

AUGUST 2005: UK GOVERNMENT NEWS REPORT

JICA UK OFFICE

Sources:

- Department for International Development (DFID) website: <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/>
- Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website: <http://www.fco.gov.uk/>
- HM Treasury website: <http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/>
- 10 Downing Street website (PM's speeches): <http://www.number-10.gov.uk/>

Note: During August, no speeches were made on international development due to the summer vacation period. News items are also limited for the same reason.

PRESS RELEASES

3 August 2005

DFID is providing **£19.6 million additional funding** for a new programme to provide **11 million bed nets treated with insecticide** to vulnerable women and children in **Kenya**. This additional funding means that nets will be available to over 75% of the vulnerable population by 2007/08. The nets will be distributed through the Mother and Child Health Clinics and rural retailers. DFID and USAID began providing insecticide treated bed nets in Kenya in January 2002.

NEWS

24 August 2005

Case studies on how **CDC Group**, a **private sector development organisation 100% owned by DFID**, has **helped build sustainable growth** in the developing world. CDC Group has a portfolio of investments in low- and middle-income developing countries valued at over £1.1 billion. It aims to invest where others are generally unwilling to do so, to invest in a socially, ethically and environmentally responsible way, and to encourage other private investors by making a profit. In 2004, 75% of CDC investment was in poorer developing countries, and 56% in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. CDC has its own board of directors - DFID does not get involved in its day-to-day operating decisions. CDC's investments are currently managed by Actis, an private equity firm.

The following case studies are now available:

- **Ivory Coast:** Helping the rubber business to bounce back
(<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/casestudies/files/africa/cotedivoire-cdc.asp>)
- Developing **Zambia's** agricultural potential
(<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/casestudies/files/africa/zambia-cdc.asp>)
- **China:** How investment in wolfberry wine is going down a treat
(<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/casestudies/files/asia/china-cdc.asp>)
- Investing in better communications for **Africa**
(<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/casestudies/files/africa/africa-celtel.asp>)
- Cleaner, more reliable power for **Tanzania**
(<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/casestudies/files/africa/tanzania-songas.asp>)

17 August 2005

175,000 children under the age of five in **Mali** and **57,000 vulnerable people** in **Burkina Faso** will receive **emergency feeding** funded by DFID. **\$1.2 million** (£675,000) will be provided to support the relief efforts in those countries. \$1 million will be channelled to the World Food Programme's revised emergency operation in Mali, while \$200,000 will be contributed to Catholic

Relief Services in Burkina Faso. This brings the total amount of DFID funding for the countries of the Sahel region, including Niger, to £3.925 million.

12 August 2005

DFID **closed** its **programme** in **Kazakhstan** at the **end of July**. The UK has been supporting sustainable development in Kazakhstan since 1992. During the past thirteen years over £17 million has been spent on development work. The decision to graduate from Kazakhstan is part of the overall shift in DFID to work in low-income countries around the world. Kazakhstan's status as a middle-income country determined the decision to withdraw.

Key achievements

- Established a participatory land use planning process for the former nuclear testing site, which will help environmentally sound and sustainable land use;
- Assisted in improving the quality and accessibility of primary health care;
- Improved capacity for management of water resources, including a new Water Code;
- Enhanced civil society's understanding of its role in poverty reduction.

Continuing engagement

- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative - Kazakhstan's oil and gas reserves offer the prospect of long-term prosperity and stability, but this can only be achieved by ensuring that revenues from these industries are managed transparently and responsibly and benefit the poorest in society.
- HIV/AIDS - there is a growing HIV/AIDS problem in Central Asia and the need for effective national responses to prevent an HIV/AIDS epidemic across the region. DFID has therefore agreed to provide £6.4 million over four years to a regional HIV/AIDS project with the World Bank and other partners. DFID will be working in the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and supporting the World Bank's programme, which will also cover Kazakhstan. The work will assist the implementation of national programmes to combat HIV/AIDS and will focus on prevention amongst highly vulnerable groups.
- The UK government will continue to support a wide range of work in Kazakhstan with the following UK government departments: Foreign and Commonwealth Office; DEFRA (Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs); Department for Trade and Industry and other organisations. Work includes: energy sector reform, prison reform, environmental education, democracy building, counter proliferation of nuclear materials and counter-narcotics.

10 August 2005

DFID is providing a **further £250,000** to support the delivery of **humanitarian aid** in **Niger**. The funding will help strengthen the coordination work in Niger of the UN Office of the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). This brings the total commitment to the food crisis in Niger by DFID to £3.25 million.

4 August 2005

Following a year-long process of discussion and debate, DFID has produced a **draft agriculture policy paper**. **Feedback** is now **invited** on the draft over the next eight weeks up to 30 September 2005.

The paper sets out the importance of agriculture in reducing poverty. It challenges accepted thinking on the role of agriculture in contributing to economic growth and poverty reduction; and it asks what the international community, working in support developing country governments, can do better or differently.

Views are particularly requested on whether the draft:

- presents a clear rationale for DFID's support to agriculture;
- misses any important aspects of agriculture's role in growth and poverty reduction;
- is likely to be useful to the work you do, and

- is accessible to a wide audience.

While general comments are welcome, specific recommendations plus brief supporting evidence will be particularly helpful. Comments should be sent to agriculture@dfid.gov.uk

- DFID draft Agriculture Strategy Paper:

http://dfid-agriculture-consultation.nri.org/launchpapers/NewAgricPolicyPaper_draft08_05.doc