

Summary of DFID's work in Burma 2011-2015

May 2011

Why we work in Burma

Burma is rich in natural resources, yet it is one of the poorest countries in Asia. Although reliable data about poverty in Burma is difficult to obtain, there is evidence of widespread poverty and vulnerability. A third of the population do not have enough money to meet their basic food and living needs. The country is off track to reach many of the Millennium Development Goals. Its record on health is among the worst in Asia, and suffers amongst the highest rates of malaria, malnutrition (especially amongst children) and tuberculosis in the world. In the border areas of eastern Burma, more than six decades of political unrest and armed conflict has displaced an estimated 500,000 people, severely disrupting their livelihoods. About 140,000 Burmese refugees live in camps in Thailand.



A Rural family in Kachin Village, Burma



School Children in Primary School, Delta,
Burma

What we will achieve

- Ensure 57,500 more women have at least four antenatal checks during their pregnancy as a result of DFID funding, and help avert 153,000 unintended pregnancies.
- We will also ensure 500,000 women and men receive appropriate treatment to contain the spread of drug-resistant malaria, through DFID funding by 2014.
- Help over 200,000 children to complete primary school by 2015, with a focus on community and monastic schools which provide education to some of the poorest and most vulnerable children in Burma.
- Give 110,000 more women access to financial

services to help them buy food, send their children to school and meet their medical needs. Currently, four out of ten rural people rely on money lenders who charge interest rates as high as 200%. We will also enable 92,000 people to increase the amount of food they are able to produce to eat or sell.

- Provide humanitarian assistance to people affected by conflict in eastern Burma, and to Burmese refugees in Thailand.
- Help local community groups to work together to give people more of a say in decisions that affect their lives.

Who we will work with

Partnerships are vital to DFID's effectiveness in Burma. Our aid is delivered through a mixture of large-scale multi donor trust funds, UN agencies, and reputable international and local NGOs. We do not provide aid through the Burmese central government.

We have demonstrated that aid can deliver results for the poor people who most need it through these channels. For example, we are helping to contain the epidemics of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria through one of our health programmes with other donors. Since 2006, 30 million condoms have been distributed to prevent HIV infection; 880,000 people treated for malaria and life saving drugs have been provided each year to over 129,000 people with tuberculosis and 9,000 people living with HIV.



Care centre for HIV and AIDS affected families

The UK will remain one of the largest donors to Burma; committing £185 million to support the people of the country over the next four years. We will continue to encourage other donors to expand their programmes in Burma, or to start new ones.

How we will work

We have a duty, especially in the current financial climate, to deliver and demonstrate value for money for every pound of taxpayers' money spent providing much needed help to the people of Burma. We will continue to work with partners that have in place stringent monitoring mechanisms to ensure our aid reaches Burma's poor. Within the donor community we have led the way in demanding greater clarity of measurement of the outcomes of aid programmes for the Burmese people. We will make our aid transparent to citizens both in the UK and in Burma: showing how we are improving the lives of some of the poorest people in Asia.

We will:

- Publish the DFID Burma Operational Plan in English, and translating sections 1-4 into Burmese.
- Encourage our partners to meet, standards set out in the International Aid Transparency Initiative.
- Increase support to local Burmese organisations to promote greater accountability.

We will publish details of the work we support, but will not publish full details where it could endanger the safety and security of our implementing agencies or their beneficiaries.

More information

For more information on the full Operations Plan please visit www.dfid.gov.uk/Burma

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