

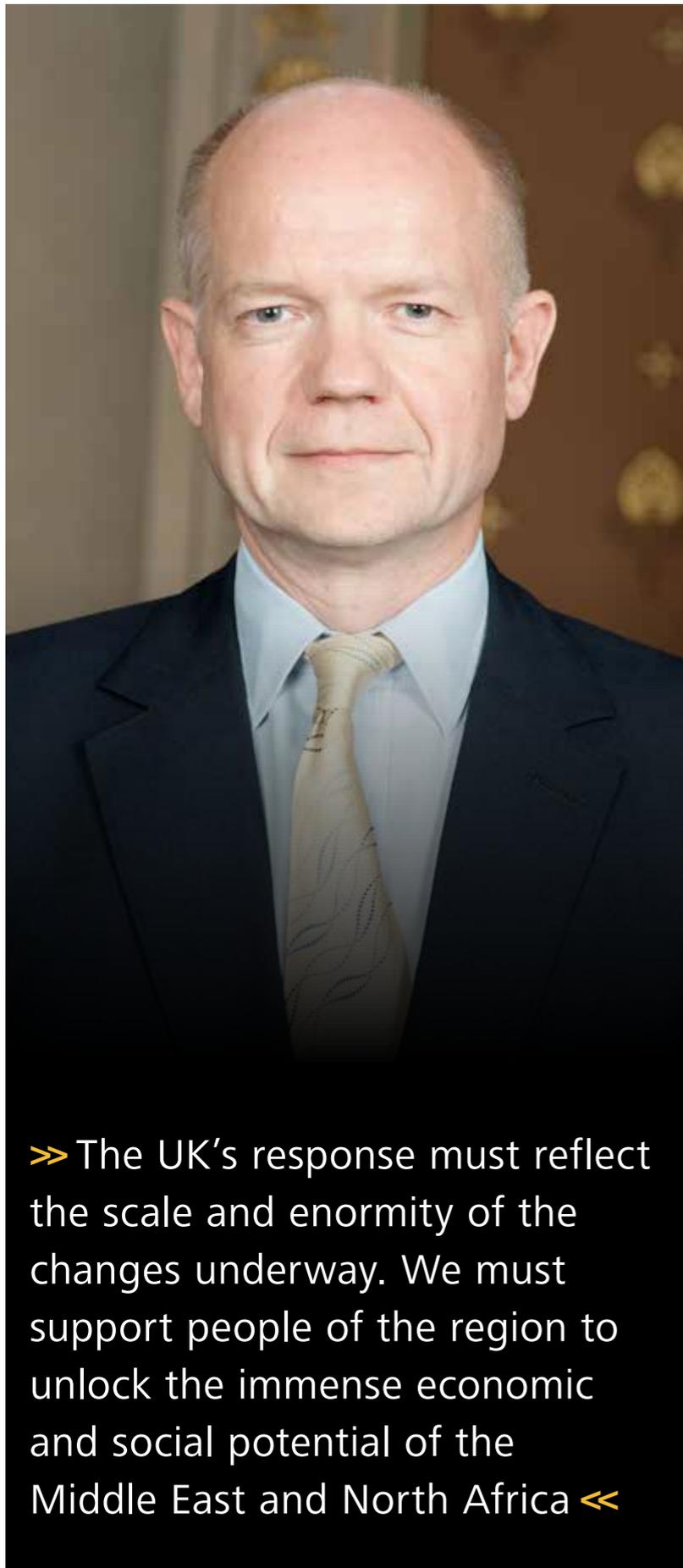
Leading the UK Government's  
strategic response to the Arab Spring

# The Arab Partnership



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

  
**UKaid**  
from the British people



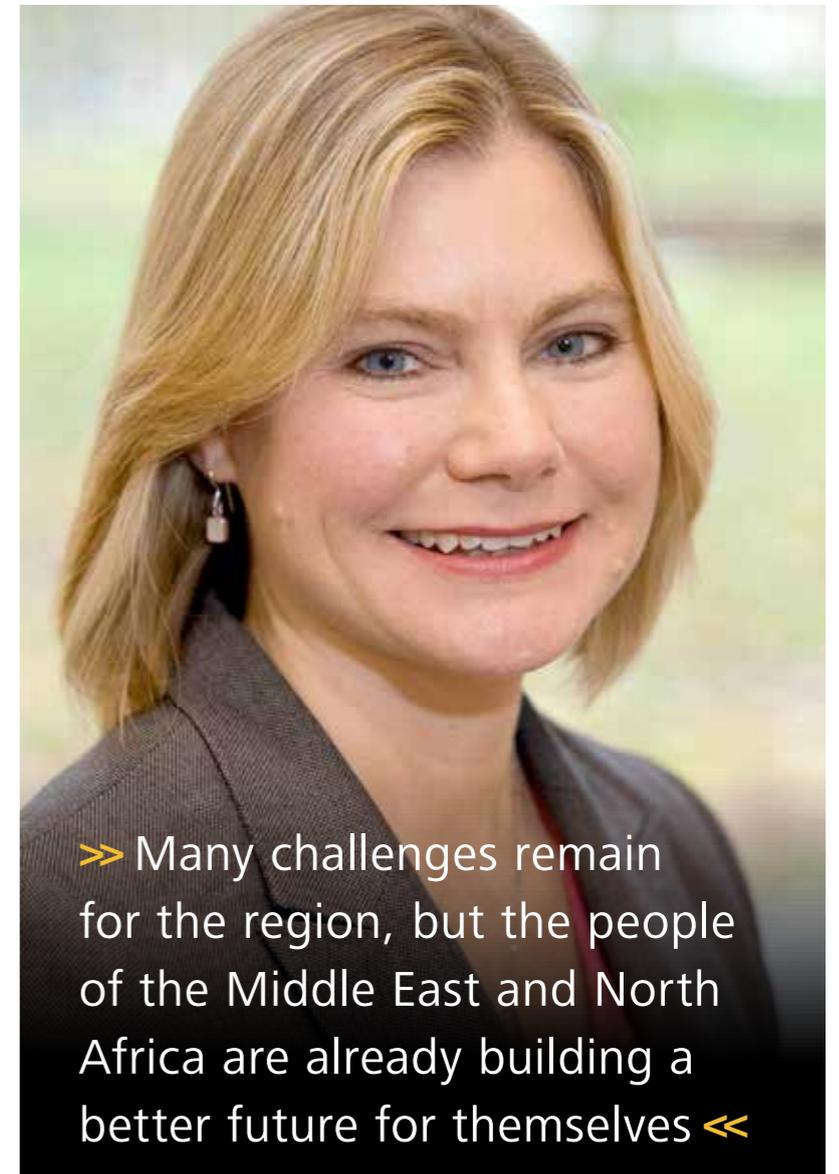
# Foreword

from the Foreign Secretary and the Secretary of State for International Development

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is at the beginning of change that will span generations. This change is being led by the people of the region, by their courage and determination for political and economic freedom. A Middle East and North Africa based on more open, prosperous and inclusive societies will help transform the security of the world and brighten the prospects of millions of people. We remain firmly on the optimistic side of the Arab Spring. It shows that across the region there is a common desire for dignity, liberty, and justice.

The Arab Partnership is the UK government's strategic response to the Arab Spring. Through diplomatic engagement, international partnerships and practical assistance to a range of partners, we are supporting long-term political and economic reform in the region. Through our bilateral Arab Partnership Fund we will support tens of thousands of enterprises to grow and create jobs, and millions of citizens to make their voices heard and hold their leaders to account.

Each country in the region is unique and their paths of change will be different. However there is a common thread running through. The Arab Spring has shown there is no contradiction between respect for a country's culture and traditions, and the right of its people to participate politically and economically in the life of their country.



>> Many challenges remain for the region, but the people of the Middle East and North Africa are already building a better future for themselves <<

Many challenges remain for the region, but the people of the Middle East and North Africa are already building a better future for themselves. We are proud of the work we have done so far to support them. This work matters, both to the people of the region and to wider international peace, security and prosperity. As more open, democratic societies are built over the years and decades to come, the UK will remain committed in its support to the people of the region.

**Rt Hon William Hague MP**  
Secretary of State for Foreign and  
Commonwealth Affairs

**Rt Hon Justine Greening MP**  
Secretary of State for International  
Development

# Our Vision and Objectives

»» The UK's long-term vision is of a stable, prosperous MENA region based on the building blocks of democracy, with greater social, economic and political participation of its people. ««

To help achieve this, through the Arab Partnership we will:

- Offer and advocate political support for reform in the region;
- Support the delivery of economic and financial assistance from the EU, G8, international financial institutions and regional donors to incentivise reform and provide practical assistance to transitioning states;
- Deliver a demand-led £110 million Arab Partnership Fund working with a wide range of partners.



# Why the Arab Spring matters to the UK

>> Over generations we have built a partnership based on our shared interests in prosperity and security. But in a changing world, ours must now also be a partnership that recognises the importance of political and economic reform...

Our interests lie in upholding our values. <<

*UK Prime Minister David Cameron, speech to the Kuwaiti Parliament, 22 February 2011*

The Arab Spring matters to the UK: to our values, security and prosperity:

## Values

If the Arab Spring brings more open, inclusive and democratic societies, it will be the greatest gain for human rights and freedom since the end of the Cold War.



 MENA Region

## Security

The Arab Spring has clearly shown that long-term stability will come not through repression, but citizens gaining a greater stake in the political and economic life of their country. Reform, coupled with inclusive economic growth, is the surest route to international peace and security.

## Prosperity

In 2011, our bilateral trade with the MENA region was worth £46 billion and we exported more to the region than China and India combined. The UK receives significant inward investment from the region and also provides substantial foreign direct investment (FDI). For instance, last year UK earnings from FDI in Egypt were £850 million.



>> In 2011 bilateral trade with the MENA region was worth £46 billion <<

# How we deliver change

## Policy

Our policy is to seek to secure long-term, steadfast political, diplomatic and economic support for the people of the MENA region as they build their own models of open, inclusive and prosperous democratic societies. We do this through our lobbying efforts, using our embassies and memberships of regional and multilateral organisations. We are also reaching out to the wider international community, sharing our approach to the Arab Spring, building dialogue and common understanding.

## Partnerships

Our partnership work builds consensus, and helps focus and generate practical international support for the MENA region. The UK is an influential member and substantial financial contributor to the EU, World Bank and IMF, as well as a key member of the G8. We are working through these organisations and other regional bodies to provide incentivised support for transitioning countries – particularly Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Jordan and Libya. Through the Deauville Partnership - launched at the G8 summit in 2011 - we are focusing on strengthening governance, economic stability, and trade and investment for the region.

The EU is offering countries in the region unprecedented access to the EU Single Market in return for political and economic reform, through the European Neighbourhood Policy. The offer of increased mobility, market access and money from the EU can make a substantial impact on the economic recovery of eligible countries. The UK is playing a leading role in working to ensure this delivers results for the region.





# How we deliver change

## Programmes

The UK has created a demand-led, £110 million four-year Arab Partnership Fund to support political and economic reform in the region. We are working with a range of partners including parliaments, political parties, International Financial Institutions, policy think-tanks, the media, the private sector and civil society organisations - including women and youth associations.

Our Fund includes two components:

- £70 million Arab Partnership Economic Facility, supporting inclusive and sustainable economic growth;
- £40 million Arab Partnership Participation Fund supporting strengthened political participation, freedom of expression and public voice, and good governance including the rule of law, transparency and integrity.

In the Arab Partnership Fund's first year (2011-12) we supported projects across the region. In Tunisia, we supported free and fair parliamentary elections through voter education for women and youth. In Algeria, we worked with a local organisation to unlock increased government seed-funds for youth entrepreneurs. In Libya, we piloted new media programmes allowing live audiences to debate political and social issues openly for the first time in decades. We are also working with regional organisations, including support to the African Development Bank to assist young social entrepreneurs and with the World Bank Group to increase access to enterprise finance. These are just a few examples of the innovative and targeted projects we are delivering through partners across the region.

# 2011-12 Arab Partnership Fund Projects



Egypt
Global Partners and Associates
Chatham House
Westminster Foundation for Democracy
Global Partners and Associates
OECD
British Council
The Carter Center
Thomson Reuters
BBC World Service Trust
EISA - Electoral Institute for the Sustainability of Democracy in Africa
British Council and Young Arab Voices

British Council - English for Youth Employability
BBC World Service (Arabic)

Algeria
International Centre for Prison Studies
Reseau Algerien pour La Defense Des Droits De L'Enfant
British Council / Algeria Muslim Scouts
Handicap International
National Association for Youth Exchanges (ANEJ)

Tunisia
Electoral Reform International Services
Thomson Foundation
BBCWST
Article 19
OECD
British Council
ENDA
Middle East Research Competition Programme MERC
International Center for Transitional Justice
Westminster Foundation for Democracy
UNDP
British Council and Young Arab Voices

British Council - English for Youth Employability
BBC World Service (Arabic)

Morocco
British Council & Chatham House
Collectif Democratie et Modernite (CDM)
Forum Des Alternatives Maroc (FDAM)
Search for Common Ground
UNDP

Lebanon
John Smith Memorial Trust (JSMT)

Oman
British Council and The Bar Human Rights Council

Jordan
Thomson Foundation
Mowgli Foundation
British Council - Active citizens in Maan
UK Ministry of Justice
Oasis 500 Venture Training
Mosaic INJAZ Enterprise Challenge
John Smith Memorial Trust (JSMT)
BBC World Service (Arabic)

Bahrain
University of Nottingham Human Rights Training

Iraq
International Research and Exchanges Board IREX
Global Partners and Associates
John Smith Memorial Trust (JSMT)

Libya
BBC world service

OPTs
Ministry of Justice



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office



**ukaid**  
from the British people

---

For further information about the Arab Partnership please  
visit the Arab Partnership pages of the FCO website at

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/global-issues/mena/uk-arab-partnership/>

Or scan this QR code for a direct link to this webpage  
via your tablet or mobile phone.

