

Department for International Development

DFID, the Department for International Development: leading the British government's commitment to fighting world poverty.

In an increasingly interconnected world, many problems – like conflict, crime, pollution and diseases such as HIV and AIDS – are caused or made worse by poverty. One in five people in the world, over one billion people, live in poverty on less than one dollar a day. DFID supports long-term programmes to eliminate the underlying causes of poverty in areas like health, education, and the environment. It also responds to emergencies, both natural and man-made.

DFID's work forms part of a global promise to meet the United Nations' eight Millennium Development Goals: worldwide targets – with a 2015 deadline – which aim to:

- halve the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger
- ensure that all children receive primary education
- promote sexual equality and give women a stronger voice
- reduce child death rates
- improve the health of mothers
- combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- make sure the environment is protected
- build a global partnership for those working in development.

Each of these goals has its own, measurable, targets.

DFID works in partnership with governments committed to the Millennium Development Goals, with civil society, with the private sector and with the research community. It also works with multilateral institutions, including the World Bank, United Nations agencies, and the European Commission.

DFID works in 150 countries worldwide, with an annual budget of some £4 billion. Its headquarters are in London and East Kilbride, near Glasgow.

WHAT ARE COUNTRY ASSISTANCE PLANS?

Country Assistance Plans set out how we aim to contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in various countries. Country Assistance Plans start from the basis of our partner country's poverty reduction strategy and set out in detail how we will work as part of the international development effort to support a country's strategy for reducing poverty. They include a framework for annual assessment of our performance in implementing the plan. Major reviews of Country Assistance Plans are expected to be undertaken every three to four years.