivory items in recent years, the government has now pledged to ban the commercial trade in elephant ivory within, to and from the UK, and this Ivory Bill is now in its final stages of approval.³²⁵

The IWT Challenge Fund mobilises financial support to practical projects globally to tackle root cause issues of IWT and to benefit people directly affected by the trade. Through the Challenge Fund, approximately £18.5m has been allocated to 61 projects. Recently, it was also announced that DFID is providing an additional £6m to support the development of cross-border Green Corridors for wildlife, by supporting actions that will bring economic and security benefits for communities.³²⁶

To achieve Goals 14 and 15, the UK government should:

- Measure the UK’s global footprint, especially for key goods and commodities. Ensure better transparency and accountability mechanisms for the private sector on the sourcing and sustainability of these commodities.
- Collaborate across government and with the private sector to develop programming on the UK’s global footprint. Ensure domestic policies are consistent with recognising this problem. Lead global initiatives for other high consuming countries to do the same.
- Revisit DFID’s EDS to build in a greater focus on environmental sustainability (see **Goal 8** and **Goal 13**). Ensure financial flows, trade policies and taxation policies are also coherent with these goals of environmental sustainability.
- Lead on catalysing and mobilising private and philanthropic investments to complement ODA spending. Ensure funds are available to recover species and properly manage protected areas, marine sanctuaries, and the high seas.
- Enhance the UK’s current leadership on marine sustainability through:
 - a) A more concentrated effort to tackle marine pollution at its source, especially plastics and chemicals through bans and deposit schemes.
 - b) An increased proportion of marine protected areas with emphasis on those areas being well-managed for nature.
 - c) Commitment to rebuilding and maintaining commercial fish stocks above levels capable of producing the MSY, and eliminating the by-catch of non-target species within the fisheries system.
- Promote an ambitious post 2020 CBD architecture that drives real action to reverse biodiversity declines. Integrate this across all conventions, including the UNFCCC, and the UN Convention on Combating Desertification and the AEW. Back this up with the necessary financial mobilisation that recognises the urgency of the climate, environmental and biodiversity extinction crisis.

325. <https://www.bornfree.org.uk/news/uk-ivory-bill>; <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-confirms-uk-ban-on-ivory-sales>

326. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-aid-tackles-wildlife-crime-with-innovative-solutions>



SDG 16: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by:

World Vision. Section contributions by the Bond Conflict Policy and Child Rights Groups



The 2030 Agenda makes an unprecedented commitment to address conflict, violence, injustice and exclusion through a comprehensive approach to sustainable development. It affirms peaceful, just and inclusive societies as one of five cross-cutting priorities for global development.

Beyond **Goal 16**, targets under other SDGs including, for example, **Goal 4** (education), **Goal 5** (gender equality), **Goal 8** (decent work) and **Goal 10** (reduced inequalities), are also critical for peaceful and inclusive societies. Achieving the transformative ambitions of the SDGs globally requires a major focus on conflict-affected and fragile states, which are currently home to 43% of the population living in absolute poverty. The OECD anticipates that by 2030 some 80% of the world's poor will live in fragile contexts.³²⁷ Reflecting this, there have been increasing global commitments to align the development and security agendas in a more coherent way, such as connecting longer-term empowerment and development with short-term responses to conflict and crisis.

The UK played a crucial role in the adoption of Goal 16, ensuring the final agreement of Agenda 2030 learnt from the shortcomings of the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, it played an instrumental role in ensuring the United Nations' High Level Panel (HLP) went beyond the "absence of conflict", in recognising that positive peace – including respect for human rights, participatory politics, accountability, and transparency – contributes to development and poverty eradication.³²⁸ Goal 16 plays a particularly important role in the opening up of space for dialogue on contested issues such as peacebuilding, gender, justice, and human rights.³²⁹ However, since the adoption of the Agenda, the UK's leadership in championing Goal

16 has waned somewhat and other countries have taken the lead on the actual implementation. For example, some countries such as the Netherlands, Switzerland and Sierra Leone have taken the lead in supporting the establishment of international coalitions and initiatives for achieving the Goal.³³⁰

The UK has historically been a leader on conflict and governance issues, through an ongoing commitment to work in conflict- and fragile-affected states, including an intention to spend 50% of DFID's budget in conflict-affected states in every year from 2016 to 2020. It has also committed to champion global efforts to end modern slavery and protect children overseas from violence, abuse and exploitation. DFID's Single Departmental Plan (2015-2020) includes an objective on strengthening global peace, security and governance, while the FCO Single Departmental Plan emphasises many **Goal 16** themes.³³¹

The UK government continues to frame itself as global leader on gender equality with Goal 16 referenced in both the UK's fourth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP) ranging from 2018 to 2022, the Strategic Vision for Gender Equality launched in 2018, and the recognition in DFID's 2017 Humanitarian Reform Policy of the need for a new approach to protracted crises.³³² Additionally, the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative led by the FCO links closely to **Goal 16** and **Goal 5**.³³³ While these

327. <https://oxfamblogs.org/fp2p/whats-the-role-of-aid-in-fragile-states-my-piece-for-oecd/>

328. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/management/beyond2015.shtml>

329. <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1129-peaceful-just-and-inclusive-societies-what-role-for-the-2030-agenda-in-the-horn-of-africa>

330. For example: <https://cic.nyu.edu/programs/sdg16plus/>; https://cic.nyu.edu/PressRelease/Task_Force_On_Justice_February2018/; <https://www.wfuna.org/sixteenplusforum>

331. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-single-departmental-plan-2015-to-2020/single-departmental-plan-2015-to-2020#strengthening-global-peace-security-and-governance>; and <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/foreign-and-commonwealth-office-single-departmental-plan/foreign-and-commonwealth-office-single-departmental-plan-may-2018>

332. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-governments-humanitarian-reform-policy> p. 16.

333. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-strategic-vision-for-gender-equality-her-potential-our-future>; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-action-plan-on-women-peace-and-security-2018-to-2022>; <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/preventing-sexual-violence-initiative>

acknowledgements are welcomed, it is unclear to what extent this is being coherently applied in practice. In addition, funding and resources have waned over the past year, and as discussed further under **Goal 5**, there are some critical gaps in the UK's gender equality work that also relate to issues covered by **Goal 16**.

Many positive steps by the UK government remain undermined by internally contradictory policies. This includes, for instance, the continual supply of arms and ammunition to conflict parties, while simultaneously investing in development programs and humanitarian aid for those affected by the conflict. This approach is notably relevant in Yemen, where the UK government is selling weapons to a conflict party responsible for many abuses of international humanitarian law.³³⁴ Contradictory policies such as these require urgent remedy in favour of approaches towards sustainable peace.

According to the World Bank: "Fragility, conflict, and violence is a critical development challenge that threatens efforts to end extreme poverty."³³⁵ Indeed, it estimates that by 2030, the deadline for the Goals, the majority of people living in extreme poverty will be living in conflict-affected countries.³³⁶ The OECD estimates this could increase to 62% (or half a billion people), with women disproportionately and overwhelmingly affected by both poverty and conflict.³³⁷

In this context, the SDGs provided an important opportunity for the UK government to greater align policy and practice around conflict, security and development. For example, **Goal 5** on gender equality and **Goal 16** both reinforce many existing women, peace and security protections to which the international community is already committed. Focusing efforts on reducing conflict is directly linked to efforts to reduce poverty (see also **Goal 1**). However, DFID's EDS does not, at present, sufficiently address the specific barriers to achieving inclusive economic development in fragile, and conflict-affected states. "Do no harm" analysis is critical in designing interventions and partnerships that improve crisis affected groups and support the creation of decent jobs (see **Goal 8**).

While often neglected when considering the SDGs or international development cooperation, the delivery of human rights at the international and national levels is critical to their implementation and should be placed higher up the agenda. DFID and FCO have worked together closely on specific focal areas, some of which are relevant to "Leave No One Behind" like the intersection of poverty alleviation and religion.³³⁸

In its human rights influencing work, both bilaterally and through multilateral systems, the visibility given to the SDGs

by FCO and its use through its efforts to promote and protect human rights appears sparse. While the UK engages actively with UN human rights mechanisms, plays an active role at the UN Human Rights Council and participates in almost all Universal Periodic Reviews, it hasn't made systematic or even regular use of the SDG Framework. For example, it has only once mentioned a goal in its recommendations at the Universal Periodic Reviews since 2015, in the 2017 review of Ecuador.³³⁹ The FCO should support the UK's work on the SDGs by substantially increasing its use of the SDGs (and particularly of the "Leave No One Behind" principle) in its multilateral work on human rights.

Target 16.1:

Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

Violent conflict, whether political, economic or intercommunal, is the leading cause of suffering and extreme poverty today, and the largest single driver of fragility and of humanitarian need. Furthermore, exposure to violence increases support for violence, fuelling a dangerous cycle.

Countries in the Global South often lack effective protection mechanisms for minorities and indigenous peoples, who have limited access to justice and commonly face social, economic and political exclusion and are therefore particularly at risk in situations of conflict and violence. However, currently only around 1.4% of all international ODA is spent on civilian peacebuilding, women's equality organisations and institutions, ending violence against women and girls and prevention and disarmament of child soldiers.³⁴⁰ In the UK, the figure is closer to 4%.

The UK should do more to leverage similar support for pro-inclusion and pro-justice violence reduction efforts by other international actors, while in turn increasing its own political and financial investment to conflict prevention efforts.

A law enforcement approach to counter the drug trade has fuelled militarisation, as some states have significantly scaled up resources for drug law enforcement efforts, frequently channelled through the military. This militarisation has in turn fuelled violence as the drug cartels mobilise to fight state security forces. As a result, in many contexts there is a corresponding level of violence that many communities living on the front lines of the war on drugs experience in their daily lives. This includes violent deaths,

334. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/yemen/11500518/UK-will-support-Saudi-led-assault-on-Yemeni-rebels-but-not-engaging-in-combat.html>; <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?NewsID=23479&LangID=E>

335. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview>

336. Ibid.

337. <http://www.oecd.org/publications/states-of-fragility-2015-9789264227699-en.htm>

338. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-commits-12-million-to-champion-freedom-of-religion-or-belief-worldwide>

339. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/universal-periodic-review-27-uk-statement-ecuador>

340. Figure taken from joint NGO communique to the Canadian G7 2018, available upon request. Data pulled from OECD DAC Query Wizard for International Development database using 2016 data, disbursed funding for Common Reporting Standard categories: women's equality organisations and institutions; ending violence against women and girls; civilian peacebuilding, conflict prevention and resolution; and child soldiers (prevention and demobilization). Additional references: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12340.doc.htm>; and <https://www.pathwaysforpeace.org/>

extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and the use of extreme violence by security services.³⁴¹ For example, in Thailand, the war on drugs has resulted in the extrajudicial killings of approximately 2,800 people and arbitrary arrests of thousands since 2003.³⁴²

Marginalised groups often face an expensive, risky and inaccessible process when reporting instances of violence, in which they may not be taken seriously. Access to justice is a special challenge for indigenous people in the Global North and South, though it is indigenous women in particular who are “disproportionately at risk of experiencing all forms of violence” and are at higher risk of being murdered or sexually assaulted.³⁴³

The same is true in many contexts for sexual and gender minorities, as for example trans and gender diverse people can be at heightened risk of physical violence and murder.³⁴⁴ The UK’s work on violence reduction should take particular efforts to target and engage those communities who are most at risk of violence, depending on context.



Target 16.2:

End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.

According to the latest statistics, 357 million children (nearly one in six children in the world) are living in areas affected by armed conflict.³⁴⁵ A systematic review in 2016 found that up to 1 billion children experienced violence or neglect in the previous year.³⁴⁶ Children with disabilities are at disproportionate risk of experiencing violence compared to their peers without disabilities.³⁴⁷

The UK’s commitments to prioritise ending modern slavery and child exploitation around the world in 2016 have been instrumental in the development of the Call to Action on Modern Slavery. The UK is also a Board Member of the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children (GPEVAC), which is a great opportunity to advance the UK’s work on this issue. At the moment, the GPEVAC does not address the particular increased risks that children with disabilities face in experiencing violence. As a Board Member, it is recommended that the UK shows leadership by supporting GPEVAC to become more disability inclusive in their approaches and methods.

DFID has been instrumental on the violence against children agenda, including a new campaign with UNICEF, Safe to Learn, to end violence in schools. It established the Protecting Children Hub to promote the mainstreaming of children’s rights and wellbeing across the Department. More than £55m in funding has been allocated to child-focused work over the next four years, for the GPEVAC, a UNICEF-led Children on the Move programme in the Horn of Africa, and programming to address child labour in Asia and Africa. Through this work, DFID has prioritised protection for the most vulnerable and prevention of forms of violence that continue to undermine children’s rights and wellbeing globally. The UK’s leadership in addressing online violence with the WeProtect Global Alliance is also welcome.³⁴⁸

However, the UK could do more to galvanise implementation of **Target 16.2**. The lack of a cross-government strategy on protecting children overseas prevents mainstreaming the protection of children across policy and practice and thus prevents the government from realising the Target. While there have been significant ODA funding increases in the past two years, DFID cannot currently track the amount of funding for preventing violence against children.

The UK government’s endorsement of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) strengthens its programmatic work in this area. The GCM serves as a recognition of the protection needs of children on the move, including their vulnerability to trafficking and other forms of violence.³⁴⁹ However, coherence between the SDGs and the GCM process should be further promoted.

The UK continues to use administrative detention as a means to manage immigration, with children held indefinitely in institutions ill-equipped to ensure their rights or wellbeing. This is again contrary to the government’s own commitment, made at the 2018 Disability Summit, to promote deinstitutionalisation of children and disinvest from institutions in its overseas aid and GCM.

The government’s emphasis on safeguarding is a welcome development. However, children, some of the most vulnerable, have been omitted from these discussions, most notably at DFID’s Safeguarding Summit. DFID’s focus on sexual exploitation and abuse and harassment must be expanded to include children’s specific needs. DFID could also increase its programmatic impact on violence against girls specifically as it implements its Strategic Vision for Gender Equality.

341. <http://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2011/jan/14/mexico-drug-war-murders-map#data>

342. <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2004/thailand0704/4.htm>

343. <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/JusticeForIndigenousPeoples.aspx>; and <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IPeoples/EMRIP/Pages/Followupstudyonaccesstojustice.aspx>

344. <https://transrespect.org/en/research/trans-murder-monitoring/>

345. <https://www.savethechildren.net/waronchildren/pdf/waronchildren.pdf>

346. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/137/3/e20154079.full.pdf>

347. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22795511>

348. <https://www.weprotect.org/our-mission-and-strategy/>

349. <https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/migration-compact>

Target 16.4:

By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organised crime.

The UK has long been a safe haven for corrupt funds, in many cases stolen from Southern nations around the world. The National Crime Agency estimates that an excess of £90bn in illicit wealth flows through the UK every year.³⁵⁰ Illicit financial flows are a major drain on national resources in the Global South and a barrier to achievement of human rights and delivery of the SDGs. Global Financial Integrity estimated the losses to countries in the Global South at \$1.1tn in 2013.³⁵¹ This has a disproportionate impact on women and marginalised groups and on countries in the Global South that need to deliver essential services and social protection for all citizens living in poverty (see more under **Goal 1** and **Goal 8**).

Investigations into “grand corruption” show that the UK enables illicit financial flows into the country because it has a weak anti-money laundering system, a system that corrupt individuals can easily bypass using “professional enablers” to buy UK property anonymously through foreign companies. Transparency International UK has identified 176 properties worth £4.4bn in the UK that have been bought with suspicious wealth.³⁵²

The UK government has made some welcome moves on asset recovery: most notably introducing new powers to act on corrupt assets in the 2017 Criminal Finances Act, convening the Global Forum on Asset Recovery in December 2017, and setting up the National Economic Crime Centre in 2018.³⁵³ However, there are currently no agreed and public principles on repatriating assets in a transparent, consistent and accountable way. The UK demonstrated global leadership when it created the world’s first public register of company beneficial ownership in 2016. However, the data submitted is currently unverified.

After changes to the law in May 2018, the UK is now legally bound to ensure that the Overseas Territories implement public beneficial ownership registers. More should be done, however, to combat illicit financial flows, including to analyse and address the spillover effects of the UK’s tax policies to ensure they do not do harm, and taking action to address money laundering (see also **Goal 1**).³⁵⁴

350. <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/publications/807-national-strategic-assessment-of-serious-and-organised-crime-2017/file>

351. <https://www.gfintegrity.org/issue/illicit-financial-flows/>

352. <http://www.transparency.org.uk/publications/faulty-towers-understanding-the-impact-of-overseas-corruption-on-the-london-property-market>

353. <https://www.transparency.org.uk/unexplained-wealth-orders-a-brief-guide/>; <https://www.transparency.org.uk/publications/accountable-asset-return-uk-country-level-civil-society-report-by-corruption-watch-and-transparency-international-uk/>; and <http://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/about-us/what-we-do/national-economic-crime-centre/international-anti-corruption-coordination-centre>

354. <https://financialtransparency.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/>

Target 16.7:

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.

A decision by DFID to move towards larger grants has made support to organisations working on **Target 16.7** more prohibitive. Funds are not available for small organisations working to open up decision-making processes in local contexts in the Global South. Such work is usually a longer-term endeavour, so the additional focus on short-term results in DFID has limited opportunities significantly. DFID should also be doing more to support an enabling environment, including respect for freedom of association, to ensure civil society organisations and other representative bodies, such as trade unions, have a voice in decision-making.

The UK has made strides, particularly through the NAP, to increase women’s participation in militaries, politics and peacebuilding.³⁵⁵ However, much more needs to be done to reach the critical mass for impacting change, which is 30% according to the Beijing Platform for Action.³⁵⁶ For example, there are only 180 (6%) trained women in the Afghan National Army Officer Academy out of 3,000.

Commitments enshrined in the UN CRC ensure children should be able to express a view and have it taken into account on all matters which affect them in line with their evolving capacities. This is particularly important for adolescents, who are typically at the frontline of social problems, for example the war on drugs, which often triggers youth violence. Not taking the perspectives of these children into account means that policies formulated to respond to these issues are unlikely to be successful.

DFID has previously shown admirable leadership on youth engagement and participation in some key areas, including eliminating FGM. However, in order to deliver on the SDGs, much more needs to be done in order to ensure that young people can hold their governments to account for their Agenda 2030 commitments. This includes ensuring that VNR processes are open to the participation of young people which will “promote[s] effective decisions, by giving groups affected by those decisions the opportunity to communicate their needs and interests.”³⁵⁷

Globally, young people are leading delivery on the SDGs. Their insight into the resulting successes and challenges are therefore crucial to both the national and global-level understanding of the extent to which the goals are being attained, as well as to informing SDG policy-making. The UK government could model this by delivering on

Kathmandu-Declaration.pdf

355. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-national-action-plan-on-women-peace-and-security-2018-to-2022>

356. <http://www.un.org/documents/ga/conf177/aconf177-20en.htm>

357. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/20872VNR_hanbook_2019_Edition_v4.pdf

their commitments to “put young people at the heart of development” through the full implementation of the DFID Youth Agenda.³⁵⁸

DFID has made commendable steps in supporting people with disabilities to advocate for their rights and promoting participation through the Disability Catalyst Fund. The UK government, including departments outside of DFID, should now ensure that meaningful support to organisations of people with disabilities is provided across their country portfolio and is not limited to a small number of countries.

358. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfids-youth-agenda-putting-young-people-at-the-heart-of-development>

Commitments made to consulting with people with disabilities in the new Disability Strategy are welcome. However, steps should be taken to ensure that country offices are working in partnership with organisations of people with disabilities and with governments to promote inclusive institutions and decision-making. The UK government should ensure that all capacity-building support to government bodies, such as human rights institutions, takes into account the rights and needs of people with disabilities and promotes inclusion.

To achieve Goal 16, the UK government should:

- Reaffirm the UK’s commitment to Goal 16 on the global stage. Play a greater role in championing the Goal internationally through increased diplomatic support and the protection of Goal 16+ commitments at the multilateral level.
- Better ensure that commitments to women’s empowerment (see **Goals 1** and **5**) are more consistently integrated into economic, humanitarian and conflict approaches.
- Through the National Security Council, produce a detailed plan and guidance for how a long-term approach to stability and conflict prevention will be maintained and mainstreamed in practice across departments. Reference the 2030 Agenda and Goal 16 in particular.
- Support the UK’s work on the SDGs by substantially increasing the FCO’s use of the SDGs (and particularly of the “Leave No One Behind” principle) in its multilateral work on human rights.
- Support individuals and organisations that work at national and local levels to act as **Goal 16** champions (in both government and civil society). Support multi-sectoral consultation to identify national priorities and build on or reinforce existing initiatives for peace, justice and inclusion. Promote participation of women, children and young people at all levels in work on peacebuilding and conflict prevention.
- Develop a coordinated cross-governmental strategy for protecting children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture. Mainstream children’s wellbeing and rights across the various policy portfolios. Lead the way on tracking ODA that goes to ending abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against children, including through a policy marker. Strengthen coherence between the implementation of different policy frameworks, including the GCM. Use the levers of humanitarian and developmental assistance, trade measures and diplomatic relations to ensure accountability and eliminate impunity.
- Support inclusive societies by building the capacities of and enabling the removal of barriers for civil society organisations and other representative organisations to engage in decision-making at all levels, including in development processes. Develop a robust implementation plan for DFID’s Youth Agenda that ensures mainstreaming and supports young people to engage with implementation, follow up and review of the SDGs. Engage directly through country offices with civil society organisations representing women and other marginalised groups, including people with disabilities.
- Ensure the UK Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies receive technical assistance to implement public registers of beneficial ownership, in a way that also supports sustainable development in these territories.
- Improve transparency and accountability in the international asset return process by publishing clear data about corrupt assets that have been frozen, seized or confiscated in the UK.



SDG 17: Progress, gaps and recommendations for the UK

Compiled by: Bond and Scotland's International Development Alliance. Section contributions by Jubilee Debt Campaign, Trade Justice Movement and Development Initiatives



The UK has supported the delivery of the SDGs through partnerships and sharing resources, a crucial element of which is ODA. However, lack of coherency with other policies, such as on international trade and investment, risk undermining the impact of these contributions.

Finance

Countries in the Global South face an annual funding gap of \$2.5tn to meet the SDGs.³⁵⁹ To address this, international financing needs to be mutually coherent to avoid different policies and practices undermining each other. For example, according to one analysis, in 2015 African countries lost \$118bn through capital flight, profit repatriation by multinational corporations, debt interest, and principal payments undermining the potential impact of aid, loan and investments.³⁶⁰

The UK should be lauded for meeting its commitment to spend 0.7% of GNI on ODA since 2013 (Goal 17.2). However, there remain concerns about trends that suggest the overall use of such financing has moved away from its primary objective of poverty reduction, and is not fully transparent or accountable when spent in other departments beyond DFID. These concerns and financing for development in general is discussed in more detail under Goal 1 (no poverty).

The UK was recently ranked tenth of 27 donors for its other finance and investment policies (Goal 17.3 and Goal 17.5), receiving a low score on financial secrecy due to policies in the Overseas Territories and Crown Dependencies (see Goal 16).³⁶¹ In addition, UK Foreign Direct Investment in LDCs fell by 29.5% from 2014-15.³⁶² Recent pledges to generate £8bn more government and private sector investment in Africa

show willingness to narrow this gap, but this should not unduly promote the interests of UK actors above sustainable development.³⁶³

In order to maximise domestic resource mobilisation in the Global South, the UK has committed to doing more on supporting tax systems, through initiatives such as the ATI (Goal 17.1). However, more could be done to address tax dodging, and to proactively support international systems to reduce tax competition and profit shifting (discussed further under Goal 1 and Goal 10).³⁶⁴

Target 17.4:

Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress.

Global indicators on debt are worsening and urgent action is needed to make lending and borrowing more transparent and responsible. Of the 68 countries assessed by the IMF, 32 were in debt distress or at high risk in December 2018, up from 15 in 2013.³⁶⁵ Government external debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services for low- and lower to middle-income countries has increased from 3.4% in 2012 to 6.5% in 2016, putting delivery of public services and achievement of the SDGs at risk.³⁶⁶ The IMF has

359. https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/wir2014_en.pdf

360. https://www.globaljustice.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/resources/honest_accounts_2017_web_final_updated.pdf

361. <https://www.cgdev.org/commitment-development-index-2018>

362. <http://developmentmonitor.org.uk/2018/06/12/uk-investment-in-the-worlds-poorest-countries-has-fallen-30/>

363. <https://www.thirdsector.co.uk/changes-development-aid-spending-must-not-cost-poorest-says-bond/policy-and-politics/article/1491286>

364. <https://www.addistaxinitiative.net/>

365. <https://jubileedebt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Debt-policy-update-January-2019.pdf>

366. Calculated by Jubilee Debt Campaign from World Bank, from the World Development Indicators database.

responded to new debt crises by lending more money, which incentivises previous lenders to keep acting recklessly.

Around 45% of international government debt contracts are owed under English law, as well as 90% of publicly available African government debt contracts, and UK companies continue to contribute to hidden debts through secret loans in countries such as Mozambique, Republic of the Congo and Chad.³⁶⁷ The UK government has a role in ensuring that loans given under UK law, or by British-based banks, are transparent and that vulture funds cannot seek profits out of debt crises through UK courts.

To achieve Goal 17 Targets on finance, the UK government should:

- Ensure all UK policies and practices in investment, tax and debt sustainability are coherent and contribute to sustainable development. Review the impact of tax dodging by UK-registered entities. Improve Global South capacity for tax and other revenue collection. Support reform of the international system to reduce tax competition and tax avoidance (see **Goal 1**, **Goal 10** and **Goal 16** for more on domestic and international tax).
- Work with the G20 to obtain a strong commitment to publicly disclose details of loans to governments. Enact legislation to require loans to governments given under UK law to be publicly disclosed.
- Work with the IMF to set clearer guidelines on when it will require debt restructurings as part of any bailout loans it gives, to avoid bailing out reckless lenders.

Capacity-building

 **Target 17.9:**

Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the SDGs, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Many UK government, INGO, trade union, private sector and other programmes contribute to sharing skills, information and resources with Southern countries, institutions and communities. The commitment in DFID’s Civil Society Partnership Review to contribute to building a diverse,

367. <https://jubileedebt.org.uk/blog/hidden-debts-contribute-crisis-congo>; <https://jubileedebt.org.uk/blog/chad-at-high-risk-of-another-debt-default-after-restructuring>

resilient and effective civil society and advise the UK to expand its support for capacity-building across its portfolio in line with the strategies of local organisations is welcomed.³⁶⁸ This should focus on both service delivery and participation and actively involve key left behind groups (see chapter on “Leave No One Behind”).

To achieve the Goal 17 Target on capacity-building, the UK government should:

- Deliver commitments made in DFID’s Disability Strategy and Civil Society Partnership Review on building the capacity of civil society. Emphasise the inclusion and participation of key left behind groups (see chapter on “Leave No One Behind”).

Trade

 **Target 17.10 and 17.12:**

Target 17.10: Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda; and Target 17.12: Realise timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all LDCs, consistent with WTO decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from LDCs are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access.

Trade and investment rules have immense potential to support the achievement of the SDGs, particularly in the Global South. However, as currently configured they often contribute to worsening outcomes in areas such as inequality, environmental protection and climate change, access to public services, decent work and industrial development. Since trade and investment rules are negotiated behind closed doors, they can be developed without reference to the SDGs, human rights and other international commitments. They can limit countries’ policy space by acting as a disincentive to regional integration or prevent countries from choosing the most appropriate policy mix to achieve their development goals. This effect is most apparent where an Investor to State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanism is included in a deal, because it can deter countries from taking policy decisions, for fear of being taken to arbitration, and impact revenues where large awards are made against countries (see more on trade in chapters on **Goal 8** and **Goal 10**).³⁶⁹

368. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/565368/Civil-Society-Partnership-Review-3Nov2016.pdf

369. <https://www.iisd.org/library/bilateral-investment-treaties-and->

Aspects of the emerging post-Brexit UK trade and development policy are to be welcomed, in particular the commitment to offer LDCs continuity in preferential market access as the UK leaves the EU and to participate in international work to address the gendered impacts of trade. However, the level of ambition remains low and there is a lack of detailed policy proposals. It is not clear that UK trade and investment policy will be coherent with its commitments under the SDGs. The UK's work at the WTO has tended not to advance the principles or commitments of the Doha Development Round.³⁷⁰

According to an International Trade Committee report in November 2018, the UK will be looking to roll over existing Economic Partnership Arrangements with “developing” countries.³⁷¹ We believe the UK should rethink Economic Partnership Arrangements and develop a new approach that supports inclusive and sustainable economic growth and prospects for productive employment, and addresses gendered disparities (see **Goal 8**). Finally, it is of vital importance that relevant work by different UK government departments on trade is centrally coordinated and coherent with the goals of sustainable development.

To achieve Goal 17 Targets on trade, the UK government should:

- Develop proper mechanisms for transparency in and scrutiny of trade negotiations and agreements. Ensure UK trade policy is coherent with its commitments under the SDGs, human rights, tackling climate change and ensuring there are no other negative impacts on the Global South.
- Exclude ISDS mechanisms from all future trade and investment agreements.
- Design a preferential market access scheme offering duty-free, quota-free market access to import from economically vulnerable countries, including but not limited to LDCs. Make regional trade cooperation and integration the central aim of such a scheme.
- Use its position as an independent member to push for a fundamental rethink of the purpose and powers of the WTO.

development-policy-making; <https://books.thecommonwealth.org/integrating-sustainable-development-international-investment-agreements-hardback>
 370. https://www.wto.org/english/tratop_e/dda_e/dda_e.htm
 371. <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201719/cmselect/cmintrade/667/667.pdf>

Systemic issues:
i) Policy and institutional coherence



Target 17.14:

Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.

The UK government has for many years officially recognised the importance of policy coherence across government in achieving development outcomes, but specific actions to achieve it for sustainable development remain unclear. In 2017, most of the 65 VNRs presented at the HLPF admitted that enhancing policy coherence is one of the most difficult challenges to implementing the SDGs.³⁷² In practice, it involves adjusting structures and decision-making processes to integrate SDGs into the mandate of existing institutions, necessitating an administrative culture that promotes cross-sector collaboration and global action.

Throughout this report, specific policy incoherencies have been highlighted, such as the UK government's continued subsidisation of fossil fuels to the tune of billions of pounds while acknowledging the necessity for the Global South to move to greener models of energy production (see **Goal 7** and **Goal 13**).

In order to minimise incoherencies such as this, policy coordination and integration across different departments in relation to the SDGs is indispensable. The fact that overall policy oversight for the SDGs remains a DFID responsibility makes this hard to achieve. Lessons can be learnt from devolved government approaches, such as in Scotland, where the National Performance Framework has been aligned to the SDGs.³⁷³ By doing this, all areas of government must report on outcomes linked to the SDGs, making policy incoherencies much easier to identify.

The OECD's Framework for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) identifies eight key building blocks on which countries need to take action, if they want to ensure coherent policies for the SDGs.³⁷⁴ The UK government scores low in all eight elements using the suggested OECD indicators.³⁷⁵ Political commitment – arguably the catalyst for progress on meaningful PCSD – remains particularly low. Different ministries lack an agreed definition of PCSD in relation to the SDGs and there is no central oversight body that is mandated to promote this throughout the rest of government. Without strong and maintained leadership from the top, the government is unlikely to achieve the cross-

372. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17109Synthesis_Report_VNRs_2017.pdf

373. <https://nationalperformance.gov.scot/>

374. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development-2018/eight-building-blocks-for-coherent-implementation-of-the-sdgs_9789264301061-5-en#page3

375. https://read.oecd-ilibrary.org/development/policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development-2018/tracking-progress-in-policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development_9789264301061-7-en#page4

government working and policy coherence that the Goals are designed to produce.

The OECD defines PCSD as an approach and policy tool to integrate the economic, social, environmental and governance dimensions of sustainable development at all stages of domestic and international policy making. Using this definition, it is therefore also necessary for the government to consider the links between all policy areas, not only of those which perform well for sustainable development outcomes. In other words, the UK government must not only look at synergies (the interaction of two or more forces so that their combined effect is greater than the sum of their individual effects), but also trade-offs (for example, short-term economic gain pit against long-term environmental loss) and spillovers (secondary effects that follow from a primary effect) across all areas of government. A screening tool for assessing these issues in all new and existing policies across government is therefore necessary.

To achieve Goal 17 Targets on policy coherence, the UK government should:

- Develop a suite of screening tools and mechanisms to be used by all government departments, especially when developing Single Department Plans, which consider trade-offs and synergies between the policies in question and other sustainable development outcomes. In particular, these should look at transboundary and transgenerational effects.
- Develop a systematic information exchange mechanism that improves both vertical and horizontal policy coordination across and within different levels of government, including the devolved nations.
- Develop a monitoring and reporting system that allows the government to regularly report on Target 17.14. Include indicators for assessing the institutional mechanisms for coherence and screening of domestic and international policies that could adversely affect sustainable development in other countries.

**Systemic issues:
ii) Multi-stakeholder partnerships**



Target 17.17:

Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

Cross-sector partnerships are a central pillar of the SDGs and vital to their successful delivery. The UK government should focus greater attention on expanding its engagement with civil society in the UK and around the world, especially through Embassies and DFID Country Offices.

DFID’s 2016 Civil Society Partnership Review made a range of important commitments, including to build capacity for engaging with decision makers, engaging on policy in the UK and through DFID country offices and enhancing “beneficiary feedback.”³⁷⁶ However, some promises, for example on localisation of development, have fallen down the agenda compared with priorities around UK Aid in the National Interest. SDG delivery hinges on creating deeper relationships with civil society in the Global South, especially those representing women and left behind and marginalised communities.

The UK is home to some of the most experienced and innovative international development, humanitarian and peacebuilding organisations contributing to SDG delivery, with strengths that should be invested in and promoted. Development platforms, including Bond, Scotland’s International Development Alliance, Hub Cymru Africa and the Coalition of Aid and Development Agencies within Northern Ireland also play a vital role in coordinating and building the capacity of the sector. While many of the goals in the UK Civil Society Strategy are laudable, the government must revise the Lobbying Act 2014 to ensure proper accountability for its international work.³⁷⁷ The Act’s rules do not currently get the balance right between preventing undue influence at elections and supporting normal and legitimate campaigning.

Private sector partnerships and leveraging private finance to accelerate development progress have received increasing focus since the SDGs came into force.³⁷⁸ Though in principle the private sector plays a vital role in helping achieve the SDGs, there is currently limited evidence of the effectiveness of the UK’s current approach, especially in promoting sustainable and equitable economic growth, the delivery of social services and work in lower income, fragile and conflict affected states (see, for example, **Goal 3** and **Goal 8**). Despite

376. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dfid-civil-society-partnership-review>

377. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/civil-society-strategy-building-a-future-that-works-for-everyone>

378. https://www.bond.org.uk/sites/default/files/resource-documents/ukan_state_of_uk_aid_report_2017.pdf

this, the UK government has put lots of political capital into approaches such as “blended financing” or using public funds to mobilise investment by the UK private and financial sector.³⁷⁹ Both the ICAI and the IDC have recently raised concerns about DFID’s work with business and its principal private sector investment instrument, the CDC Group.³⁸⁰ While multi-stakeholder programming that engages with and leverages the private sector can be highly effective in dealing with complex development problems, this requires trust based partnerships, transparent and accountable institutional frameworks, an adaptive learning approach and for local civil society organisations to have an equal place at the table.

To achieve Goal 17 Targets on multi-stakeholder partnerships, the UK government should:

- Proactively support international civil society around the world and in the UK. Collaborate on SDG implementation and advocacy. Reform the Lobbying Act so it enables greater civil society scrutiny and input into the UK’s international work.
- Review the UK’s approach to private sector partnerships to ensure and protect development effectiveness, value for money and the “Leave No One Behind” principle. Pursue other approaches where these are likely to be more effective, such as mobilising domestic resources to finance pro-poor and gender sensitive public services.

Systemic issues: iii) Data, monitoring and accountability



Target 17.8:

By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for LDCs and SIDS, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

Tracking progress on the SDGs and “Leave No One Behind” at the national and global level will require significant investment in the collection and use of high-quality, timely, disaggregated data. However, only 56 of the 102 countries

379. <https://www.bond.org.uk/news/2018/10/mordaunts-vision-for-aid-more-spending-on-private-investment>
 380. <https://icai.independent.gov.uk/report/business-in-development/>; <https://www.bond.org.uk/news/2018/07/dfids-economic-strategy-must-promote-growth-not-increase-inequality>; <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201617/cmselect/cmintdev/920/920.pdf>

with statistical plans have secured adequate financing to implement them.³⁸¹ Over the last three years, the UK has championed this agenda in its own work and internationally. In 2018, it was the second largest bilateral funder to statistics, including work to improve and modernise institutional and technical capacity at the national level.³⁸² For example, the UK Office for National Statistics directly supports adviser posts in Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya and Ethiopia. The UK government is well placed to maximise this effort by leveraging additional contributions from others.

The UK has also played a role in advancing disaggregated development data, especially for people with disabilities, and the use of comparable and tested tools, such as the Washington Group Question Sets.³⁸³ In 2017, it launched its own Data Disaggregation Action Plan and supported the Inclusive Data Charter.³⁸⁴ The UK’s efforts to advance “Leave No One Behind” through data and evidence are discussed in more detail in the chapter on “Leave No One Behind”. Given that 17.18 is to be achieved by 2020, a stronger international commitment towards data disaggregation is essential in 2019.

To achieve Goal 17 Targets on data, monitoring and accountability, the UK government should:

- Continue and expand its financial and technical support for data, evidence and statistics. Support participation of marginalised groups and civil society in oversight of SDG delivery.
- Continue to play a consistent and systematic role in advocating for inclusive data and data disaggregation, in line with its Data Disaggregation Action Plan and the Inclusive Data Charter and in line with its broader commitments on “Leave No One Behind.” For example, use the UK’s influence to advocate for further disaggregation by ethnicity, language and religion.

381. <http://devinit.org/post/development-cooperation-improved-data>
 382. <http://www.paris21.org/press2018>
 383. <http://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/washington-group-question-sets/short-set-of-disability-questions/>
 384. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/582315/Data-disaggregation-action-plan-Jan-2017.pdf; http://www.data4sdgs.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/IDC_onepager_Final.pdf

Annex: How the UK is performing on the SDGs domestically

Source: Measuring Up (UKSSD 2018)³⁸⁵



Key to RAG ratings

- Green** ● The UK is performing well and has appropriate policy in place to address the target

- Amber** ● There are some gaps in policy coverage, the UK is not performing well enough or performance is deteriorating

- Red** ● There is little or no policy in place that adequately addresses the target, performance is poor

385. <https://www.ukssd.co.uk/measuringup>



Grey ● The target is not considered relevant to the UK context or scope of this project

Grey outline ○ There is a data gap



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