

POLICY INFORMATION MARKER SYSTEM

(PAM and PIMS)

Purpose of PIMS

1. The Policy Information Marker System (PIMS) provides a framework for measuring the extent to which DFID's projects and programmes are being targeted on key policy areas. It is most relevant at the pipeline and commitment stages of projects and the tables in this section present data on commitments.

Extended PIMS

2. PIMS was reviewed at the end of 1997 to consider how well it could provide for current and anticipated information needs, particularly to reflect the objectives for DFID as set out in the 1997 White Paper on International Development. An extended system was introduced from 1 April 1998. This incorporated:

- an over-arching Poverty Aim Marker (PAM) to monitor the means by which DFID's aim to eliminate poverty in poorer countries is being addressed
- a Policy Objective Marker (POM) to monitor the targeting of DFID's three central objectives
- an extended set of Policy Information Markers (PIMs).

The extended system was revised again in 2002 and a reduced set of markers, based on the Millennium Development Goals (see pages 23-24 or 190), was introduced in October 2002. The PAM continues under the new system but the POM, which was introduced primarily for reporting against departmental objectives, was dropped when DFID's new Public Service Agreement came into force on 1 April 2003.

3. The essential features of the PIMS system remain in that spending departments score all new bilateral commitments with a value of £100,000 or over against the PAM and all relevant PIMs. Full details of the scoring system and marker definitions can be found in the Project Header Sheet manual (Pink Book). The current edition is that of January 2003 but this is being updated and a new version will be available shortly.

PAM and POM

4. For each eligible project or programme, spending departments select one PAM category to reflect the predominant means of addressing poverty elimination. The three categories are enabling, inclusive and focused.

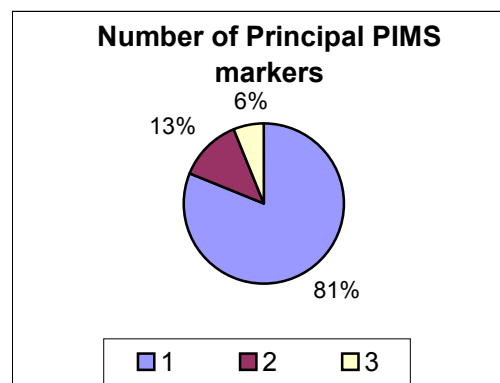
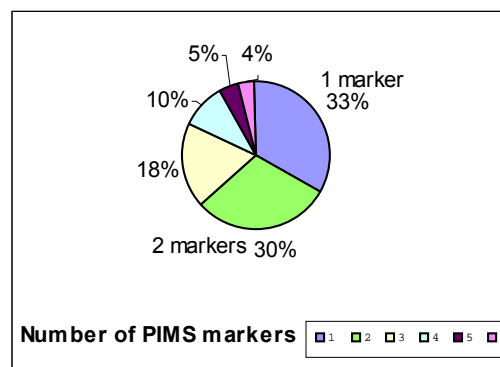
Because only one category can be chosen in each case the value of new bilateral commitments counting against them can be added together, unlike the PIMs (see next paragraph).

However in practice, there is obviously overlap between the categories as new commitments will not necessarily concentrate exclusively on one means of targeting poverty elimination. In the main, these overlaps will balance out so that the broad picture will be representative of DFID's bilateral programme as a whole.

Policy Information Markers

5. The new system contains 14 PIMs which are scored according to which policy areas are targeted, either as a *Principal* or *Significant* objective. *Principal* objectives are those which are fundamental to the design of a programme or project, without which it would not be undertaken. *Significant* objectives are those which, although important, are not one of the primary reasons for undertaking the activities. Scoring against PIMs is an all-or-nothing procedure with the total commitment value counting against each of the PIMs awarded to the project. As DFID policy areas are mutually supportive and overlapping, most new bilateral commitments contribute to, and are marked against, two or more markers. As a result there will be double counting if data for different PIMs are added together.

6. The number of markers per project for new PIMS-marked bilateral commitments in 2003/04 is shown in the following charts. Around one third of all PIMS eligible projects have only one marker with a further 30 per cent having only two. 80 per cent have only one Principal marker.



Coverage

7. The intention is for PIMS to cover as much of the bilateral programme as possible. However, to reduce administrative burdens, the large number of commitments valued under £100,000, which accounts for approximately 50 per cent of projects by number but less than 3 per cent of bilateral programme by value, is excluded from PIMS. Debt relief is also excluded. Contributions to multilateral agencies are excluded because they do not analyse their expenditure in the same way. In effect, PIMS covers most of that part of the aid programme for which the Department is directly responsible for setting policies and priorities. However, some programmes and policy areas may be under-represented because of the financial cut-off.

8. PIMS coverage of new projects in 1999/00-2003/04 is given in the table below. The table reflects the underlying growth in size of the bilateral aid programme. The trend towards larger projects is demonstrated by the increases in commitment levels of existing activities and many of these involve poverty reduction budget support programmes.

| | 1999/00 | 2000/01 | 2001/02 | 2002/03 | 2003/04 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of PIMS-marked projects | 1 073 | 756 | 858 | 613 | 699 |
| Commitment (£ million)* | 1 312 | 1 814 | 1 934 | 1 639 | 1 479 |
| (previous commitment levels) | 1 244 | 1 371 | 1 478 | 1 386 | n/a) |

**This comprises new bilateral project/programme MIS codes with a commitment of £100,000 or more created during the fiscal year reported on, and all changes in commitment levels during the year.*

9. The following table shows how commitments in 2003/04 relate to the first 7 Millennium Development Goals for each region. Note that projects may target more than one goal and so data for different goals cannot be added together.

| New PIMS marked commitments in 2003/04 by Millennium Development Goals and Region (£m) | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| | Africa | Americas | Asia | Europe | Non Region Specific | Total |
| GOAL 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger | 435.1 | 7.2 | 417.7 | 2.6 | 40.4 | 902.9 |
| GOAL 2: Achieve universal primary education | 228.4 | 0.2 | 180.2 | 0.3 | 3.0 | 412.0 |
| GOAL 3: Promote gender equality and empower women | 105.8 | 3.0 | 181.8 | 0.0 | 5.9 | 296.4 |
| GOAL 4: Reduce child mortality | 292.4 | 0.5 | 150.5 | 0.2 | 21.6 | 465.3 |
| GOAL 5: Improve maternal health | 198.3 | 0.5 | 103.5 | 0.5 | 21.6 | 324.3 |
| GOAL 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases | 387.5 | 2.9 | 114.9 | 3.9 | 25.6 | 534.8 |
| GOAL 7: Ensure environmental sustainability | 252.9 | 3.4 | 322.2 | 2.1 | 24.8 | 605.4 |
| Total Commitment | | | | | | 1479.0 |

10. The following table shows commitments in 2003/04 against the individual PIMS markers in both value and percentage terms. Again, to avoid double counting, note that data for different markers within a year cannot be added together.

| Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Related PIMS | | | | | | |
|--|------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|----------------|----------|
| 2003/04 Commitments | | | | | | |
| | Principal | | Significant | | Total | |
| | £m | % | £m | % | £m | % |
| Elimination of income poverty and hunger | 716.1 | 48.4 | 186.9 | 12.6 | 902.9 | 61.1 |
| Effective universal primary education | 60.6 | 4.1 | 351.4 | 23.8 | 412.0 | 27.9 |
| Promote gender equality and empower women | 24.4 | 1.6 | 272.3 | 18.4 | 296.7 | 20.1 |
| Reduce child mortality | 65.3 | 4.4 | 400.0 | 27.0 | 465.3 | 31.5 |
| Improve maternal health | 39.5 | 2.7 | 284.8 | 19.3 | 324.3 | 21.9 |
| Combat HIV/AIDS | 121.1 | 8.2 | 229.8 | 15.5 | 350.9 | 23.7 |
| Reduce malaria, TB and other diseases | 59.1 | 4.0 | 125.9 | 8.5 | 185.0 | 12.5 |
| Effective reproductive health services | 29.6 | 2.0 | 303.5 | 20.5 | 333.1 | 22.5 |
| Promote environmental sustainability | 23.0 | 1.6 | 373.6 | 25.3 | 396.6 | 26.8 |
| Increase access to safe water and sanitation | 222.4 | 15.0 | 288.7 | 19.5 | 511.1 | 34.6 |
| Good governance | 658.7 | 44.5 | 283.5 | 19.2 | 942.3 | 63.7 |
| Improve slum dwellers' lives | 102.9 | 7.0 | 82.8 | 5.6 | 185.7 | 12.6 |
| Human rights and empowerment | 97.8 | 6.6 | 282.2 | 19.1 | 380.0 | 25.7 |
| Total Commitment | | | | | 1 479.0 | |