

What has the EU done for developing countries?

- The EU's international development budget is £65.4 billion for the period 2014-2020. EU development aid is financed from the EU budget and from the European Development Fund and as a member of the EU the UK has a say on how such funds are spent.
- Collectively, EU Member States are the world's largest providers of ODA - totalling more than half of global aid. A quarter of this is channelled through the Commission - the second largest fund after the US.
- The EU's development aid has transformed millions of lives across the globe, helping connect 70 million people to clean drinking water and enrol over 13.5 million children in primary education. It is essential in saving lives in the world's poorest countries. The EU's global reach is greater than the UK's alone.
- The EU humanitarian aid budget is over £700 million each year and the EU can respond rapidly to disasters such as following the Nepal earthquake in 2015, £2 million was dispatched in under 24 hours to help with emergency shelter and clean water.
- The EU is a top donor to fragile and conflict-affected African States.
- UK Government research suggests some 700,000 lives have been saved in Niger as a result of EU emergency food assistance.
- European Commission data shows that as countries develop economically they become stronger trading partners for the UK and rest of the EU.
- Leaving the EU would repatriate the £1.2 billion of UK aid currently managed by the Commission.
- Under the EU treaties the EU has an obligation to ensure all policies are consistent with the development needs of poor countries.
- The EU aid budget and all aid-funded projects are assessed by the European Court of Auditors.