

Zimbabwe

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DFID PROGRAMMES IN ZIMBABWE

The aim of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) programme in Zimbabwe is to contribute effectively to the national response to HIV/AIDS and to provide direct support to the poorest and most vulnerable people in Zimbabwe.

DFID will spend £40 million in 2007/2008, through multilateral agencies and Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs), making the UK one of the three largest donors in Zimbabwe.

Health and HIV initiatives

Behaviour Change Communications (*£20 million*)

DFID's consistent support to HIV and AIDS prevention programme over the last decade has helped contribute to the slight decline in the numbers of people living with AIDS. However at 18% the HIV prevalence rate is still one of the highest in the world. DFID will provide £20 million to a five year behaviour change programme co-funded with USAID. This funding enables Population Services International (PSI) to develop communication campaigns to address issues such as HIV related stigma and multiple partnerships, as well as increasing HIV prevention services and availability of socially marketed male and female condoms.

Expanded Support Programme Support for HIV & AIDS (*£18.5 million*)

DFID Zimbabwe is supporting the scale up the HIV response including increased access to Anti-Retroviral Therapy. Together with CIDA, SIDA and Irish Aid, DFID has provided £18.5 over three years for HIV/AIDS, Prevention and Treatment. This is a multi-donor common funding mechanism that supports the National Strategy for HIV and AIDS, relies on UN agencies for implementation, and managed by a working group made up of government, donors, UN agencies and civil society. The ESP aims to support universal access by 2010 for all Zimbabweans in need of Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART). The beneficiaries of this support will be the 30,000 poor people living with HIV and AIDS who are currently unable to access ART as well as millions more through inclusive prevention, testing and diagnosis and safe blood services.

Maternal and Newborn Programme (*£25 million*)

DFID is working with other partners to develop a programme to reduce in maternal and infant mortality. This programme aims to protect the lives of mothers and newborns, especially those affected by HIV and AIDS and to maintain access to family planning services, including contraceptives and to lifesaving obstetric services and newborn care. The programme will build the evidence base about obstacles to sexual and reproductive care, infant feeding for HIV exposed babies after 6 months, and will support a national maternal and perinatal mortality study in Zimbabwe to inform policy options.

Immunisation and Malaria Prevention (*£2.67 million*)

DFID is committed to supporting the reduction of child mortality. DFID has provided UNICEF with over £2.6 million to combat infectious diseases which threaten the lives of women and children, including the provision of insecticide treated bed nets to protect against malaria and over £2m to support the national vaccination programme.

Support to Orphans and Vulnerable Children (*£22 million*)

Zimbabwe has the highest proportion of children orphaned by AIDS in the world. Over 25% of all children have lost one or both parents (UNICEF 2005). Together with EC, SIDA and NZAID we have given £22 million to a multi-donor programme of support managed by UNICEF to implement the National Plan of Action in Zimbabwe. This will support orphans and vulnerable children across the country including support to keep children in school and to provide

protection from all forms of abuse, this will be implemented through civil society organisation. To date more than 50,000 orphans and vulnerable children are currently benefiting from the programme.

Emergency Vital Medicines Support Programme (*£5 million*)

DFID has provided £5 million to UNICEF for the procurement and distribution of essential drug supplies in Zimbabwe. This programme will ensure that all health facilities across all districts in Zimbabwe will be stocked with the most essential medicines and supplies. The programme will procure essential medicines for meeting national health policy goals with particular focus on the needs of Children under five years, women, and the prevention and treatment of transmissible diseases. ECHO (EC) is also making a contribution to this programme.

Food Security

Protracted Relief Programme (*£36 million*)

The DFID funded Protracted Relief Programme assists the poorest and most vulnerable households suffering from the effects of erratic weather, economic decline and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The main objective is to reduce the need for food aid by increasing food production by the poorest, to improve access to water and sanitation, and provide care to the chronically ill. The programme is reaching over 1.5 million poor and vulnerable people. DFID has committed a further £50 million over the next five years, for the second phase of the programme which will start in June 2008. Phase two consolidates and builds on the successes of phase one. It will place a greater emphasis on social protection for the most vulnerable in order to complement activities on improving food security, enhancing livelihoods and reaching out to marginalised groups such as the disabled, mobile and vulnerable populations. DFID is in the process of engaging a management consultant responsible for the management of the programme.

Joint Initiative support to urban poor (*£1.1 million*)

DFID and other donors are working with a group of NGOs to address growing urban poverty. The Joint Initiative is a multi-donor programme targeting over 700,000 urban poor in Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare, Masvingo and Gweru. The project ends in February 2008. The donor group will be assessing the potential for continuing consolidated support to urban vulnerable groups.

Humanitarian

International Organisation for Migration (*£5 million*)

DFID Zimbabwe approved a three year multi-donor programme of support to IOM in a multi-donor framework. The programme provides emergency assistance (food, non food items, and temporary shelter) to mobile and vulnerable populations along with humanitarian assistance to Zimbabwean deportees at the Beitbridge Reception Centre. DFID is also the only donor supporting the nationwide information campaign on safe migration. 'Famba Zvakanaka'.

Support to Office for Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) (*£150,000*)

DFID continues to support OCHA for the co-ordination of the humanitarian response in Zimbabwe.

Emergency Food Appeal

DFID has approved a contribution of £8,000,000 to help finance the Regional WFP Protracted Relief and Recovery Programme (PRRO). This will be used to support the WFP Vulnerable Group Feeding Programme and food for mobile and vulnerable populations. The grant includes support for enhancing WFP's monitoring systems in the run up to elections in 2008.

Gender

DFID led on a multi-donor Gender Scoping study. Building on the findings of the study DFID is supporting an Inception Phase (£50,000 over 6 months) to building consensus and develop a strategic plan for the sector before the start of EC Gender Support programme.

For more information about DFID's work in Zimbabwe please visit www.dfid.gov.uk

If you are a journalist and wish to know more about DFID and its work to reduce poverty in Africa please call DFID press office: 0207023 0600.