

## KEY QUESTIONS

### the big six

# 3

## Who are the main actors in UK's development cooperation?

### **DFID leads on strategy setting and funding decisions for the UK's development policy**

The UK is currently governed by the Conservative Party, headed by Prime Minister Theresa May. The Department for International Development (DFID) leads on strategy setting and funding decisions for the UK's development policy. DFID is headed by the Secretary of State for International Development, Priti Patel. DFID's Executive Management Committee, chaired by the Permanent Secretary for International Development, Mark Lowcock, oversees implementation and is accountable for ensuring that DFID departments deliver results consistent with ministerial priorities. DFID has over 2,700 employees and implements programs in 28 priority countries, and through various regional programs (for more details, see question six: 'How is ODA spent?').

**Parliament:** The UK Parliament is composed of the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Within the House of Commons, 'select committees' review the work of ministerial departments. The International Development Committee scrutinizes DFID's policies and spending and monitors organizations that receive DFID funding. All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs) bring together members of parliament, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations on key policy issues, including on international development (e.g., the APPG on the UN Global Goals for Sustainable Development), and are influential in policymaking.

**Other government departments:** The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) provides development assistance particularly in the areas of conflict reduction, human rights, and climate change. The Ministry of Defense supports DFID's work in fragile states and regions. Together, government departments other than DFID manage one-fifth of the UK's ODA. This share is expected to increase from about 20% in fiscal year (FY) 2016-17 to 26% by FY2019-20.

**Civil society:** CSOs play a strong role in the development community in the UK. CSOs frequently engage with the government through formal and informal consultation processes. BOND, the UK's membership body for development CSOs, has 450 members and has been key in maintaining the UK's strong commitment to development. DFID provides funding to CSOs, both through its country offices and direct funding through DFID headquarters. According to DFID, CSOs implement around 20% of DFID's bilateral programs.

**Academia, think tanks, and the media:** Academic institutions and think tanks play a significant role in the UK's development policy. British medical journals (e.g. The Lancet, BMJ, PloS Medicine) place a strong emphasis on global health issues. The online version of the newspaper The Guardian has a designated section on development topics.

### THE UK'S DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION SYSTEM

