

Press release: UK sends emergency aid to people in Mosul

Britain is sending lifesaving aid to help the people of Mosul rebuild their homes, their city and their lives, International Development Secretary Priti Patel announced today.

This follows the declaration of Mosul's liberation after three years of brutal fighting and oppression by Daesh, including executions, abductions and forced marriages. UK aid will provide vital survival items including clean drinking water, food, tents, cooking equipment, soap, and vaccinations against deadly diseases.

The UK will also provide extra funding to a UN led stabilisation programme that has already helped 200,000 Iraqis return to Mosul. This will help displaced people reintegrate into their communities when they return home by contributing to the renovation of essential infrastructure such as water facilities, power networks, clinics and schools.

International Development Secretary Priti Patel said:

Mosul's liberation is a great victory for the people of Iraq who have shown extraordinary bravery, and a great stride forward for global security. However, the horrific actions of Daesh mean the humanitarian situation in Mosul remains very serious.

The UK has been at the forefront of the humanitarian response, and we will continue to stand by the people of Iraq as the painstaking work begins to rebuild homes and infrastructure in Mosul, as well as a lasting peace for the city.

This latest support from Britain will mean the difference between life and death for people who have suffered under Daesh, it will allow people to rebuild their lives in their home city, and it will support the Government of Iraq's efforts to build a stable, secure and prosperous Iraq.

To date UK support has delivered:

- shelter kits and household items to 74,000 people
- healthcare to more than 115,000 people, including a trauma hospital to treat victims of Daesh
- safe drinking water for more than 150,000 people
- sanitation for over 100,000 people in camps

Notes to Editors

Since June 2014, the UK has helped to lead the humanitarian response to the

crisis in Iraq. To date we have provided £209.5 million. Our support has provided access to clean water, food, medicines and other lifesaving assistance.

Today's package is funded by an allocation of £46 million. This includes £40 million for humanitarian assistance from DFID's Iraq budget, £4 million for the UN's Funding Facility for Immediate Stabilisation through the Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) and £2 million for the Danish Refugee Council also through the CSSF.

Of the humanitarian funding, the UK will give £10 million to the Iraq Humanitarian Pooled Fund (IHPF) to provide life-saving support, including medicine, shelter and sanitation. This will in hard to reach areas and support the safety of vulnerable women and children.

There will also be additional funding for the Danish Refugee Council to help communities recover in areas liberated from Daesh.

News story: Stabilisation Unit leads international policing visit to Kosovo

Earlier this year, the Stabilisation Unit (SU) undertook a visit to the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX). A delegation of senior UK police officers joined SU on a four day fact-finding mission, with delegates given a comprehensive overview of what an international deployment looks like and what has been achieved through international policing in Kosovo. The EULEX mission provides crucial support to Kosovo's rule of law institutions and assists Kosovan agencies in key areas such as corruption, organised crime, historical war crimes cases and public order offences.

The delegation received briefings from a number of senior officials including the Head of EULEX Mission, senior Kosovo police, the Kosovan Deputy Prime Minister and the British Ambassador to Kosovo. Delegates learnt about the benefits that international policing had brought to Kosovo and the positive impact it has had. As a result of UK-led assistance, training and expertise, the Kosovo Police were now better prepared, at the strategic and tactical level, to engage in community policing, enabling the police to build stronger relationships with local communities that in turn contributes towards peacekeeping and crime prevention.

Delegates and members of Kosovo Police in Mitrovica, Kosovo

Delegates were also able to hear from deployees to EULEX Kosovo about the benefits international experience offered for UK officers and UK policing: for example an improved understanding of the criminal pipelines for modern slavery and drugs trafficking and how that can contribute to building safer

communities at home as well as abroad. They heard about how engagement in a new and challenging context helped officers develop enhanced community policing skills such as problem solving, communication and engagement. Delegates were also interested in exploring how engagement overseas supports efforts to tackle issues 'upstream' before they reach the UK.

[News story: Spanish state visit 2017](#)

King Felipe and Queen Letizia of Spain are in the UK on the first official Spanish state visit in more than 30 years.

Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain have started their 3-day state visit to the United Kingdom today, 12 July, at the invitation of Her Majesty the Queen.

This will be the first state visit to the UK by King Felipe and Queen Letizia. The last state visit from Spain was by King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia in 1986.

The visit will celebrate the very close royal, historic, cultural and commercial ties between our 2 countries.

Foreign Secretary [Boris Johnson](#) welcomes the King and Queen of Spain to the UK:

[Boris Johnson welcome for the Spanish state visit](#)

The UK and Spain are close allies: partners in NATO, the UN, G7 and G20 among numerous international organisations. We continue to co-operate in the European Union, and once the UK leaves the EU we want to strengthen our strong and constructive UK-Spain bilateral relationship.

The UK and Spain are major business partners. Spain is the 10th largest export market for UK companies, the UK exports more to Spain than India and Brazil combined.

British Ambassador to Spain [Simon Manley](#) talks about the close ties between our 2 countries:

[Simon Manley talks about Spanish state visit](#)

Press release: Businesses to access millions in government export support through partnership with high street banks

Secretary of State for the Department for International Trade, Liam Fox, has today announced that UKEF will partner with five of the UK's biggest banks to deliver government-backed financial support to exporters more quickly and efficiently.

Partnering with Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group, RBS/NatWest and Santander, UKEF will also be able to extend its support to supply chain companies of UK exporters, significantly increasing the number of businesses able to access UKEF-backed trade finance.

As a result, smaller companies that support big UK exporters will be able to secure government-backed financing to deliver products and services and benefit from their clients' international business.

Secretary of State for International Trade, Liam Fox, said:

As an international economic department, this new partnership shows the Department for International Trade's commitment to help small businesses seize the global demand for British exports. Providing easily accessible finance, backed by UKEF's guarantee, will lift a common barrier to exporting. Providing that finance to suppliers as well as exporters means spreading the benefits of global trade, supporting more jobs and growth for companies large and small.

Jeff Longhurst, UK Finance Head of Commercial, added:

The industry is committed to making it easier for UK exporters to access finance and UK Finance has worked closely with lenders and UKEF to make this process simpler. With nearly 70% of international SMEs planning to grow in the next 12 months, today's announcement is a boost for both SMEs and the wider economy, helping support businesses across the country.

Through this new model, banks will be able to provide export-related trade finance, for example working capital loans and bonds required by overseas buyers, to support their SME customers directly, and with UKEF's guarantee in place should it be needed.

At the same time, UKEF will make trade finance support directly available to

direct suppliers supporting UK exporters, in a major enhancement to its existing offer. This will allow thousands of companies in manufacturers' and service providers' supply chains to access contract bonds and working capital loans with the government's guarantee.

All of this is being delivered to banks through a new and secure digital platform to help ensure the quickest response times and most efficient customer experience.

John Mahon, Head of Barclays Corporate Banking, said:

Barclays' partnership with UKEF is an important part of our trade and working capital strategy, and this initiative will allow us to deliver more comprehensive support to our clients. Delegated authority will make accessing UKEF guarantees simpler for many businesses and will help companies we work with grow more quickly. Both exporters and companies involved in international trade through supply chains will benefit, and we look forward to further collaborating with UKEF and our colleagues across the industry to find more new and innovative ways to help UK businesses take full advantage of export opportunities.

Ian Tandy, Head of Global Trade and Receivables Finance at HSBC, added:

HSBC supports many of the UK's SMEs so we welcome any initiatives designed to help our customers. We look forward to working closely with UKEF and continuing to support the UK's hard working, creative and inspiring SMEs.

Steve Everett, Head of Propositions & Product for Lloyds Bank, Global Transaction Banking, added:

In line with our helping Britain prosper commitment, the Government and Lloyds Banking Group are working closely to deliver even more comprehensive and streamlined support for our customers to trade internationally.

Alison Rose, CEO, Commercial and Private Banking at NatWest welcomed the initiative, saying:

We're delighted to continue our partnership with UK Export Finance, working to support businesses that export. As part of our mission to become a simpler bank for our customers, we are committed to making it as easy as possible for all UK businesses to access export finance whenever it is required.

Mike Ellwood, Managing Director, Santander Corporate & Commercial, added:

We want to help businesses prosper and for many, going international will help them do just that. We're passionate about connecting up our five million SME customers around the globe, and enabling them to make the most of the exporting opportunities that exist. SMEs make up the majority of British business, yet four in five of them do not export. We are fully supportive of the objectives of UKEF, specifically the delegation and digital projects which are aimed at making it easier for SMEs to access finance and making that process more efficient.

Since UKEF's trade finance products were launched in 2011, nearly 300 companies have benefited from nearly £500 million in support for several billion pounds worth of overseas contracts. This development follows a partnership agreement between the Department for International Trade and the five banks signed in July 2016.

Notes to editors

1. [UK Export Finance](#) is the UK's export credit agency and a government department, working alongside the Department for International Trade as an integral part of its strategy and operations.
2. It exists to ensure that no viable UK export should fail for want of finance or insurance from the private market. It provides finance and insurance to help exporters win, fulfil and ensure they get paid for export contracts.
3. Sectors in which UKEF has supported exports include: manufacturing, construction, oil and gas, mining and metals, petrochemicals, telecommunications, and transport.
4. UKEF has a regional network of [24 export finance managers](#) supporting export businesses.
5. UKEF supports exporters with a range of products that include:
 - Bond insurance policy
 - Bond support scheme
 - Buyer & supplier credit financing facility
 - Direct lending facility
 - Export insurance policy
 - Export refinancing facility
 - Export working capital scheme
 - Letter of credit guarantee scheme

News story: Government announces further funding to tackle gang related violence

This funding will allow the expansion of local area reviews and targeted support offered as part of the government's ongoing commitment to Ending Gang Violence and Exploitation (EGVE).

Sarah Newton, Minister for Crime, Safeguarding and Vulnerability said:

Gang related violence devastates lives and I am pleased to announce further funding to tackle these appalling crimes.

It's often the young and most vulnerable in our society who become ensnared in gang activity having been preyed upon by gang members.

This government is determined to do all we can to protect them by ending this cycle of exploitation and the crimes that inevitably go alongside it.

The £99,000 funding for 2017/18 was announced by the minister at a government forum held to bring partners – including from the police and key charities – together to tackle the issue of gangs.

It will enable a further 15 local area reviews to be conducted in regions who are experiencing gang related issues to assess their resilience and help address the issues they face.

Once the areas who will be reviewed are selected, an expert team will help local authorities and their partners map gang problems in their area, review how effectively they deal with it, and make recommendations to help improve their response.

Local areas will also be able to benefit from tailored follow on support to help them implement the suggested changes and do more to tackle the issue of gangs. This could include developing multi-agency action plans to tackle county lines, training and support, and help to develop relevant town and city centre safeguarding measures.

The funding will also support several regional strategic reviews to identify a common framework that the police, Police and Crime Commissioners and partners can agree to effectively tackle the damage caused by county lines gangs.

This further funding follows a number of measures taken by the government to

reduce gang activity. This includes an amendment to the [Digital Economy Bill](#) to significantly disrupt drugs gangs by compelling communications providers to disconnect a mobile, SIM card or phone number where it can be proven they are being used in connection with drug offences. This will also protect children and vulnerable people who are being exploited as couriers moving drugs and money between suburban areas, market and coastal towns and their urban hub.

The government has also banned the sale of so-called '[zombie knives](#)' and major retailers have signed up to a voluntary agreement to prevent the underage sale of knives.

This government is committed to providing meaningful alternatives to gangs, such as education, training and employment to end the detrimental impact they have on our society.