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CONSULTATIONS

Basic information: DFID's Research objectives and portfolio

Related pages: [Research consultation questionnaire](#) | [Meetings in the UK with stakeholders](#) | [Visioning and Strategy Workshop](#) | [Objectives and portfolio](#) | [In-country consultations](#) | [Annex](#)  (251 kb)

1. DFID's research goal, set out in the Research Funding Framework 2005-7, is to contribute to poverty reduction in partner countries by promoting the production and adoption of technologies and policies that will help reduce poverty and achieve the MDGs. The International Development Secretary's priorities for research are: climate change, killer diseases, sustainable agriculture, water & sanitation and more effective states for the poor. Two-thirds of DFID's central research funds are devoted to these themes. DFID conducts no long-term research in-house. The role of Central Research Department is to identify and manage research that it believes will provide the best rates of return for poverty reduction.

2. DFID's objectives are for research to be problem led and responsive to users; to increase developing country capacity to do research and to get research into use.¹ Other objectives relate to positioning: DFID wants to use its funds to leverage additional international funding for international development research and get wider collaboration with UK science. (A UK Collaborative for Development Sciences was recently established for this latter purpose.)²

3. DFID's budget for centrally funded research is £116 million in 2006/7, rising to £220 million by 2010. Traditionally, sustainable agriculture and health have accounted for around 70% of investment, but the programme on climate change and environmental issues is growing rapidly.

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4. DFID funds the following types of research: [3](#)

- Basic, strategic and translational, including clinical trials
- Applied, adaptive and implementation research
- Developmental - research into use and communication with end users
- Capacity building to do and use research
- Research dissemination and synthesis

5. Funds are channelled through a number of modalities, the distribution between each being roughly as follows:

- (i) Multilateral Core-funded 44%
- (ii) Bilateral/directly managed
 - UK Research Councils (mainly responsive mode) 20%
 - Research Programme Consortia (28 in total) 15%
 - Other directly managed projects 13%
- (iii) Joint/ collaborative (e.g. with IDRC) 8%

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6. Research is funded in the following areas:

Development socio-economics and governance: around £6.7 million in 2006/07

| Bilateral | Collaborative/joint | Multilateral |
|---------------|---------------------|--|
| Future states | | UN Research Institute for Social Development |
| Crisis states | | |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Chronic poverty | | |
| Citizenship and participation | | |
| Migration and globalisation | | |
| Inequality, human security and ethnicity | | |
| Children and poverty | | |
| Women's empowerment | | |
| Faiths in development | | |
| Disability | | |
| Power, politics and the state (planning/tendering stage) | | |
| Urbanisation (pending) | | |
| Aid effectiveness (pending) | | |

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Environmental change: around £5.5 million in 2006/07 (rising to £9.3 million in 2007/08)

| Bilateral | Collaborative/joint | Multilateral |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Water and sanitation | Climate change adaptation in Africa | |
| Energy for the poor (planning/tendering) | Eco-system services (pending) | |

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Agriculture and natural resources: around £34 million in 2006/07

| Bilateral | Collaborative/joint | Multilateral |
|---|---|---|
| Research into use programme | Responsive programme with Biological and Biosciences Research Council | Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research |
| African regional research programmes and one planned for S Asia | | Core and project support to other international centres |

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Transport: around £4 million in 2006/07

| Bilateral | Collaborative/joint | Multilateral |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Transport Knowledge Programme | Community transport in SE Asia (WB) | Transport and Rural Infrastructure Services Learning and Sharing Partnership (WB trust fund) |

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Growth and economics: around £1.5 million in 2006/07

| Bilateral | Collaborative/joint | Multilateral |
|---|---------------------|--|
| Institutions for Pro-Poor Growth Research programme consortia | | World Bank Trust Fund – Knowledge for Change |
| | | Training grants through World Institute for Development Economics research |

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Health and HIV and AIDS: around £46 in 2006/07

| Bilateral | Collaborative/joint | Multilateral |
|----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Health systems | Maternal mortality assessment | WHO Tropical Diseases and Human Reproduction research |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| Sexual and reproductive health and rights | Partnership with Medical Research Council, including major clinical trials (microbicide and HIV treatment) | Product development – AIDS vaccine and microbicides |
| Mother and infant care | Tobacco control | Product development – new drugs for malaria, TB, neglected diseases |
| Mental health | | International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research Bangladesh |
| HIV treatment and care | | |
| Economics of HIV and AIDS | | |
| Communicable diseases and poverty | | |
| Effective Healthcare alliance | | |
| Applied health research | | |
| Clinical trial and capacity building (vit A) | | |

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Education: around £1.6m million in 2006/07

| Bilateral | Collaborative/joint | Multilateral |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Education quality | | |
| Education access | | |
| Education outcomes | | |

Science and Technology: around £0.2m in 2006/07

| Bilateral | Collaborative/joint | Multilateral |
|-----------|---------------------|---|
| | | NEPAD – assistance to Strategy for Science and Technology |

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Research communication and dissemination: around £6.7m in 2006/07

| Bilateral | Collaborative/joint | Multilateral |
|---|---|--|
| Media capacity to use research | Information Communications Technology in development | Platforms providing free on-line access to research and high quality scientific journals |
| Range of web based, electronic and print information services for development decision makers | Support to science and technology journalists' associations | Networks linking Southern researcher institutes and building their capacity for research dissemination |
| Science news digests | | International information standards for research |
| Multi-media support to broadcast/disseminate outputs of DFID research | | Information exchange about agricultural technology |
| Portal for DFID centrally funded research | | Integrity in public sector information and records systems |
| | | District-level public health information system for Africa |

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Footnotes

1. DFID's approach is to generate and make available new knowledge as a pro poor public good,

rather than as a consumable for its own operations, although DFID staff are, of course one audience for DFID funded research.

2. The UK Collaborative for Development Sciences (UK-CDS) brings together key funders of development science. The founder members of the Collaborative will be the Office of Science and Innovation, DFID, the Research Councils and the Wellcome Trust, who will be supported in an advisory capacity by the Gates Foundation. It will help improve co-ordination of UK medical, agricultural, environmental and other areas of research that will help combat disease and eradicate poverty in the developing world.

3. DFID's policy groups commission shorter term research and analysis to inform policy. Research, analysis and statistical surveys related directly to achieving and monitoring DFID'S country programme objectives are also commissioned.

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