

UNITED KINGDOM

DONOR PROFILE 2023

UNITED
FOR
GLOBAL
MENTAL
HEALTH

UNITED KINGDOM

Key Facts:

% GNI/ODA 2022	2022 ODA	2021 DAMH
0.51%	US\$ 15.7 billion	US \$ 12 million

The UK spent US\$15.7 billion on official development assistance (ODA) in 2022, continuing to spend around 0.5% GNI on ODA since the [announcement](#) to reduce the ODA budget from 0.7% in 2021 due the economic impact of COVID-19. The 0.7% ODA commitment is however enshrined in UK law with plans to return subject to the fiscal climate. In 2020, the Department for International Development (DFID) merged with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to form the [Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office](#) (FCDO).

The UK Government's [Strategy for International Development](#) was published in 2022 with the following key priorities:

- British Investment Partnerships, including in sustainable infrastructure
- Supporting women and girls, including education and protection from violence
- Responding to humanitarian crises
- Climate change, nature and global health

Global health priorities include responding to global health threats, strengthening health systems, ending preventable deaths and supporting a One Health approach, acknowledging the link between human, animal and environmental health.

The UK remains a top donor in mental health and has demonstrated strong interest in mental health issues. The UK is part of the Alliance of Champions for Mental Health and Wellbeing and hosted the first ever Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit in London in October 2018.

GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT

Currently, the FCDO does not have a mental health budget but programmes have mental health elements and piggyback on humanitarian, education, and crisis-recovery programmes. Examples include:

- providing support for the WHO to provide trauma care and mental health and psychosocial support services to those who have been affected by the conflict in Syria



- funding [the Being initiative](#) with the Canadian Government. Being is an adolescent mental health fund of CA\$35m and this is expected to rise to closer to CA\$100m over its seven year lifespan.
- supporting the [Improving the Quality of Education for Syrian and Jordanian Early Grade Primary School Children](#) project, which focuses on improving children's psychosocial well-being
- funding a maternal and mental health programme in Ghana in partnership with BasicNeeds, which has resulted in the formulation of a [Northern Region Alliance of Mental Health](#) in Ghana.
- UK Aid Match funding for civil society organisations (CSOs) operating in sub-Saharan Africa as part of Comic Relief's Red Nose Day the Leave No One Behind project in Ghana mental health training for prison officers in Namibia.

Furthermore, UK's [National Institute for Health Research](#) has teamed up with Canada in the [Global Mental Health Program, which has](#) launched 18 seed projects to address mental health issues, especially among young people, in low- and middle income-countries.

The FCDO does not have a specific mental health strategy. However, DFID's [Disability Inclusion Strategy 2018 to 2023](#) includes mental health and psychosocial disabilities as a cross-cutting issue and claims that the UK: "Will also step up as a global leader to provide inclusive and accessible mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in conflict and emergencies."

Before merging with the FCO, DFID also finalised a rights-based mental health [Theory of Change](#) designed to advise development organisations how to better integrate, evaluate and scale up contributions to mental health.

DOMESTIC MENTAL HEALTH

Within the UK, interest in mental health is gaining support and profile with the [Heads Together](#) campaign, [Time to Change](#) campaign, [Every Mind Matters](#), [CALM](#), the Chief Medical Officer's [report](#) on mental health, and the [Improving Access to Psychological Therapies IAPT](#) programme. According to the [Mental Health Five Year Forward](#) plan dashboard, domestic mental health funding (including for learning disabilities and dementia) rose from £10,979m in 2015/16 to £12,513m in 2018/19. Further mental health commitments were included in the NHS Long Term Plan in 2019, including a commitment to roll out a brand new service, Mental Health Support Teams, in schools.



In response to COVID-19 the UK published a [mental health and wellbeing recovery action plan](#). This included £10 million support for mental health charities, including bereavement charities, supporting people to cope with the impacts of the pandemic, accelerating the roll out of Mental Health Support Teams in schools.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

[Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office](#) (FCDO) leads on strategy and funding priorities for UK development assistance

[Department of Health and Social Care](#) (DHSC) drives forward global health research with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

The UK is a member of the Alliance of Champions for Mental Health and Wellbeing, and the MHPSS donor group.

Member of the [International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership](#) (IIMHL).

KEY DECISION MAKERS

Prime Minister: [Rishi Sunak](#)

Secretary of State and Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs: [James Cleverly](#)

Secretary of State for Health and Social Care: [Steve Barclay](#)

[Chancellor of the Exchequer \(Finance Minister\): Jeremy Hunt](#)

FINANCING GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH

In 2020, 64% UK ODA was channelled bilaterally. The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office hold most of the ODA budget, however other departments also have smaller portions of the ODA budget. This includes the Department of Health and Social Care, and the two other climate finance spending departments, the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs, and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero.

Funds supported by the UK:	
OCHA	OCHA coordinates the global emergency response to save lives and protect people in humanitarian crises.
Global Fund	The Global Fund invests US\$4 billion a year to defeat HIV, TB and malaria. The Global Fund strategy includes a significant commitment to mental health as a comorbidity and key point of intersectionality with the 3 diseases. You can apply for funding on their website.



GAVI	Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is focused on increasing the sustainable and equitable use of vaccines worldwide. The current strategy (2021-2025) is narrowly defined with no reference to mental health.
Global Environment Facility	The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is a multilateral fund dedicated to confronting biodiversity loss, climate change, pollution, and strains on land and ocean health. They fund government projects.
Green Climate Fund	The GCF is the world's largest climate fund, mandated to support developing countries raise and realize their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) ambitions towards low-emissions, climate-resilient pathways. Like the GEF, the GCF is also driven by government-identified national priorities.
UNHCR	The UN refugee agency.
WHO	The United Nations agency for health.
Global Financing Facility	The Global Financing Facility for Women, Children and Adolescents (GFF) is a multi-stakeholder global partnership housed at the World Bank that is committed to ensuring all women, children and adolescents can survive and thrive.
World Food Programme	The World Food Programme is the world's largest humanitarian organization saving lives in emergencies and using food assistance to build a pathway to peace, stability and prosperity, for people recovering from conflict, disasters and the impact of climate change.
UNFPA	UNFPA calls for the realization of reproductive rights for all.
UNAIDS	The UN agency for HIV/AIDS
UNDP	UN lead agency on international development.
UNICEF	UN agency for children.
Central Emergency Response Fund	CERF enables humanitarian action by helping to kickstart relief efforts in a coordinated way when a new crisis emerges.

KEY RESOURCES

- [DFID Disability Inclusion Strategy 2018 to 2023](#)
- [Policy paper UK Aid: tackling global challenges in the national interest](#)
- [Public Health England's Global Health Strategy 2014-2019](#)
- Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Matt Hancock's [speech at the Global Ministerial Mental Health Summit in London October 2018](#)
- OECD Mental Health Analysis Profiles (MhAPs) [England](#) and [Scotland](#)
- WHO [MiNDbank](#)
- DFID [Theory of Change](#)
- [Development Tracker](#)