

Summary of DFID's Regional Programme in Africa 2011-2015

Updated August 2012

Why we work regionally in Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa has 12% of the world's population but is home to just under a third of the world's poor. The maternal health Millennium Development Goal (MDG) is most off track in sub-Saharan Africa. Humanitarian aid will be required to respond to natural disasters, conflict and chronic food insecurity. Climate change threatens development as more frequent floods and drought could reduce agricultural yields and potentially change patterns of disease.

Africa needs economic growth to help reduce poverty. 29% of the population of sub-Saharan Africa live in landlocked countries and are reliant on their neighbours for access to global and regional markets and subsequent growth opportunities. These challenges cannot be overcome through working at the country level alone. Regional co-operation is

paramount to improving trade both between African countries and globally and is the most efficient way to manage scarce resources such as water, energy and forests. Regional co-operation is also necessary to cost effectively deal with climate change, tackle food insecurity and conflict in the region. This is why DFID has a regional programme that works together with regional and country partners, running alongside our bilateral country programmes.

There is much to be optimistic about. Poverty rates are falling. From 2000-2008 Africa's economies grew at twice the pace of the 1980s and 1990s. DFID's Africa Regional Programme will help Africa face up to some difficult challenges on health, food security and gender. One of our key priorities is the Africa Free Trade Initiative (AFTI) which is looking to harmonise trade policies and reduce trade barriers between countries. This includes building better infrastructure along Africa's major trade corridors.

What we will achieve

Over the four years covering 2011-2015, UK support will help:

- 3 million people benefit directly from improved national and cross-border trade;
- 300,000 people with improved access to low carbon energy;
- Avert 6,000 maternal deaths;
- 1 million people reached with emergency food assistance;
- Cut waiting times at nine additional border crossings by at least 30%, boosting trade;
- Invest in infrastructure along regional transport corridors including the upgrade of 1,300 km of roads.



UK aid is supporting midwives like Binta (on right) reach rural communities. Binta says, "It's not only the volunteers who are transmitting this information, it's the whole community. One person will learn and then ten or twenty people will learn from them."

Who we will work with

The complex nature of regional working requires close working relationships and agreements with African Governments and institutions and a wide range of specialist partners and diplomatic missions.

We will be working with the Tripartite of Regional Economic Communities (East Africa Community, Common Market for East and Southern Africa, Southern Africa Development Community) to deliver our objectives. We will maintain and further enhance already close working relationships with the Africa Union, the Africa Development Bank and private sector companies and representative institutions, whilst building upon our co-ordination with the European Commission (EC) and bi-lateral donors. We will also sustain our working relationships and in some cases fund; International Financial Institutions e.g. the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF); UN agencies; specialist trusts and global institutions like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and EU infrastructure Trust Fund; and a number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working across health, humanitarian aid, climate change and governance programmes.



Just one of the hundreds of families that are being helped by emergency UK aid for people affected by the recent humanitarian situation in Liberia and the Ivory Coast. Over the past year UK aid has provided food for over 100,000 people in the Ivory Coast and Liberia, and essential household items to over 77,000 people.

How we will work

More than ever, in the current financial climate, we have a duty to show that we are achieving value for money in everything we do. Results, transparency and accountability will be our watchwords and we are determined to get value for money for every pound spent on development.

The Africa Regional Programme will deliver value for money, and improve practises on monitoring and evaluation and transparency by:

- Working with our partners and other funding agencies to ensure that value for money considerations are embedded and monitored rigorously during implementation of programmes, particularly in procurement
- Improving the evaluation of regional programmes, such as Aid for Trade projects.
- Publishing clear, concise information about our programmes on the DFID website

More information

Please visit <http://www.dfid.gov.uk>

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