

Summary of DFID's work in Uganda 2011-2015

May 2011

Why we work in Uganda

Uganda has transformed from a failed state to a fast growing economy in the past 20 years. Since 2005, economic growth in Uganda has averaged 7.2% annually and inward investment has doubled. Less than a quarter of the population now live below the national poverty line, down from a third in 2006. Uganda is on track to meet the Millennium Development Goals on hunger, gender equality, HIV/AIDS treatment and access to safe water. With the recent discovery of oil, Uganda's prospects for becoming a middle income country are promising.

Growth, however, has not benefitted everyone. Over seven and a half million people still live in absolute poverty. In the north, where until very recently there was prolonged conflict, poverty levels are twice that of the rest of the country. Only one in three girls completes four years of secondary education. Everyday, 16 women die due to pregnancy and childbirth and over 90,000 children die each year before reaching their first birthday. Wasteful use of public resources and corruption remain a major concern.



A class session in Masindi district, Northwest Uganda. In 2009/10 through budget support, UK aid helped recruit an additional 943 teachers, procure over one million text books and train 680 head teachers in Uganda.



A baby being given anti-retroviral therapy at birth to avoid mother to child infection. 610,000 women in Uganda are estimated to be living with HIV/AIDS and 150,000 children are infected. In 2009/10, UK aid and partners' support included distribution of 7 million condoms, HIV testing and counselling for 182,000 people and 81,499 orphans, children and vulnerable groups received education and healthcare.

Improving the quality of essential services, supporting recovery in northern Uganda, improving maternal and reproductive health, driving growth through job creation, financial services and trade, and improving government accountability and transparency are key priorities for DFID in the next four years. This will help Uganda achieve its National Development Plan objectives and graduate from aid in the medium term.

What we will achieve

The UK's programme in Uganda will help the country move towards being a more prosperous, stable democracy, able to manage revenues from oil production for the benefit of all Ugandans, including giving the most vulnerable people greater opportunities. By 2014:

- 143,000 more women will give birth under the care of a skilled birth attendant;
- 1.35 million more women will have access to contraception;
- Over 100,000 school drop-outs back in school, including 66,000 girls;
- 600,000 of the poorest people will be given the means to lift themselves out of chronic poverty;
- Over 400,000 people in north eastern Uganda will move away from reliance on emergency food aid;
- Four million men and women will have safer, better and cheaper ways of saving and borrowing money.

Who we will work with

Tackling poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals for all Ugandans will require strong leadership from the Government of Uganda and its partners.

We will continue to fund activities through the Government of Uganda's budget but, over the next four years as Uganda's domestic revenues rise, we will reduce the level of UK funds provided this way. Instead, we will work more closely with a range of partners, including civil society organisations, to increase accountability to Ugandan citizens for the delivery and quality of public services.

We will work with the private sector, to help generate economic growth through financial services and regional trade, and to improve access to private health services on which over half of Ugandans already rely. We will work through multilateral agencies such as UN and the World Bank which have a proven track record for delivering results. We will continue to collaborate closely with other like-minded bilateral donors and coordinate joint programmes with other international agencies like USAID and the Delegation of the European Union.

How we will work

More than ever, we have a duty to show that we are achieving value for money from our investments. In Uganda, we will put in place a comprehensive value for money strategy and action plan, which will help to guard against corruption, as well as ensure that we have the correct procedures in place to manage procurement and contracts to optimise the value of every pound spent in Uganda. We will drive continuous improvement in financial management within our programmes.

To deliver on our commitments on transparency we will:

- Publish clear, concise information about our programmes on the DFID website;
- Support civil society and non-government organisations to be more transparent;
- Encourage greater accountability from Government;
- Continue collaboration with other development partners on local donor transparency and accountability initiatives.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of Uganda's Operational Plan, please visit: www.dfid.gov.uk/Uganda

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A Ugandan woman now able to access antenatal care with support from UK aid and other donors. In 2009/10, only 504,000 out of 1.5 million births were attended by skilled delivery care in Uganda.