



Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP
Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office
Cabinet Office 70 Whitehall London SW1A 2AS

Stephen Twigg MP
Chair, International Development Committee
House of Commons
London, SW1A 0AA

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26 September 2019

Dear Stephen,

I am writing to update you on the progress of the Cross-Government Prosperity Fund, and to present the Fund's Annual Report for the Financial Year 2018/19.

The Prosperity Fund remains committed to support the inclusive economic growth needed to help lift people out of poverty and reduce dependence on aid, particularly in Middle Income Countries, home to around 60% of the world's poor people. Not only will this help support progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, it will also help generate trade and investment opportunities - including for the UK.

The Prosperity Fund's third annual report details progress made in 2018/19 across our portfolio: 27 multi-year programmes that cover infrastructure; human capital, innovation and technology; trade; financial and economic reform; and ease of doing business.

Some early successes detailed in the report include:

- Improvements to the safety, reliability, and affordability of transport for women, girls and other marginalised groups, as well as providing a model for other cities to follow, through pilot projects in Mexico.
- Supporting the International Anti-Corruption Coordination Centre (IACCC) to progress major corruption investigations through the Global Anti-Corruption programme.
- Supporting implementation of waste management systems across Indonesia's major ports, developing this industry whilst tackling marine pollution, through the Global Business Environment programme.

The report includes a breakdown of the Prosperity Fund's spend of £126 million in 2018/19 by department and programme, as well as an indication of the ODA spend with each partner country across the lifetime of the Fund. This year, three additional sections include an in-depth look at the programme in Colombia; work in support of action on climate change (SDG 13); and the Fund's approach to gender equality and women's empowerment (SDG 5).

The report shows how programmes are benefitting from the Fund's considerable investment into Monitoring, Reporting, Evaluation and Learning with supporting systems now in operation. In its efforts to improve transparency, the Fund has increased the amount of information available at portfolio and programme level; publishing to the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) registry and on Gov.uk. The Fund has continued to welcome scrutiny, engaging with a range of stakeholders and acting on the recommendations of various review bodies such as the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI).

I am placing a copy of this letter, and a copy of the 2018/19 Prosperity Fund Annual Report in the Libraries of both Houses. This letter has also been copied to the Chair of the Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Oliver Dowden", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP

cc. Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP, Chair, Joint Committee on the National Security Strategy (JCNSS)