



*The politics of the results
agenda in DFID
1997-2017*

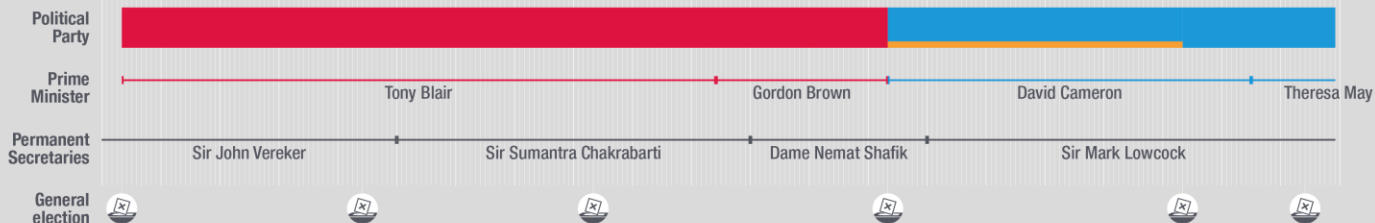
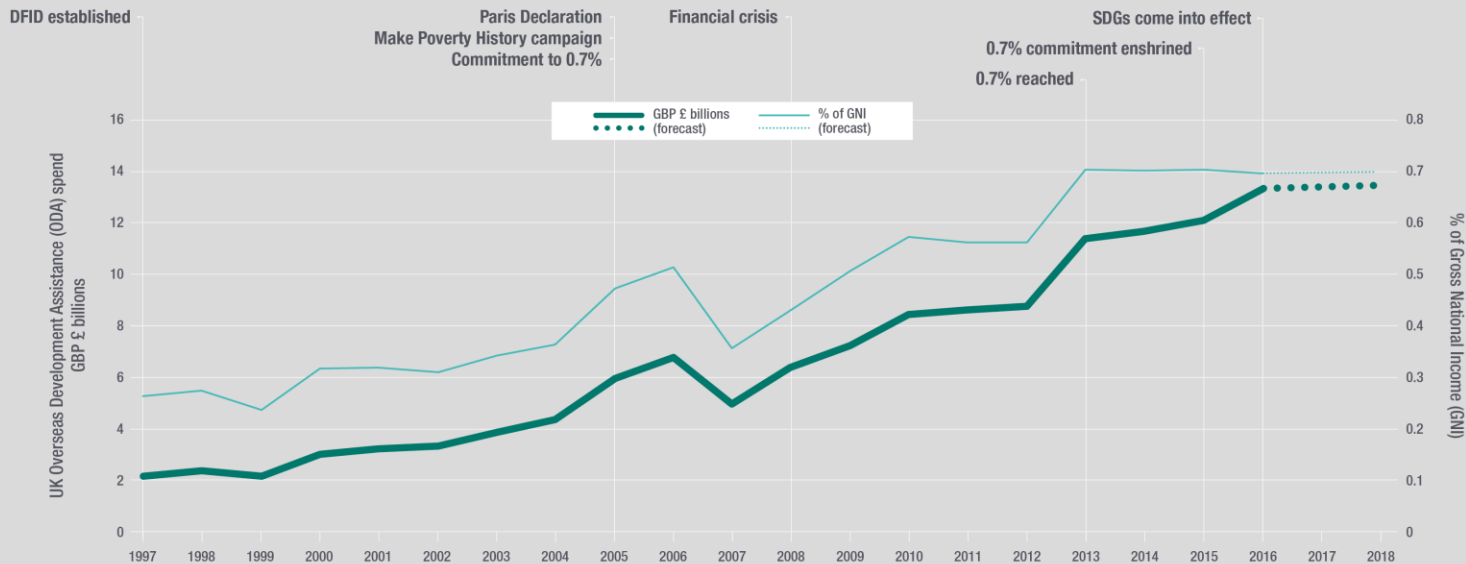
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What is the results agenda and why does it matter?



Two decades of DFID



Four lessons for aid management in the UK

Lessons

1. Major influence of (party) politics on DFID's agenda
2. Role of civil servant career and perspective
3. Clash of central accountability and development effectiveness
4. 0.7% has protected and exposed DFID



The problems for aid management in the UK

Problems

1. Short-term and narrow focus
2. Accountability to taxpayers over poor people abroad
3. Blueprint planning approach



What should DFID (and other donors) do differently?



Managing differently: Three principles

1

Fit the breadth of aid and development ambitions

2

Provide the space for accountability and learning

3

Sensibly compare across programmes and portfolios



Communicating differently: complexity, honesty, modesty



Under Labour in the past, people around the world doing things in development have each year bid for an increase in their budget and everyone gets an extra 3%. I said, ‘We’re not going to do it like that, we’re going to buy results’.

Andrew Mitchell, Secretary of State for International Development, 2012-14, in *Gash and Gold* (2015)



Read more at odi.org/results-agenda-dfid



What next – and beyond aid?



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