



National Audit Office

DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW 2019

A large graphic on the right side of the page. It features a vertical stack of three rectangular panels. The top and bottom panels are dark blue and contain several 3D-rendered blue spheres of varying sizes. The middle panel is white and contains the text 'DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT'. The background of the entire page is a light grey with various data-related icons like pie charts, bar charts, and line graphs, along with small white 'x' marks and circles scattered throughout.

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NOVEMBER 2019

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

This overview summarises the work of the Department for International Development including what it does, how much it spends, recent and planned changes, and what to look out for across its main business areas and services.

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- What to look out for

The National Audit Office (NAO) helps Parliament hold government to account for the way it spends public money. It is independent of government and the civil service. The Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG), Gareth Davies, is an Officer of the House of Commons and leads the NAO. The C&AG certifies the accounts of all government departments and many other public sector bodies. He has statutory authority to examine and report to Parliament on whether government is delivering value for money on behalf of the public, concluding on whether resources have been used efficiently, effectively and with economy. The NAO identifies ways that government can make better use of public money to improve people's lives. It measures this impact annually. In 2018 the NAO's work led to a positive financial impact through reduced costs, improved service delivery, or other benefits to citizens, of £539 million.

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—About the Department

The Department for International Development (the Department) leads the UK government's effort to end extreme poverty, deliver the UN's Sustainable Development Goals overseas and tackle global challenges in line with the government's UK Aid Strategy.

The UK Aid Strategy (November 2015) has four objectives

- 1 Strengthen global peace, security and governance:
- 2 Strengthen resilience and response to crisis.
- 3 Promote global prosperity.
- 4 Tackle extreme poverty and help the world's most vulnerable.

The Department is **committed to spending 50% of its budget in fragile states and regions.**

The Department's [Single Departmental Plan](#) sets out its objectives and how it will achieve them. These objectives are aligned with those established by the UK Aid Strategy (see above). It also includes an objective to improve the value for money and efficiency of UK aid.

The UK has committed to spending **0.7%** of gross national income on Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Examples of the areas the Department focused on during 2018-19, in addition to its ongoing programming activity

Women and girls

- Reported to Parliament on the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security
- Launched the Girls' Education Campaign with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office and Department for Education

Humanitarian emergencies

- Providing relief to Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe following Cyclone Idai
- Responding to the outbreak of Ebola and to the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh

Disability inclusion

- Published a [Disability Inclusion Strategy](#)
- Increased funding to the Disability Catalyst Programme

Safeguarding

- Hosted an **international summit** on tackling sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment across the aid sector
- Agreed a set of **commitments** with 21 other donors, covering 90% of global ODA

Modern Slavery

- Promoted endorsement of the Prime Minister's Call to Action to end forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking
- Sought to influence others to end modern slavery through the Commonwealth, G7 and G20

Family planning

- Supported 23.5 million women and girls to use modern contraception methods
- Supported the Global Financing Facility – which aims to increase the scale and efficiency of funding to women, children and adolescent health

Supporting a rules-based response to global challenges

- Leading the UK's engagement in the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact for Refugees
- Addressing impacts of migration flows through the Safety Support and Solutions programme.

Transparency

- Scored as 'very good' in the Aid Transparency Index (ATI) in 2018
- Providing other government departments with guidance, technical advice and training so they can meet the UK Aid Strategy target to be ranked as 'good' or 'very good' in the ATI by 2020

Source: Department for International Development, *Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19*

How the Department is structured

People¹


Staff summary

The Department¹ employed more than **3,600** people at the end of March 2019.

Staff breakdown – UK civil servants and staff appointed in-country

Staff appointed in-country

24%



UK civil servants

76%

Who the Department works with

- Other government departments** – including delivering cross-government programmes such as the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund.
- Bilaterally with partner countries** – working directly in countries and regions to distribute aid focused on development and humanitarian projects.
- With multilateral organisations** – such as the World Bank.
- With civil society** – including through the International Citizen Service.
- With the private sector** – through contracting with private sector organisations to deliver or advise on programmes and to promote investments through CDC Group, the UK’s development finance body.

Organisational Structure

Changes to the departmental group

The Department’s reporting group changed in both 2018-19 and 2019-20.

- On 30 April 2018 the Department assumed accountability for the **Government Equalities Office (GEO)** and the **Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)**, the GEO’s non-departmental public body.
- Under a **machinery of government change**, the GEO, including EHRC, moved from the Department to the Cabinet Office from April 2019. Its Permanent Secretary assumed accountability for its operations.
- For 2019-20, the Department’s **reporting group** comprises the **Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI)** and the **Commonwealth Scholarships Commission (CSC)**.

Departmental group

Included in 2018-19 only

Equality and Human Rights Commission are the UK’s national equality body, established by the Equality Act 2006.

Department for International Development

Commonwealth Scholarships Commission manages the UK contribution to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Programme.

Independent Commission for Aid Impact is an advisory non-departmental public body providing independent scrutiny of UK government aid.

1. The Equality and Human Rights Commission formed part of the Department for International Development’s departmental group between 10 April 2018 and 31 March 2019 only.
2. The Department is also the sole shareholder in the UK’s Development Finance Institution, CDC Group plc, which provides capital investment to businesses in developing countries.

Divisional Structure

Country programmes:

Includes teams implementing its programmes in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean and Overseas Territories.

Economic development and international:

Responsible for CDC, the Department’s relationships with overseas governments and its economic development work.

Policy, research and humanitarian:

Responsible for policy development, as well as stabilisation, humanitarian, security and migration issues.

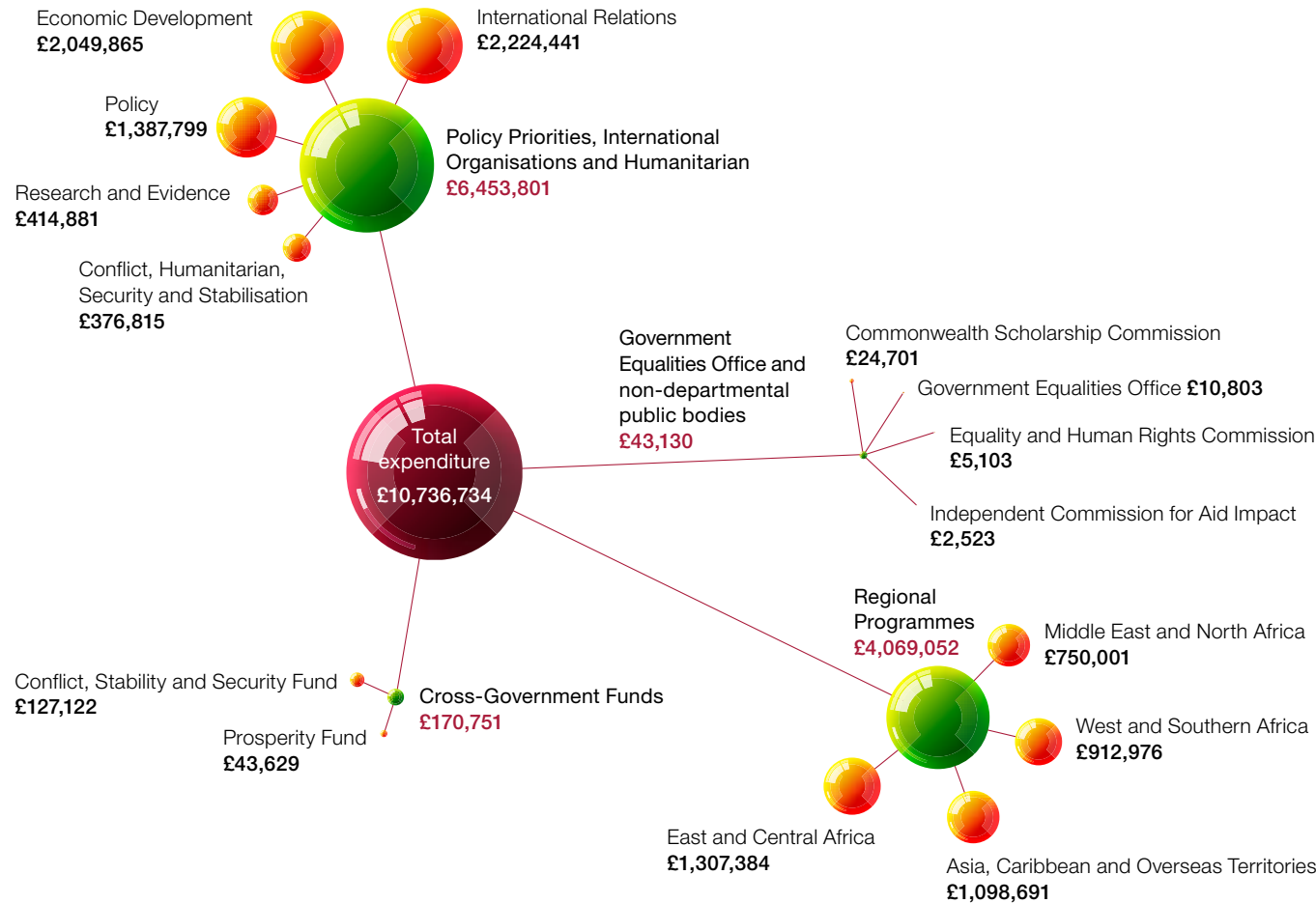
Corporate performance group:

Includes HR, finance, communication, procurement and strategy development functions.

Note
¹ The people section outlines staff details for the core Department only. It does not include staff in the GEO, CDC, ICAI, EHRC or CSC.

Where the Department spends its money

In 2018-19 the Department spent £10.9 billion across all of its activities, £10.7 billion (98.3%) of which was spent on development and humanitarian programmes



In 2018-19 the Department **spent £10,882 million** against a **budget of £11,115 million** – an underspend of **£233 million**. The majority – **£10,702 million (98.3%)** – was spent on development and humanitarian programmes. This can be grouped into four categories:

- **Policy priorities:** the Department spent £6,454 million (60.1% of its expenditure) on policy priorities, including economic development, education, climate change and the environment, multilaterals and humanitarian interventions.
- **Regional programmes:** the Department spent £4,069 million (37.9%) on its regional and country programmes. The largest focus of spending was in East and Central Africa, where £1,307 million was spent.
- **Funds:** the Department spent £171 million (1.6%) on work in support of cross-government funds. The focus of these was economic development and peacekeeping.
- **Government Equalities Office (GEO) and non-departmental public bodies:** The Department spent £43 million (0.4%) on its three non-departmental public bodies and GEO.

The breakdown of the Department’s programme expenditure was as follows:

- 59% was spent on **bilateral programmes** (see page 6)
- 41% was spent on **multilateral programmes** (see page 7)

Notes

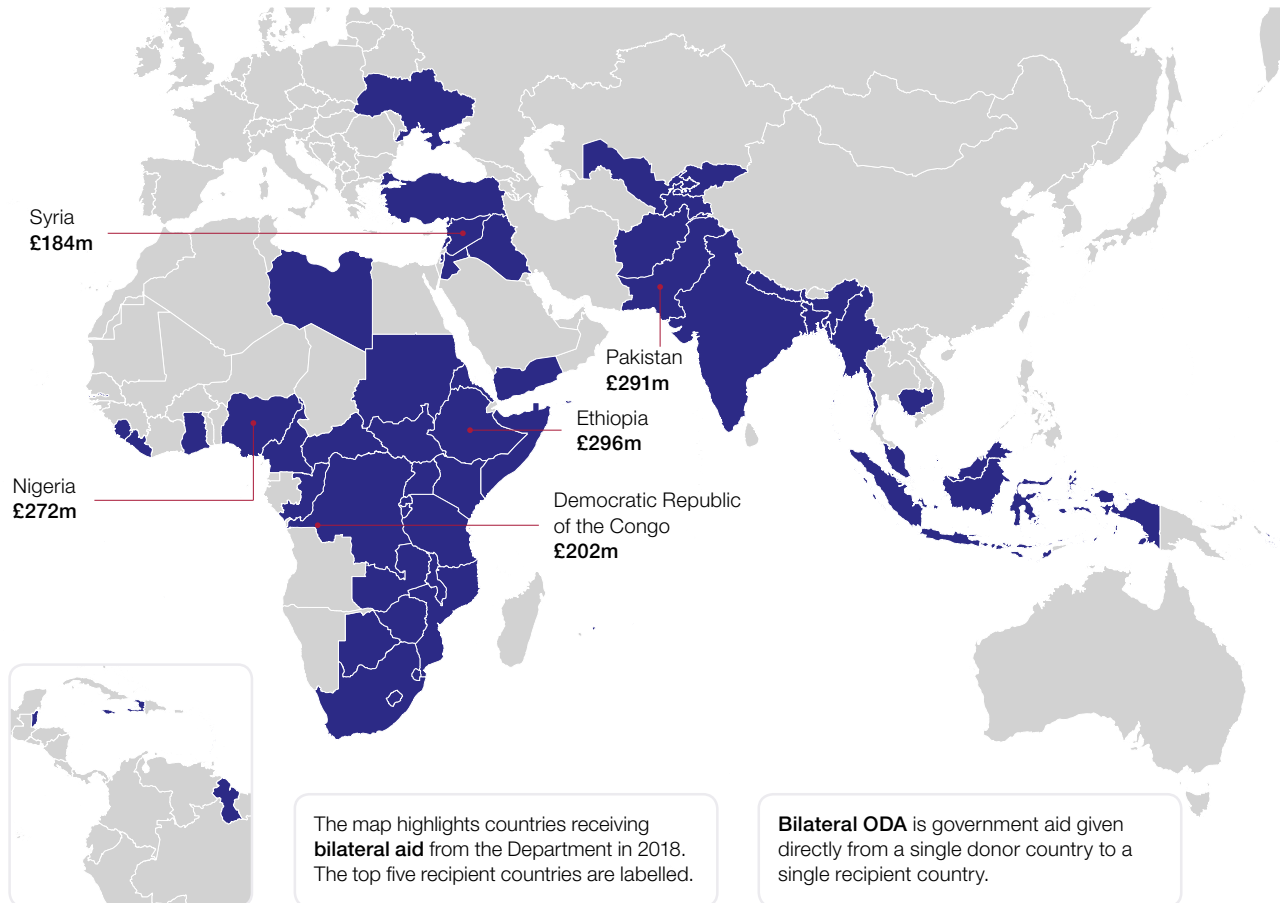
1 The figure above totals £10,737 million. The difference between this and the Department’s reported programme expenditure of £10,702 million is due to £35 million income from loan repayments netting off against the expenditure in the figure above.

2 Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand and may not sum due to rounding.

Where the Department spends its money *continued*

Bilateral expenditure

The Department's bilateral expenditure in 2018 was £6.4 billion. Of this, £4.2 billion could be attributed to an individual country or region



Notes

- 1 The Department also spends money in Montserrat and St Helena, which are too small to show on this map, given the scale.
- 2 Country borders do not necessarily reflect the UK Government's official position.

Source: Statistics on International Development

Country	Spending focus
Ethiopia (£296 million)	30% Humanitarian 26% Health 15% Other social infrastructure and services
Pakistan (£291 million)	39% Education 16% Health 14% Economic infrastructure and services
Nigeria (£272 million)	33% Humanitarian 22% Health 18% Government and civil society
Democratic Republic of the Congo (£202 million)	52% Humanitarian 13% Water supply and sanitation 11% Health
Syria (£184 million)	87% Humanitarian 7% Education 3% Health

The Department's bilateral regional spending

In addition to spending bilateral aid directly in countries, some spending focuses on whole regions. In 2018 the Department's regional spend comprised:

- Africa – £261.8 million
- South of Sahara – £137.1 million
- West Indies – £110.2 million
- Asia – £34.5 million
- Oceania – £7.4 million
- Middle East – £2.9 million
- South Asia – £1.4 million

The Department also spent £2.2 billion of bilateral aid that it was unable to allocate to a single country or region.

Where the Department spends its money *continued*

Multilateral expenditure

The Department spent **£4.5 billion** through multilateral organisations in 2018. This is a **£735 million (19.4%) increase** against 2017, when **£3.8 billion** was spent.

These comprise international and regional bodies working in international development, grouped as follows:

- **multilateral development banks**, such as the World Bank;
- **United Nations agencies**, such as the World Health Organisation;
- **global funds**, such as the Global Partnership for Education;
- organisations working with the **private sector**, such as the Private Infrastructure Development Group;

- specialist **inter-government organisations**, such as the International Organization for Migration; and
- **humanitarian organisations**, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The Department completed a Multilateral Development Review in 2016, with the intention of making sure **UK aid spent through multilateral organisations was having the impact it intended**.

Thirty-six organisations were reviewed and rated against two criteria – *organisational strength* and *match with UK development objectives*. The strongest performing organisations were Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and the World Bank. The weakest performing organisation was UNESCO.

Organisational strength

		Organisational strength			
		Very good	Good	Adequate	Weak
Match with UK development objectives	Very good	●●●	●●●●●	●●●●●	
	Good	●	●●●●●●●● ●●	●●●●●●	
	Adequate			●●	●
	Weak				

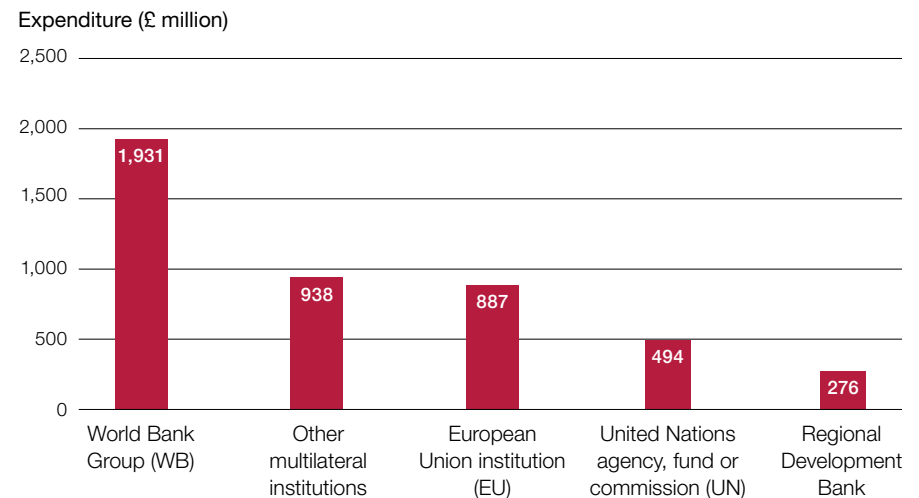
Note
1 ● Each dot represents a multilateral organisation reviewed by the Department for International Development in 2016. These are listed in Figure 1 of the Department's Multilateral Development Review.

The Department spent **£4.5 billion** through multilateral organisations in 2018

£1.9 billion was spent through World Bank organisations – more than any other group

Multilateral aid was spent through **41** different channels in 2017

The Department's net multilateral Official Development Assistance expenditure in 2018 by recipient



Source: Statistics on International Development

Major internal and external developments during 2018 and 2019, and looking forward to 2020

January 2018

The Department's new **Permanent Secretary, Matthew Rycroft**, starts.

February 2018

The Department publishes its new transparency agenda.

February/March 2018

The Department establishes a **Safeguarding Unit** and hosted an initial **Safeguarding Summit** for UK non-governmental organisations in response to widespread allegations of sexual misconduct by aid workers.

March 2018

The Department launches its **Strategic Vision for Gender Equality**.

March 2019

The Department publishes its new Governance Position Paper Governance for Growth, Stability and Inclusive Development.

March 2019

The Department ceases to be accountable for the **Government Equalities Office** and its non-departmental public body, **the Equality and Human Rights Commission**.

May 2019

The International Development Committee publishes its report **UK aid for combating climate change**.

2018

April 2018

The Department assumes accountability for the **Government Equalities Office** and its non-departmental public body, **the Equality and Human Rights Commission**.

June 2018

The International Development Committee publishes its report on the **definition and administration of ODA**. The Department, alongside the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, publishes the **International Climate Finance results**.

July 2018

The Department co-hosts the **Global Disability Summit**, along with the Government of Kenya and the International Disability Alliance.

July 2018

The international Development Committee publishes its report Sexual exploitation and abuse in the aid sector

October 2018

The Department hosts an international summit on tackling sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.

2019

June 2019

The UK launches its first **Voluntary National Review** report which takes stock of progress towards the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

July 2019

The International Development Committee publishes its report DFID's work on disability – inclusive development

September 2019

The UN holds the **Climate Action Summit** in New York.

September 2019

The UK government publishes a Spending Round.

September 2019

DFID hosts a Safeguarding Summit.

2020

The UK has been working closely with the Government of Japan for the **Global Nutrition Summit** in 2020.

The UK Aid Strategy has targeted that **all government departments spending ODA should be scored as 'Good' or 'Very Good' in the Aid Transparency Index (ATI)** by 2020.

Major developments

Focusing on climate change

One of the Department's priorities is a focus on climate change

The Department has emphasised the importance of climate change to its work, including:

- helping countries to tackle emissions;
- building resilience to the impact of climate change which cannot be reversed; and
- Responding to extreme weather events (through, for example disaster relief).

It does this by working with other government departments (such as the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) and with multilateral organisations.

In July 2019, the Department reported on its strategic objectives set out in its Single Departmental Plan which had been in place during 2018-19, including two sub-objectives related to climate change.

Objective	Target	2015	2016	2017	2018
Strategic Objective 2.2	International climate finance to build the resilience of vulnerable people to the impacts of climate change and support low-carbon development (£million) ¹	827	755	586	807
Strategic Objective 3.1	Total megawatts of clean energy installed (cumulative) ²	22	124	182	467

Notes

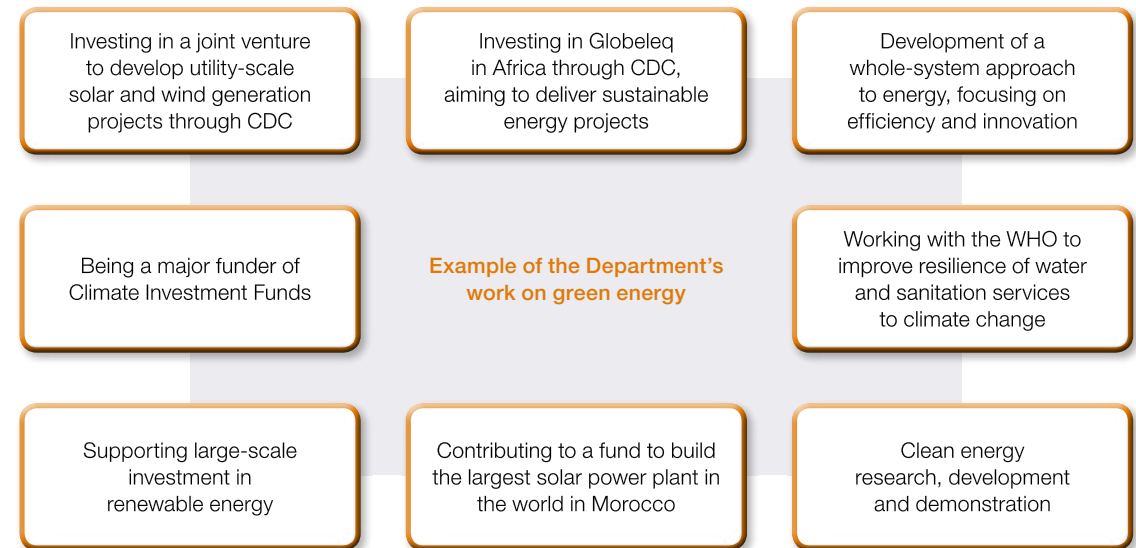
- 1 International Climate Finance includes the Department's commitments to multilateral funds, such as the Climate Investment Funds. The value and timing of the Department's contributions fluctuates year-on-year depending on where programmes are in their cycles.
- 2 Many of these programmes run over several years, but work towards a single goal – for example, the building of a wind farm. Energy installations only count towards this target once the energy capacity comes online. Therefore results can fluctuate each year depending on where programmes are in their cycles.

Source: Department for International Development, *Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19*

Work towards strategic objective 2.2



Work towards strategic objective 3.1



Note

- 1 Globeleq, a CDC investment, develops and operates power plants in sub-Saharan Africa.

Source: Department for International Development, *Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19*

Major developments *continued*

Improving safeguarding

Following reports of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment in the aid sector in 2018-19, the Department:

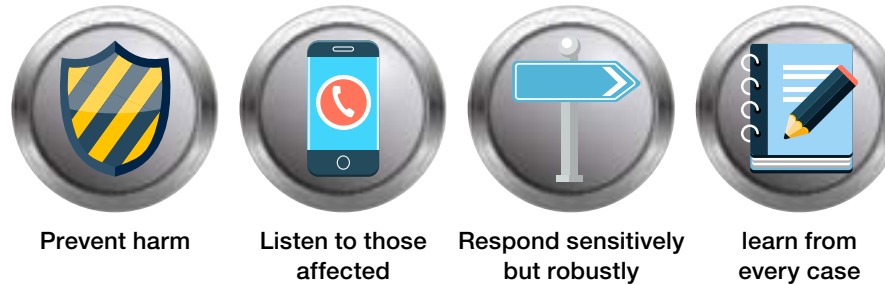
- created a **Safeguarding Unit**;
- established a **Safeguarding Delivery Board**; and
- published guidance on *Enhanced Due Diligence: Safeguarding for external partners*

The **Safeguarding Unit** undertakes work attempting to drive culture change across the aid sector in the four areas outlined in the adjacent figure. Actions it has taken include:

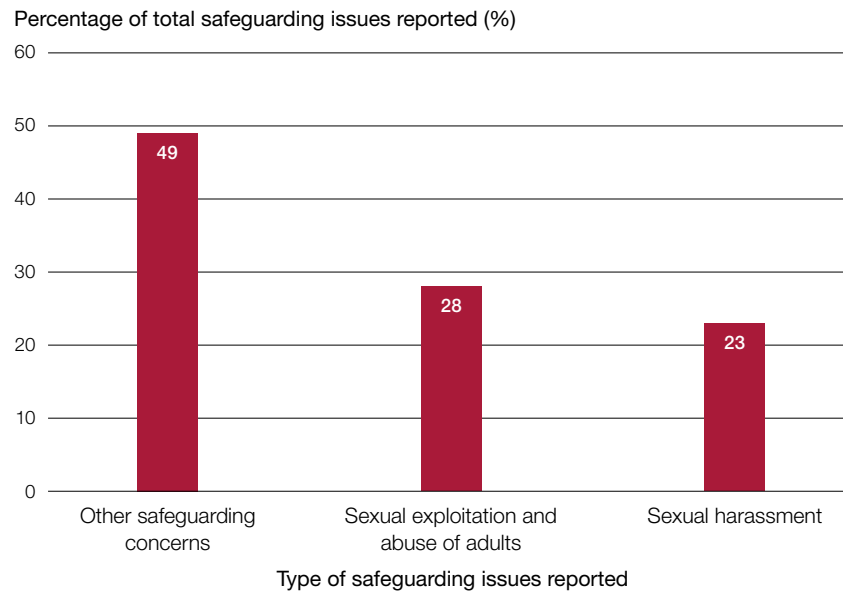
- hosting of an **international summit** in October 2018 bringing together 500 organisations to commit to changing ways of working to improve safeguarding;
- co-chairing work through the **Development Assistance Committee** to agree a formal document to make all 30 **major global donors accountable** for the quality of their work on safeguarding;
- announcing support for **seven initiatives to improve safeguarding**, including a five-year project with INTERPOL to strengthen criminal records checks; and
- **publishing** the findings of **consultation** between the Department’s country offices and organisations representing survivors and victims of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment.

The Department received **260** reports of safeguarding concerns in 2018-19. This is a **256%** increase on the **73** cases reported in 2017-18. The Department attributes the increase to its setting of clear expectations that its partners would report credible suspicions and actual allegations of abuse.

The Department believes that those engaged in poverty reduction must **do four things better to improve safeguarding**.



Type of safeguarding issues reported to the Department 2018-19



Note

1 Other safeguarding concerns include non-sexual abuse and discrimination, bullying and harassment, human rights violations, human trafficking and modern slavery, and cultural heritage and land concerns.

Source: Department for International Development, *Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19*

Exiting the European Union

The impact on the UK's international development interventions

Key facts

Up to 600

the total number of staff the Department has committed to support departments more significantly impacted by no-deal.

£1,386 million

total UK contribution to EU development spending (the Department contributed £887 million).

3

Only 3 (of 36) multilateral organisations scored more highly than the two EU development institutions in the Department's multilateral aid review.

The Department has stated that the **UK's exit from the European Union (EU)** should not stop the UK and the EU from acting together to alleviate poverty and to tackle shared global challenges.

The Department has committed to provide financial assistance to UK organisations implementing EU humanitarian and development programmes under specific circumstances. This assurance aims to ensure that these organisations can continue to deliver in the event of a **no-deal**.

In 2018, £1.4 billion of the UK's ODA expenditure – 10% of the total – was through two EU institutions.

The Department may have to reallocate funds quickly depending on the nature of the UK's departure from the EU.

The government has made four key commitments relevant to the UK's departure from the European Union

European Development Fund

Under the terms of the proposed **Withdrawal Agreement**, the UK will continue to honour its commitments to the **European Development Fund (EDF)** until 2020, meaning it will continue to pay into the fund until the mid 2020's. The UK contributed **£435 million to the EDF** in 2018.

Source: National Audit Office, *The effectiveness of Official Development Assistance expenditure*

Tariff reductions

The government committed to provide trade continuity through the Taxation (Cross-Border Trade) Act. The scheme will grant duty-free, quota-free access to 48 Least Developed countries and tariff reductions to other developing countries.

Source: Taxation (Cross-border) Trade Act 2018

Economic Partnership Agreement

The government is committed to replicating the effects of seven **EU's Economic Partnership Agreements**, which promotes trade with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The UK has signed EPAs with Eastern and Southern African States, Pacific States, and with CARIFORUM states and reached agreement in principle with the Southern African Customs Union and Mozambique.

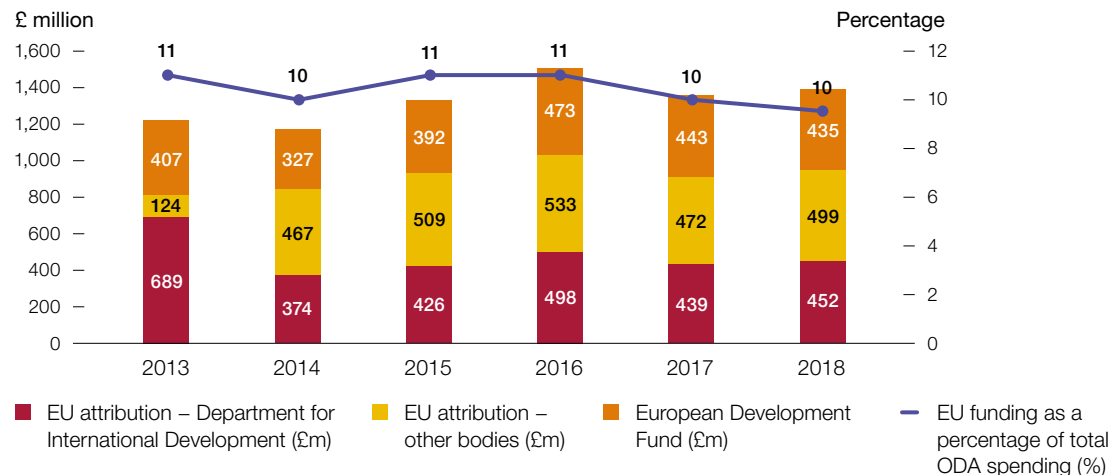
Source: Department for International Development, *Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19*

Continuing agreements

Under the terms of the proposed Withdrawal Agreement, the UK will meet its share of **obligations to other development programmes** made during the period of its membership and UK organisations will remain eligible to implement those programmes.

Source: Department for International Development, *Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19*

UK Official Development Assistance expenditure spent through the European Union, 2013–2018 (£ million)



Source: Department for International Development, *Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19*

Managing public money

Managing the risks of aid diversion and the Department's use of loans and financial investments

Diversion of aid

There is a risk that overseas aid does not reach the recipients for which it is intended. This can be due to fraud, terrorist financing, money laundering or bribery.

The Department manages this risk by implementing its **Counter Aid Diversion Strategy**, which is intended to:

- encourage prevention;
- promote detection;
- ensure effective investigation into suspected aid diversion;
- apply sanctions; and
- enforce a zero-tolerance approach.

Our 2017 investigation into the **Department's approach to tackling fraud** found that the Department had changed its counter-fraud strategy and built the consideration of fraud risk into the programme design phase.

Since the report was published the Department has agreed to assess the ability of its principal non-governmental organisation partners to manage fraud risks and to use these assessments to inform future spending decisions.

Source: National Audit Office, *Investigation into the Department's approach to tackling fraud*

£5.9 million

was identified as diverted aid in 2017-18.

Of this amount **82%** was recovered.



£5.2 million

was identified as diverted aid in 2018-19.

This is a **12%** reduction on 2017-18.

The amount of diverted aid identified represents **less than 1%** of the Department's annual spend in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

Loans and Financial Instruments

Alongside **grants to specific programmes** (amounting to almost **£11 billion in 2018-19**), the Department uses **loans and financial investments** to achieve its development goals.

Financial investments have **increased by 9.2%** (£909 million) since 2017-18. Most of this increase (81%) is **due to the Department investing £736 million in the CDC Group plc**.

CDC Group plc is the **single largest investment** held by the Department, which owns 100% of the share capital. It is the Department's **principal mechanism** for encouraging **private sector investment** in developing countries. It invests in sectors such as financial services, manufacturing and health.

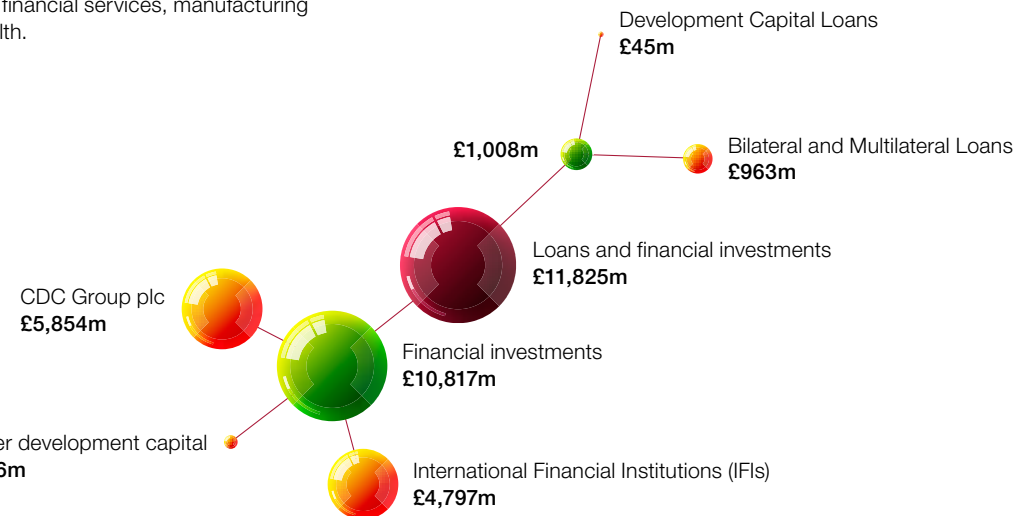
Investment risks

- CDC Group plc has a different reporting period to the Department. This can create risks in obtaining an up-to-date **valuation** of the investment.

The Department looks to manage this risk through, for example, the consideration of quarterly financial information from CDC.

- International Finance Institution investments are held in currencies other than sterling, exposing the Department to **currency fluctuation** risks.

The Department is not permitted to enter into hedge arrangements to manage this risk. The impact of exchange rate fluctuations are disclosed in its financial statements.



Note

1 Balances as at 31 March 2019.

Source: Department for International Development, *Annual Report and Accounts 2018-19*

– The effectiveness of Official Development Assistance expenditure

– A view across government

The government is committed to spending 0.7% of its gross national income on overseas aid – known as Official Development Assistance (ODA) expenditure.

Our 2019 report – *the effectiveness of Official Development Assistance expenditure* – focused on what the Department's and wider government's ODA expenditure was achieving in practice.

Our report found that:

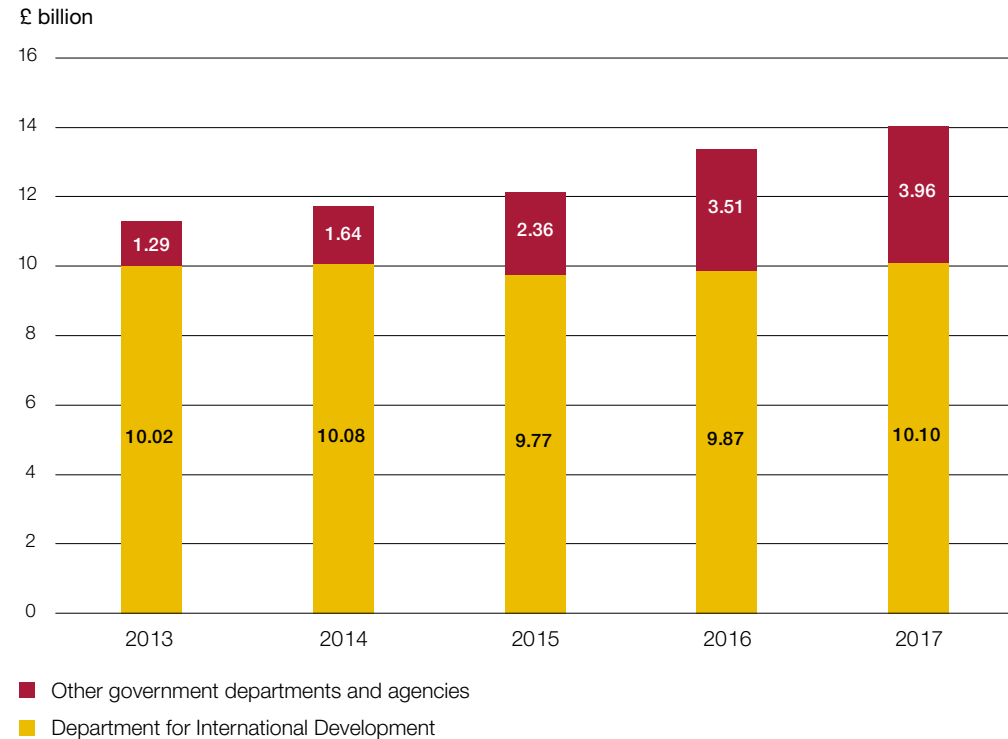
Shifts in government's aid priorities has had a positive and negative impact on progress against the UK Aid Strategy's objectives. For example, government met its ambition to give a greater number of government departments ODA budget. The proportion of bilateral ODA expenditure going to countries classified as 'upper middle income' has increased, both in absolute terms and as a proportion of total ODA expenditure.

Neither the Department nor HM Treasury have assessed whether allocating ODA budget to departments other than the Department has had the impact intended. And **insufficient emphasis** has been placed on demonstrating **effectiveness and progress** against the UK Aid Strategy.

The Department is rated as 'very good' against **an independent assessment of the transparency of its expenditure** – one of the two assessments the government wants all ODA spending departments to achieve by 2020. It is the only department to have achieved this assessment

Responsibilities for considering the effectiveness of ODA expenditure are **fragmented across government**. Departments and cross-government funds use ODA expenditure to deliver a range of strategies, creating **complexities in considering programme performance** – creating difficulties reviewing and then reporting performance and undermining government's ability to align performance with the objectives set out in strategies and with poverty reduction more broadly. The figure on the **next page** outlines the range of related strategies.

Annual Official Development Assistance expenditure by the Department for International Development and other government departments and funds, 2013–2017



Note

- The figure above was included in our 2019 report *The effectiveness of Official Development Assistance expenditure*. Statistics on International Development were not available for 2018 at the time of publication, but comparative figures have been included on this page in the box below to provide current context.

Source: Statistics on International Development

The UK's **total ODA expenditure** in 2018 was **£14.56 billion**



£10.90 billion
(74.9% of total) of this was incurred by the **Department**.

£3.66 billion
(25.1%) was incurred by **other government departments**.

— The effectiveness of Official Development Assistance expenditure *continued*

— A view across government

Examples of strategies that influence the UK's Official Development Assistance expenditure

Cross-government strategies

UK aid: tackling global challenges in the national interest (November 2015)

National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015 (November 2015)

National Security Council Illegal Migration Strategy (November 2016)

Departmental and joint funds strategies

Department for International Development (DFID)

Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO)

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS)

Conflict, Security and Stability Fund (CSSF)

Thematic strategies

Economic Development Strategy: prosperity, poverty and meeting global challenges (January 2017)

DFID's Strategic Vision for Gender Equality – A Call to Action for Her Potential, Our Future (March 2018)

– The effectiveness of Official Development Assistance expenditure *continued*

– Findings on the Department

Our 2019 report – *the effectiveness of Official Development Assistance expenditure* – included findings specifically about the Department

On assessing progress

The Department has a well-developed approach to assessing project progress but overall grades in annual reviews can mask poor results for parts of a project.

Each output is assessed and graded separately but a heavily weighted component of the project can lead to an overall grade that feels out of kilter with overall progress. This might undermine corrective action and skew the Department's perspective on the performance of its portfolio.

On the Department's share of ODA

The Department's share of the UK's ODA expenditure has declined year on year between 2013 and 2017.

The government is meeting its ambition to spend ODA across a wider range of departments. Provisional data for 2018 show a percentage point increase in the proportion of ODA spent by the Department.

On ODA spending by other government departments

Neither the Department nor HM Treasury have assessed whether allocating the ODA budget to other government departments has had the impact intended.

In 2015, the government set out its ambition to draw on skills across government when spending ODA to respond to changes in emphasis in the challenges it faced. However, it did not set out in detail the benefits it expected to achieve from this approach. Nor has it assessed whether its intentions have been delivered in practice.

On transparency

The Department publishes good-quality information on ODA expenditure across government, outlining how much is spent, by which department and in which country.

Across government, only the Department has met the UK Aid Strategy target to be ranked as either 'very good' or 'good' against an independent assessment of transparency (by the Aid Transparency Index). The Department is funding a review of government's progress towards the target, the results of which will be publicly available in December 2019.

On spending in fragile states

The Department has spent more than 50% of its budget in fragile states each year since 2013, thereby exceeding the UK Aid Strategy target to do so before it was introduced.

In 2017, 51% of spending occurred in fragile states. This represents a decrease on 2016, when 59% was spent in these countries.

What to look out for

01

Considering the impact of the UK leaving the European Union



- Consideration of the impact of the precise nature of the UK's departure from the EU on ODA expenditure and the achievement of the target.
- Progress with the development of an 'overseas development assistance and international action' accord.
- An assessment of the impact of project Yellowhammer on the Department's development and humanitarian programmes.

02

Assessing progress towards improving aid transparency by 2020



- Publish What You Fund's assessment of UK government's progress against its ambition, set out in the UK Aid Strategy, that all departments should be ranked as 'Good' or 'Very Good' in the Aid Transparency Index by 2020.

03

Considering the approach to and impact of the Spending Review



- Consideration of the approach to the allocation of ODA budget as part of future spending reviews – including the use of joint bids by departments and the assessment of the impact of the broader distribution of ODA budget on effectiveness.

04

Increasing spending on climate change issues



- An assessment of the practical implications of the government's pledge to increase funding for climate change issues overseas over the next five years. The Department is one of three departments that work in this area.

05

Continuing to focus on safeguarding



- Consideration of the progress of the Department's new Safeguarding Unit and following up on the Safeguarding Summit Summer 2018 and the implementation and impact of new standards.