

Home Office Official Development Assistance: what are we doing



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1. Home Office and Official Development Assistance

The first duty of any government is to keep citizens safe and the country secure. The Home Office has been at the front line of this endeavour since 1782. Our Official Development Assistance (ODA) funded programmes take this objectives beyond the UK to support the most vulnerable people living in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and developing the law enforcement border control capabilities of ODA eligible countries.

1.1 Why do we work internationally?

The cross-government UK Aid strategy supports the government's global efforts to help the world's most vulnerable, strengthen global peace, security and governance, tackle instability, and create prosperity in developing countries. The strategy is underpinned by a clear guiding principle: that the UK's development spending will meet our moral obligation to the world's poorest and also support our national interest.

Home Office ODA-funded programmes contribute to this effort by supporting local authorities to provide refugees who have fled conflict and persecution with a safe environment and the chance to rebuild their lives and support asylum seekers while their claims for refugee status are being processed. Through our ODA-funded programmes we utilise our international expertise to help save lives across the world by through targeted interventions. We work in ODA countries to form robust intelligence and targeting strategies and create highly-skilled multi-agency local teams in LMICs capable of deterring the use of individuals and freight to smuggle drugs or other harmful commodities within developing countries by criminal gangs.

But our remit is wider than that, Modern Slavery and Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA) are abhorrent crimes that take place across the globe and behind closed doors. Home Office ODA-funded programmes contribute to projects that deliver practical, innovative and effective solutions to end violence against children and supports reduction in the prevalence of Modern Slavery in countries from which the UK sees a high number of victims.

1.2 What do we fund?

The Home Office currently manages six programmes to contribute to achieving the objectives of the UK Aid strategy:

1. The **Syrian Vulnerable People Relocation Scheme** is a government commitment to resettle 20,000 refugees from Syria by 2020. The scheme has helped those in the greatest need, including people requiring urgent medical treatment, survivors of violence and torture, and women and children at risk.
2. The **Asylum support** programme provides support to asylum seekers and unaccompanied asylum-seeking children (UASCs) for up to 12 months from arrival while their claims for refugee status are being processed in the form of food, shelter, travel and training.
3. The **Modern Slavery Fund** supports the UK's goal of tackling Modern Slavery both within the UK and internationally. The fund actively contributes to achieving the UN sustainable development goal target 8.7 which calls for "immediate and effective measures to eradicate modern slavery" by 2030.
4. The **Fund to End Violence Against Children** of which the Home Office is the major donor is a unique public-private collaboration that includes United Nations agencies, governments, industry, regional bodies, civil society, young people, advocates and champions working together to tackle the scourge of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. UK ODA funding has leveraged non-ODA funding from private foundations.
5. **Project Hunter Chaucer** has an overall aim to build international targeting in ODA countries to help deter the movement across national borders of individuals and goods, that would harm their national interests, by enhancing their border control.
6. **Immigration Enforcement International** ODA programme provides capacity building training in border management to local law enforcement in countries eligible for ODA funding. This includes specialist and technical training and the provision of capability enhancing equipment to support improved border management capacity.

The Home Office approach to allocating aid under these three programmes is set out in Annex 2. Each Home Office ODA-funded programme has its own governance arrangements which feed into shared oversight mechanisms. These are detailed in Annex 3.

Annex 1: Working with ODA eligible countries

The Home Office ODA portfolio is designed to tackle a broad range of global cross-cutting challenges, which are not restricted to a single country. The breadth, reach and impact of our work will have significant benefit to all LMICs.

For example, our work on tackling child sexual exploitation and abuse is essential for achieving sustainable development worldwide particularly target 16.2 of the SDGs. Every year, millions of children experience sexual violence. CSEA robs children of their childhood. It undermines their education and health, and prevents them from developing to their full potential, often with long-lasting and intergenerational consequences.

The Home Office through the EVAC Fund support developing countries to fulfil their commitments to keeping children safe, including by connecting policymakers and practitioners with the tools, expertise, and resources they need to prepare, implement, finance, and monitor their national plans of action.

Home Office ODA activities in ODA eligible countries typically involve supporting partners to tackle global challenges like Modern Slavery and CSEA, through, for example, training law enforcement agencies, ensuring legislation is in line with international best practice and improving integration with UK and international systems.

Project/ Activity	Countries	Aims
Syrian Vulnerable People Relocation Scheme	In-donor, the SVPRS is targeted at vulnerable refugees from Syria.	Launched in January 2014, the SVPRS is intended to help those in greatest need, including people requiring urgent medical treatment, survivors of violence and torture, and women and children at risk as a result of the Syrian conflict for up to 12 months following their arrival in the UK.

Asylum Support	In-donor	The Home Office Official Development Assistance (ODA) budget provides support to asylum seekers while their claims for refugee status are being processed for up to 12 months from their arrival.
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Project/ Activity	Countries	Aims
Modern Slavery Fund	Modern Slavery Strand One Countries: Albania, China, Nigeria, Vietnam.	To reduce the flow of Modern Slavery by strengthening cooperation with Albania, China, Nigeria and Vietnam.
Fund to End Violence Against Children	ODA eligible countries that EVAC operate in: Armenia, Brazil, Cambodia, Colombia, Cote D'Ivoire, El Salvador, Georgia, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Mexico, Mexico, Honduras, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nigeria, Paraguay Peru, Philippines, South Africa Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Uganda, Albania, Moldova, Turkey, Montenegro, Serbia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Bosnia, Ukraine	Supported by financial commitments from the Home Office, Oak Foundation and Human Dignity Foundation administered by staff of the Global Partnership Secretariat and guided by a Fund Steering Committee, the EVAC Fund supports goals of the Home Office in preventing online violence, with a particular focus on online child sexual exploitation and abuse.
The Hunter Chaucer Programme:	ODA eligible countries that have received support through the HCP: Ghana, Nigeria, Jamaica, Peru, Albania, Panama, Tanzania, Thailand, Vietnam & Morocco.	The Hunter Chaucer Programme (HCP) aims to build international targeting in ODA countries to help deter the movement across national borders of individuals and goods, that would harm their national interests, by enhancing their border control.

Immigration Enforcement International	ODA eligible countries that IEI delivers training in: Nigeria, Ghana, South Africa, Angola, Gambia, Ethiopia, Botswana, DRC, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam, China, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Jamaica, Haiti, Cuba, Colombia, Venezuela, Mexico, Bolivia, Honduras, Argentina, Peru, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, St Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, Belize, and Guyana	IEI aims to provide a programme of upstream border capacity and capability building activity in ODA eligible countries, with the key objectives amongst others being: to improve border and migration management capacity; and building law enforcements capacity to sustainably re-integrate and rehabilitate returned migrants, including Victims of Trafficking.
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Annex 2: Aid allocation in the Home Office

Aid at the Home Office is allocated through the 6 major programmes set out in section 1.2 of this document. Within these programmes, ODA funds are used to achieve the programme aims and objectives in accordance with the [2015 Spending Review](#) settlement, which highlighted key areas for allocation of resource:

- Effort to tackle the causes of instability, insecurity and conflict, and to tackle crime and corruption.
- Promotion of economic development and prosperity in the developing world.
- Elimination of extreme poverty, and support for the world most vulnerable people

ODA is allocated in line with relevant national and global policies, strategies and frameworks, in particular:

- OECD DAC ODA eligibility rules
- The UK Aid strategy
- The Sustainable Development Goals

In addition, Home Office ODA programmes support the implementation of UK priorities, including those set out in the Modern Slavery Act 2015, and the National Security Strategy and Strategic Defence and Security Review.

ODA eligibility

Official development assistance (ODA) is defined by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as government aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries.

ODA eligibility is defined by OECD as those flows to countries and territories on the [DAC List of ODA recipients](#) and to multilateral development institutions which are:

1. provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies
2. concessional (i.e. grants and soft loans) and administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as the main objective

All ODA spend at the Home Office is scrutinised against OECD ODA eligibility rules before any funding is committed. Where delivery partners have not previously delivered ODA funds Home Office is committed to supporting partners to ensure compliance.

UK Aid strategy

Alongside the 2015 Spending Review the government announced a revised UK aid strategy – tackling global challenges in the national interest. The strategy identifies four strategic objectives to shape spending:

1. strengthening global peace, security and governance
2. strengthening resilience and response to crises
3. promoting global prosperity
4. tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable

The Home Office ensures that our ODA-funded programmes support the delivery of one or more of these objectives. For example, under objective 4 the Home Office makes a significant contribution to tackling Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (CSEA) in all its forms globally and to protecting children from this terrible crime.

Value for Money (VfM) is also a core objective of the strategy. The Home Office uses the 4Es model for achieving VfM throughout its project cycle; economy, efficiency, effectiveness and equity.

Sustainable Development Goals

The UK is committed to the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs), and has an important role to play in supporting their achievement. Home Office ODA programmes contribute to a number of SDGs such as goal 8.7 which calls for the eradication of Modern Slavery by 2025. Programme funds are allocated to projects that contribute directly and indirectly to achieving specific indicators and targets, the Global challenges addressed through Home Office ODA portfolios also include aid to developing countries, gender equality and well managed migration policies. We work on problems, that without intervention, will risk the achievement of many of the SDGs.

Annex 3: Governance of Home Office ODA funded programmes

Each Home Office ODA-funded programme has a governance structure to reflect the size, scale and complexity of its work. Project and programme boards oversee delivery and ensure that each programme's direction remains in line with its strategic mandate. Programmes boards feed in to high level oversight mechanisms to provide consistency and compliance across Home Office ODA portfolio.

ODA Ministerial Group

The ODA Ministerial Group co-chaired by the Secretary of State for International Development and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, has oversight of the UK's ODA. The group meets on ad hoc basis to provide strategic direction on UK ODA and works with cross-government ODA oversight mechanisms to raise the quality and coherence of aid spending, to ensure that the aid budget is not just spent well but could not be spent better.

ODA Senior Officials Group

The ODA Senior Officials Group provides cross departmental alignment and supports a shared understanding of HMG ODA programmes. The group provides oversight of Value for Money of cross government ODA spending targets in line with the UK Aid strategy and international best practice. The Senior Official Group meets quarterly and is chaired by an HMT Director. It includes members from Home Office, HMT, DFID, the Cabinet Office and DEFRA.

Home Office ODA Oversight Board

The HO Oversight Board ensures the Home Office has a coordinated, consistent approach to the delivery of its ODA programmes. It is responsible for ensuring the department is delivering its ODA programmes and projects in line with the UK Aid Strategy and adhering to HMT ODA Value for Money guidance. The Board meets quarterly and is chaired by the Home Office International Director, SRO for ODA.

International Strategy Board

The International Strategy Board is responsible for overseeing HO international priorities. The group meets quarterly and is chaired by the International Director.