

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: DELIVERY OF COMMONWEALTH SUMMIT COMMITMENTS

At CHOGM 2018, Leaders agreed a range of actions to build a Commonwealth that is fairer, more sustainable, more prosperous, and more secure. To support this work, the UK announced over £500 million of programmes and projects under these four themes. An overview of commitments and projects has been placed in the Library of the House and is attached as an appendix to this document. This report provides an update to the Written Ministerial Statement¹ made by the Foreign Secretary on 14 January.

UK Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth

The Government has identified four key priorities for its period as Chair-in-Office:

- Delivery: drive delivery of the commitments made by Leaders at CHOGM;
- Voice: boost the voice of the Commonwealth as an advocate for the Rules Based International System;
- Solidarity: enhance practical solidarity among Commonwealth members;
- Reform: support reform and strengthening of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Bilateral Engagement

Since CHOGM, senior members of the Royal Family, Ministers, and the UK Commonwealth Envoy have conducted official visits to 27 Commonwealth countries: Australia, Bangladesh, Barbados, Brunei, Canada, Fiji, Ghana, Grenada, Kenya, India, Malaysia, Mozambique, Nauru, Nigeria, New Zealand, Pakistan, Rwanda, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines, South Africa, The Gambia, the Uganda, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

The UK has welcomed representatives from several Commonwealth countries, including the Heads of State or Government of Cyprus, Malta, New Zealand and Mauritius, and the Vice President of Bangladesh.

The Government is on track to open nine new diplomatic missions in Commonwealth countries later this year: Antigua and Barbuda, Eswatini, The Bahamas, Grenada, Lesotho, Samoa, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Tonga, and Vanuatu.

Delivery

The Government has continued to work with the three pillars of the Commonwealth – the 52 other member states, the Commonwealth Secretariat, and its organisations and networks – to make progress against commitments made at CHOGM. This work is being supported by over £500 million of UK-funded programmes and projects that are enabling

¹ Written Statement - HCWS1247: <https://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2019-01-14/HCWS1247/>

member states to deliver a future that is fairer, more sustainable, more prosperous and more secure.

Specific examples of delivery have been detailed in **Annex A**.

Reform

The UK has continued to champion Commonwealth reform. As Chair-in-Office, we have played an active role in driving progress towards fulfilling the mandate set by Heads of Government at CHOGM 2018 for Foreign Ministers to decide what action to take in response to the conclusions of the High Level Group (HLG) review of the governance arrangements for the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The HLG submitted its first report (covering roles and responsibilities, funding, and arrangements for the appointment of Secretaries General) in early September 2018. Foreign Ministers discussed it at their meeting in New York later that month. They instructed the Commonwealth Secretariat Board of Governors, of which the UK Commonwealth Envoy is a member, to agree recommendations in the light of that report by 30 November 2018. They also accepted the HLG's proposal to produce a second report by the end of 2018, focused on how the Secretariat works with accredited Commonwealth organisations and other partners.

The Board of Governors, chaired by the High Commissioner of Cyprus, and supported by the Commonwealth Secretariat, undertook thorough, transparent and inclusive processes to agree by consensus recommendations in response to both HLG reports. Those recommendations are designed to make a significant difference to the effective operation of the Commonwealth Secretariat and its collaboration with member states and Commonwealth organisations, thereby helping to ensure the Commonwealth reaches its full potential. The Foreign Secretary circulated the Board's recommendations to Commonwealth Foreign Ministers on 4 April 2019, with a view to agreement by 3 May. A small number of Ministers raised points and questions on 2 and 3 May. We hope that these can be resolved shortly.

After an open recruitment process, the Secretary General has appointed Dr Arjan Suddhoo, from Mauritius, as Deputy Secretary General. There had previously been no Deputy Secretary General for over a year. The Government welcomes this appointment and looks forward to working closely with him.

Solidarity

The UK has continued to support efforts to strengthen cooperation and mutual support between Commonwealth member states in multilateral fora. Since CHOGM, ministers and senior officials have participated in a number of Commonwealth meetings, including:

- World Health Organization, Geneva (*May*)
- UN General Assembly, New York (*September*)
- The Pacific Island Forum, Nauru (*September*)
- World Trade Organization, Geneva (*September, December*)
- Human Rights Council, Geneva (*September, March*)
- World Bank Annual Meeting, Bali (*October*)
- The ITU Conference, Dubai (*November*)
- African Forum for National Trade Facilitation Committees, Addis Ababa (*November*)

- The Blue Economy Conference, Nairobi (*November*)
- The World Education Forum, London (*January*)
- The Commonwealth Litter Programme Conference, Port Vila (*February*)
- The Commonwealth Digital Connectivity Meeting, Durban (*March*)

In the United Nations and associated agencies, the UK has sought to facilitate the sharing of information and best practice. In New York, we have started with South Africa to provide monthly briefings on UN Security Council business for other Commonwealth member states. In Geneva, the UK has convened regular Commonwealth meetings ahead of sessions of the Human Rights Council. New Zealand has also facilitated similar discussions on the World Trade Organization agenda.

More broadly, we have encouraged member states to do more to share and understand priorities in the international arena, including information on candidacies in international elections. Last year, the UK nominated Malcolm Johnson for re-appointment to the International Telecommunications Union. During the ITU meeting in Dubai, Ghana and the UK co-hosted a Commonwealth Ministerial roundtable to share and discuss the candidates many member states were putting forward for various positions across the organisation. This was the first time this had happened and was welcomed by participants.

Voice

The UK has also sought to boost the Commonwealth's voice in international fora. As highlighted in the Foreign Secretary's Written Ministerial Statement on 11 January, the Prime Minister used her address to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018 to speak as Chair-in-Office on behalf of the Heads of Government of 53 Commonwealth countries – a quarter of the UN's membership - to reaffirm their support for the Rules-Based International System. This was the first time the Commonwealth's collective voice had been heard in this way in the UN General Assembly. We are committed to ensuring the Commonwealth is heard more often, more clearly, and more decisively in international fora, and will seek more opportunities for this on global issues such as development and climate change.

Recognising the important role of young people, who make up 60% of the Commonwealth's population, we have also continued our engagement with Commonwealth youth leaders, for example through convening in January 2019 a workshop co-hosted by HRH the Duke of Sussex and Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister for the Commonwealth, to reflect on the lessons from CHOGM 2018. We are following up with the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Government of Rwanda and several Commonwealth organisations.

CHOGM 2020

The UK, as Chair-in-Office, is working closely with the Rwandan Government and the Commonwealth Secretariat to share our experience of hosting a CHOGM. Lord Ahmad discussed the summit with the Rwandan High Commissioner in London and several officials, including the UK Commonwealth Envoy, have visited Kigali in recent months. Rwandan Ministers and officials are enthusiastic and already have preparations well under way, demonstrating their commitment to ensuring a successful CHOGM in June 2020.

Conclusion

The Government is conscious that our time as Chair-in-Office is already at its half way point. We have made good progress against our objectives, but I am not complacent. There is more to do and I will provide a further update to Parliament in the autumn.

A FAIRER FUTURE

Inclusive and Accountable Democracy

At CHOGM, Heads acknowledged that, as globally agreed under Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda, promoting peace, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive national institutions at all levels, is essential for development to flourish.

- Election Observation: The UK has contributed funding to the Commonwealth Secretariat to support their work in conducting electoral observations, and engage with Commonwealth electoral management bodies, to advise on improving democratic processes in Commonwealth countries. Election observation missions have already been conducted in the Maldives, Nigeria, the Solomon Islands, and Zimbabwe. Pre and post-election missions have also been conducted to Malawi and Sierra Leone respectively. A Commonwealth mission is also observing the referendum in Belize on accepting ICJ jurisdiction of the border dispute with Guatemala.
- Democracy: The Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D) is working to promote inclusive and accountable democracy. In November, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and Westminster Foundation for Democracy launched an updated version of Recommended Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures.
- Political Participation: CP4D has hosted several regional events to encourage political participation. In February, a two day conference promoting women's political leadership was hosted by the Malaysian Parliament in Kuala Lumpur. A similar event on youth political participation took place in Uganda in March 2019. The first in a series of workshops with the Commonwealth Association of Public Accounts Committees was held in Fiji in February.

Human Rights

At CHOGM, Leaders emphasised that the full social, economic, and political participation of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, is essential for democracy and sustainable development to thrive.

Equality and Justice Alliance: Using UK funding, the Equality and Justice Alliance (EJA) – a consortium of civil society organisations – is working to create a fairer, more equal and more inclusive Commonwealth for women and girls and the LGBT community.

- Legislative Reform: The EJA is supporting legislative reform through: civil society capacity building; the creation of a cross-Commonwealth network of high-level champions; and offering technical assistance for reform of laws which discriminate against, or fail to protect, women, girls and LGBT individuals. Several countries

have expressed interest in receiving support, and EJA work is already under way in some of them. In February, the Royal Commonwealth Society and Kaleidoscope Trust brought together 31 civil society representatives in Namibia to explore intersectionality among women's rights and LGBT rights organisations. Similar events have been held in the Caribbean and Pacific.

- **Research and Publications:** The EJA has launched its online platform and legal resource knowledge repository. The repository provides government officials, lawyers and activists with an extensive database of more than 425 reports, case studies and toolkits, to support capacity building and information sharing across the Commonwealth. Information can be accessed at: www.equalityandjusticealliance.org

National Human Rights Institutions: The UK is helping Commonwealth member states strengthen their National Human Rights Institutions in line with the Paris Principles.

- The Pacific Commonwealth Equality Project is supporting Pacific islands to set up and improve their National Human Rights Institutions, and providing technical assistance, and funding to countries to participate fully and effectively in the Universal Periodic Review process. Work has begun with Tuvalu, Samoa, and Kiribati, and grants are under consideration for Fiji and Tuvalu.
- The Commonwealth Forum for National Human Rights Institutions (CFNHRI), which aims to build a more effective network of National Human Rights Institutions across the Commonwealth. Using UK funding, CFNHRI has reviewed engagement mechanisms with members, improved these based on member feedback, and developed terms of reference for forum engagement with the membership. The forum has published a compendium of good practice in protecting freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in the context of elections in the Commonwealth.

Disability and Mental Health: The UK is helping to address the stigma around disability in all its forms and manifestations, as well as around mental health, ensuring no one is left behind.

- **Mental Health:** The UK is supporting an expansion of the 'Time to Change' campaign to end mental health discrimination in Commonwealth countries. Time to Change has recruited NGOs and engaged stakeholders in India, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Uganda as well as recruiting a dedicated team to deliver the overall project. Training materials for Mental Health Champions have been developed.
- **Political Inclusion:** The Commonwealth Partnership for Democracy (CP4D) is helping Commonwealth member states to improve the social, political and economic inclusion of persons with disabilities. In Mozambique, CP4D has partnered with FAMOD, Mozambique's forum for disabled people's organizations, to hold consultations on policies which impact on persons with disabilities. In Uganda, a regional youth conference resulted in the Ugandan Parliament vowing to improve access for persons with disabilities.

Multilateral Cooperation: The UK has sought to strengthen cooperation in international organisations and institutions.

- **Small States:** The UK is funding the deployment of two resident human rights advisors in the Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva. This will enable the effective participation of small Commonwealth states in the work of the Geneva-based human rights mechanisms by, for example, helping them to prepare for Universal Periodic Review, remedy treaty reporting backlogs, and implement UPR and broader HRC recommendations.
- **UN Human Rights Council:** As of January 2019, Commonwealth member states account for nearly 30% of the UN Human Rights Council. The UK has sought to increase collaboration by convening regular meetings of Commonwealth Permanent Representatives in Geneva.

Women, Peace and Security

At CHOGM, Heads committed to policies and programmes that mainstream and promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in social, economic, and political life.

- **Mediation:** The UK supports women's participation in conflict mediation through the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth Initiative. This is a network for peer-to-peer learning for women peacebuilders across Commonwealth countries, supporting women to build their capacity through training and mentoring schemes, to secure mediation roles internationally, and build local peace.
- The network has recruited over 30 well-qualified members, against a target of 50 by March 2020. The Women Mediators across the Commonwealth network, together with other regional networks, organised a Regional Women Mediators Network meeting in New York in October. A regional workshop to bring together all newly recruited members of the network was held in Kuala Lumpur in February, and a second took place in Nigeria in March.

Girls Education

At CHOGM, Leaders encouraged specific action to provide the opportunity for at least 12 years of quality education and learning for girls and boys by 2030.

- The Girls' Education Challenge, for which £212m of funding was announced at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM), is supporting up to 1.5 million girls across 17 countries. Eleven of these countries are members of the Commonwealth: Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The projects aim to ensure that, by 2025, up to 837,000 marginalised girls continue to access 12 years of quality education and learning, while also offering a second chance to up to a further 116,000 highly marginalised girls who have dropped out of school or never had the opportunity to learn.

- Political Support: The Platform for Girls' Education comprises 12 influential global figures who are championing the girls' education agenda during the UK's term as Chair-in-Office of the Commonwealth. The Platform co-chaired by the UK and Kenya held its first meeting at the UN General Assembly in September 2018.
- Framing the challenge: An initial framing report assessing the state of girls' education in the Commonwealth was published on 21 January 2019 to coincide with the Education World Forum. The report also sets out priorities for further action. A final report including recommendations will be published early next year.

A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Sustainable Development and Protection of the Ocean

At CHOGM 2018, Leaders adopted the Commonwealth Blue Charter, an agreement to solve ocean-related problems. The UK allocated £66.4 million to support delivery in Commonwealth member states.

Blue Charter: Twelve countries are now leading nine action groups on key issues affecting the world's ocean: aquaculture (Cyprus), blue economy (Kenya), coral reefs (Australia, Belize and Mauritius), mangrove restoration (Sri Lanka), ocean acidification (New Zealand), ocean change and climate change (Fiji), ocean observation (Canada), and marine plastic pollution (UK and Vanuatu). In November, Seychelles announced it would lead a new action group on marine protected areas, which are important for biodiversity conservation as well as for tourism and fishing.

Marine Plastic Pollution: The Commonwealth Clean Ocean Alliance (CCOA), the Blue Charter action group co-chaired by the UK and Vanuatu, now has 25 members: Australia, Antigua and Barbuda, Bangladesh, Belize, Cameroon, Canada, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, New Zealand, Rwanda, Samoa, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, St Lucia, Tonga, Uganda, UK, Vanuatu, and Zambia.

- Domestic Action: Members of CCOA have committed to reducing the use of single use plastic bags by 2021, implementing a ban on microbeads in rinse-off cosmetic products by 2021, and/or taking steps to eliminate avoidable single use plastics. Many member states have already taken action in these areas and are committed to going further.
 - For example, when joining CCOA in September 2018, Mauritius committed to a significant reduction in the number of single use plastic bags by 2021, and is seeking to eliminate all avoidable single use plastic waste, promoting the use of biodegradable alternatives.
 - Belize, which joined CCOA in November 2018, is one of the most recent countries to ban a range of single-use plastics and styrofoam. The ban took effect on 22 April to coincide with Earth Day.
- Ministerial Cooperation: The Alliance held its first Ministerial Level meeting, chaired by Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon, in November alongside the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi.
- Technical Assistance: Responding to a high level of interest from member states, the UK doubled funding available through a Technical Assistance Facility. Up to £10m is now available to support action in ODA-eligible CCOA members.
- The Marine Plastics Research and Innovation Framework is being led by BEIS and will support researchers and innovators to address marine plastics from a scientific, technical and social perspective. The UK's contribution to the Framework is £25m, which will consist of a mix of allocated and unallocated money (ODA and non-ODA).

- Waste Management: The UK increased its funding for the Waste Pilots programme from £3m up to £6m. Projects have commenced in Bangladesh, Ghana and Uganda to design, establish and implement early action on the reduction of plastic waste. The project is now exploring the possibility of using recycled plastics in the textiles industry.
- Litter: The Commonwealth Litter Programme has completed the first phase of work in the Pacific region. Dr Thérèse Coffey MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at DEFRA, attended a conference of regional leaders in February at which Marine Litter Action Plans were adopted by Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. The programme now aims to expand to Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.
- Youth Action: In August 2018, the Prime Minister announced a partnership between the UK and the UN Environment Programme, which will help an estimated 100,000 young people become leaders on tackling plastic pollution and sharing this knowledge with their peers. High levels of interest have meant that the programme has been expanded to India, in addition to Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Blue Economy: The Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme is helping 17 Small Island Developing States (SIDS) sustainably develop and protect their marine environments.

- Marine Economy Plans: Eight Commonwealth SIDS have agreed to work with the UK to develop national Maritime Economy Plans: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Fiji, Grenada, Guyana, Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Tuvalu.
- Capacity Building: Member state capacity is being enhanced with the support of UK agencies such as the National Oceanographic Centre, the Centre for Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), and the UK Hydrographic Organisation (UKHO). In April 2019 Antigua and Barbuda became the first Caribbean nation to have its own seabed mapping capability and hydrographic office.

Tackling the Effects of Climate Change

At CHOGM, Heads of Government reaffirmed their commitments under the Paris Agreement to pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

- Nationally Determined Contributions: Ten countries have now submitted their eligibility requirements to the Regional Pacific Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Hub in Fiji. The centre has been established in partnership with Australia, Germany and New Zealand, to assist Pacific Island Countries implement national climate change policies and frameworks in response to the 2015 Paris Agreement.

- **Disaster Recovery:** Four Caribbean countries – Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, and St Lucia – are receiving support to prepare detailed disaster risk profiles to aid efforts to increase their resilience to natural disasters. The work builds on existing support from the World Bank and is expected to be extended across the region over the next year.
- **Emission Reduction:** Following a scoping mission in March 2019, Malaysia has confirmed interest in partnering with the UK to develop an emissions calculator. The calculator is an open source energy and emissions tool developed by the UK. It allows countries to explore and develop strategies to reduce greenhouse emissions.

Economic Inclusion and Sustainable Development

At CHOGM, Leaders committed to promote gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in social, economic and political life. The UK has partnered with the Groupe Spéciale Mobile Association (GSMA) to address the disparities between genders when it comes to digital inclusion.

- **Digital Identity:** The project has published reports on the gender identity gap in four Commonwealth countries (Malawi, Sri Lanka, Uganda, and Zambia). Field research has also been conducted in Bangladesh, Nigeria and Rwanda to explore the incentives, challenges, preferences, and benefits which individuals – especially women – encounter or experience when engaging with identity systems and digital identity services. The programme is currently designing a course to present to Governments how they can use digital identity in their country.
- **Access to Finance:** The GSMA is also developing an economic identity service with DoctHERS and Telenor Pakistan to improve access to financial services for female garment workers in Karachi's manufacturing sector.

Global Health

At CHOGM, Heads of Government emphasised their support for the work of the World Health Organization and international efforts to tackle the wide range of serious health challenges across the Commonwealth.

Malaria: The UK is helping to meet the Commonwealth's commitment to halve malaria cases and deaths by 2023. Between 2017 and 2019, the UK contributed £1.2bn to The Global Fund, a partnership organisation between governments, civil society and the private sector which operates in 24 Commonwealth countries. Many individual Commonwealth countries are taking action. For example:

- **Eswatini:** The government has announced the formation of a new National Malaria Fund, building on their pledge at the Malaria Summit to mobilise more domestic and private sector resources to support malaria elimination efforts.

- Mozambique: Building on a commitment made at the Malaria Summit in London, the President of Mozambique convened a national forum on malaria in June. Mozambique also hosted the launch of the World Malaria Report and the launch of the High Burden: High Impact initiative in November.
- Rwanda: After co-hosting the Malaria Summit during CHOGM, President Kagame continued to champion the issue as Chairperson of the African Union. In February, the President underlined the importance of domestic spending in the health sector to achieve national goals, supported by governments and by the private sector.
- United Kingdom: At a Malaria No More event in November 2018, the Government announced £27m of support to Unitaid. This will fund the development of a mosquito spatial repellent, to be tested in Kenya, Sri Lanka and Uganda; and a human and livestock tablet which kills mosquitos feeding on animals to be tested in Mozambique and Tanzania.

Quality Eye Care and Trachoma: Leaders also committed to achieving access to quality eye care for all, with a focus on eliminating blinding trachoma across the Commonwealth by 2020. The UK is supporting this work through a £20m programme operating in ten Commonwealth countries.

- Capacity Building: Member states continue to work towards the elimination of Trachoma. In Nigeria, Pakistan and Tanzania surgeons are being trained to deliver surgeries which prevent blindness and drugs to treat and prevent trachoma. Surveying is also underway in those three countries, Kenya, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, to identify where the disease is prevalent.
- Elimination: Malawi and Mozambique are on track to eliminate blinding trachoma this year. They have been supported by £50 million (2013-19) of matched UK government funding to the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Trust.
- Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs): Botswana has been commended for its leadership and commitment to address treatment gaps in NTDs. In February, the Government of Botswana announced its intention to mobilise domestic resources for the prevention of NTDs, including trachoma.
- Diabetes: In 2018, UK support to Commonwealth countries enabled the screening of over 14,000 people with diabetes for diabetic retinopathy. UK support also contributed towards four countries (Bangladesh, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu) adopting national health strategies which include diabetic eye health.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC): The UK has continued to engage in efforts to enable UHC across the Commonwealth.

- Health Regulation: In May 2018, the then Secretary of State for Health and Social Care attended the Commonwealth Health Ministers Meeting in Geneva and led discussions on the implementation of International Health Regulations (IHR). The

UK is now supporting 14 Commonwealth countries on IHR compliance – Bangladesh, Cameroon, Canada, The Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Sierra Leone.

- Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR): In September 2018, the Department for Health and Social Care launched the Commonwealth Partnership for Antimicrobial Stewardship. The project aims to develop cooperation between NHS trusts and UK health institutions and their counterparts in four Commonwealth countries. Twelve projects have now been identified across Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

A MORE SECURE FUTURE

Cyber security

At CHOGM, leaders recognised the need to work together to enhance cyber security. Heads adopted the Commonwealth Cyber Declaration and agreed to undertake national cyber capacity reviews by 2020. UK-funded training and events will directly benefit the cyber security of 37 Commonwealth countries.

- **National Cyber Capacity Reviews**: Since CHOGM, capacity reviews have taken place in four countries with UK support: The Gambia, Mauritius, Nigeria, and Lesotho. Twenty-eight countries have now conducted reviews, with a further 16 scheduled or already underway with UK support.
- **Public Private Partnerships**: The UK-funded Commonwealth Cyber Security Programme has partnerships with Microsoft, Citi and Templar Executives, who are providing benefit-in-kind support to Commonwealth member states, including training and mentoring, promoting international standards, developing information sharing networks, and running public awareness campaigns.
- **Cyber Security Incident Response**: Following the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation with Singapore at CHOGM, the UK and Singapore have launched a co-funded, pan-Commonwealth project to build the foundations of an effective national cyber security response and promote international standards. All Commonwealth countries will be invited to a regional workshop with a final workshop in London at the end of the year bringing together all regional participants. The first regional workshop was held in March 2019 in Ghana. 16 African Commonwealth countries attended. The Caribbean regional workshop will take place in St Lucia in the last week of May.
- **Critical National Infrastructure**: In December, the UK delivered a workshop in Botswana for nine African Commonwealth Countries to build capacity in critical information infrastructure protection.
- **African Cyber Security Fellowship Network**: The UK has supported the establishment of an African cyber security fellowship network with eight Commonwealth countries (Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, and Uganda) to share expertise and develop project ideas. Membership set to increase this year.
- **Cybercrime**: The UK provided training in March for judges, prosecutors, investigators and officials from Caribbean Commonwealth countries in electronic evidence and cyber crime prosecution techniques. We also funded a series of regional workshops to build a Commonwealth electronic evidence sharing network to strengthen justice, rule of law, and cross-border cooperation.

Modern slavery

At CHOGM, leaders called for effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour by 2025.

- **Legislative Reform**: With UK funding, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association UK Branch has helped Commonwealth countries improve legislation relating to human trafficking. In Nigeria and Uganda, support to parliamentarians led to the introduction of amendments to strengthen legislation on human trafficking. Malawi has also established a budget for its victim support fund.
- **Legislative Drafting**: In March 40 Commonwealth parliamentarians and clerks from Africa and Asia attended a legislative drafting seminar in the UK Parliament to receive support in tackling modern slavery. These seminars empower parliamentarians to advocate against this crime, support the design of modern slavery legislation and strengthen oversight of efforts to combat modern slavery through effective parliamentary committees.

Prevention of Online Child Sexual Exploitation

At CHOGM, leaders agreed to take action to end child exploitation including through joining relevant international bodies and initiatives.

- **Capacity Building**: The UK-funded Online Child Sexual Exploitation project (OCSE) delivered by PEaCE (Protecting Environment and Children Everywhere) Sri Lanka supports victims and builds partner capacity to tackle online child sexual exploitation.
- **Public Awareness**: The OCSE public awareness campaign has reached over 40,000 people in Sri Lanka. This includes 20 awareness programmes in 14 districts educating parents on OCSE; 15 one-day awareness programs for district council members and school children in 14 districts; and 30 debates between 60 schools.
- **Civil Society Cooperation**: PeACE Sri Lanka is building a coalition tackling to end online child sexual exploitation of children through cooperation among civil society organisations. Nearly 20 organisations have signed up to the coalition so far. This work is helping to deliver a more secure future by increasing awareness and implementing better protection mechanisms against the crimes of sexual exploitation of children.

Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)

With UK funding, the Commonwealth Secretariat's CVE Unit has continued to build member state capacity to prevent and counter violent extremism, primarily in Cameroon, Tanzania, and Trinidad and Tobago. Examples of activity include:

- **Faith in the Commonwealth**: This project aims to promote peace and development across Commonwealth member states. In May, the CVE Unit partnered with the

Khalili Foundation to host a training workshop for 30 young leaders from Bangladesh. The project aimed to share best practice on promoting tolerance, respect and understanding of others' beliefs and world views.

- Education: The CVE Unit has partnered with Hedayah to run a series of activities in South and South-East Asia, focussing on building the capacity of educators to prevent violent extremism in the classroom. In September 2018, the Unit hosted a regional workshop in Kuala Lumpur for representatives from Malaysia, Singapore, Maldives, Indonesia and the Philippines.
- Counter-Narratives: In July, the CVE Unit partnered with Facebook to host two social media influence masterclasses for Muslim and Youth NGOs which were willing to be involved in creating campaigns to promote a positive view of life in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Preventing Terrorist Use of the Internet (PTUI): The CVE Unit has delivered two workshops with the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation to increase awareness of efforts to prevent terrorist use of the internet and highlight the role of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism in facilitating cooperation among the tech industry and with government partners.

A MORE PROSPEROUS FUTURE

At CHOGM, leaders underlined the importance of resisting all forms of protectionism and reaffirmed their commitment to free trade in a transparent, inclusive, fair, and open rules-based multilateral trading system.

Trade and Investment

Connectivity Agenda: With the goal of expanding investment and boosting intra-Commonwealth trade to US\$2 trillion by 2030, Leaders adopted a Declaration on the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda for Trade and Investment.

- In June 2018, the UK chaired the first Senior Trade Officials Meeting to agree the framework for implementation of the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda for Trade and Investment.
- Six member states are now leading cooperation on five areas of connectivity highlighted in the declaration: Physical Connectivity (The Gambia); Digital Connectivity (UK and South Africa); Regulatory Connectivity (Barbados); Business to Business Connectivity (Bangladesh); and Supply-Side Connectivity (Vanuatu).
- Digital Connectivity: In March 2019, the UK and South Africa co-hosted the first meeting of the Digital Connectivity cluster in Durban. The meeting brought together 17 member states to exchange best practice approaches and experiences of digitisation in order to create an enabling environment for digital trade and pioneer new initiatives which promote inclusive growth, development, and gender equality across the Commonwealth.

Trade Facilitation: The UK-funded Commonwealth Trade Facilitation Programme is helping member states implement the World Trade Organization Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). The programme aims to help member states adopt faster and more efficient customs procedures that will in turn reduce the cost of doing business and create a more enabling environment for intra-Commonwealth Trade.

- Implementation Plans: Tailor-made implementation plans have been developed or are in the process of being developed for seven Commonwealth countries: Eswatini, Tonga, Sierra Leone, Zambia, Belize, Malawi and Lesotho.
- Capacity Building: The programme has increased the capacity and capability of customs organisations in 18 Commonwealth countries across Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific.
 - In Eswatini, the programme has conducted a post-clearance audit, and delivered workshops aimed at creating more efficient and cost effective customs clearance systems at the border;
 - In Tonga and Zambia, Time Release Studies (TRS) of customs clearance processes have identified possible areas for systematic efficiencies;

- In Sierra Leone, advanced training has enabled customs officials to identify more accurately the customs value and corresponding rate of duty to be paid on imported goods; and
- In Malawi, workshops have helped improve the recording of information related to different categories of goods to enable the correct collection of customs duties.

International Standards: With UK support, the British Standards Institute (BSI) has developed the Commonwealth Standards Network. The network creates a mechanism for cross-Commonwealth coordination and knowledge sharing by national standards bodies to promote uptake and implementation of international standards, and capacity to influence the development of standards, in areas which will propel intra-Commonwealth trade and growth.

- Commonwealth Standards Network: Launched in Geneva on 26 September 2018, the Network now has 42 members - the largest grouping on international standards outside the International Standards Organisation.
- Technical Assistance: The programme is delivering in-depth technical assistance programmes to improve standards-related institutional capacity in five member states: Papua New Guinea, St Lucia, Uganda, Vanuatu, and Zambia.
- Capacity Building: The first Standards training session in Ghana attracted over 40 participants each day from the Ghana National Standards Body, industry, and government departments.

Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth

At CHOGM, leaders resolved to address systemic barriers to women's full and equal participation in the economy by taking a gender-responsive approach to the development of trade policy and to promote women's economic empowerment. Heads also stressed the importance of creating meaningful employment opportunities for the Commonwealth's growing youth populations.

Women's Economic Empowerment: The UK has partnered with the International Trade Centre to deliver SheTrades Commonwealth. The programme aims to increase economic growth and job creation in Commonwealth countries by enabling the increased participation of women-owned business in international trade.

- SheTrades Commonwealth launch: The programme has been launched in Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya, and Nigeria. Over 2,700 women entrepreneurs had registered with the initiative by the end of March 2019.
- Capacity Building: SheTrades Commonwealth has now supported over 1,100 women-owned companies at capacity building and training events. Over 140 of those companies have subsequently reported £12.4 million worth of export leads and the programme is on track to generate £28 million worth of export leads over 2 years. For example:

- Sakami Coffee – a Kenyan-based coffee supplier – was able to exhibit at the Coffee, Tea and Cocoa Global Industry Expo (COTECA). Sakami Coffee successfully diversified their business and client network and attendance at COTECA resulted in a buyer purchasing the company's entire annual coffee supply on the first day of the fair.
- Belo Luxury Travel, based in Kenya, has benefitted from financial and capacity-building support for trade fairs, and online business development training. The business has considerably increased the services they offer, whilst also increasing their workforce five-fold.
- **Trade Policy:** The UK is also supporting the development of the 'SheTrades Outlook', an innovative policy tool which provides governments with quantifiable, measurable, and comparable indicators on trade and gender. The tool will enable the development of gender-responsive trade policies which benefit millions of women entrepreneurs across the Commonwealth. The first multi-stakeholder consultative meeting on the SheTrades Outlook took place in January 2019 in Kuala Lumpur.

Youth Employment: The UK is helping to create meaningful employment opportunities for the Commonwealth's growing youth population.

- **Skills:** 'I-Work' is a collaborative project run by the British Council. It aims to work with education institutions in India, Malaysia, Ghana and South Africa to pilot new employer-led skills development. Partner institutions have been recruited in the four pilot countries to begin testing new approaches, such as apprenticeships for disadvantaged youth.

Access to finance

Financial Regulation: The government has partnered with the Bank of England to established technical assistance partnerships with Commonwealth central banks, sharing expertise across a range of central bank functions to improve regulation and supervision of financial sectors and mitigate the risk and severity of financial crises.

- The Bank of England has conducted an 18-month pilot in three Commonwealth countries: Ghana, Sierra Leone, and South Africa. Topics covered include banking resolution, crisis communication, market operations and insurance supervision.

Local Currency Financing: In partnership with the London Stock Exchange, the UK is supporting the ability of countries to raise finance in local currencies. The initiative will enable developing countries to invest in growth without creating vulnerability to exchange rate fluctuation.

- **Local Currency Bonds:** In November 2018, the first Ghanaian Cedi-denominated bond was listed on the London Stock Exchange. This was achieved via a UK-supported guarantee facility.

Financial Risk: The UK and Canadian Governments are implementing a project with the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF), which will support the Caribbean to regulate more effectively, and supervise, both its financial and non-financial businesses. By working together to reduce financial crime risk in the Caribbean, we are seeking to address the root cause of de-risking, which remains an issue of major concern for many Caribbean member states,

Digital Finance: In September, the UK and Ghana launched the Commonwealth-led Digital Finance Champions Group, which seeks to galvanise global momentum toward an inclusive and secure digital finance agenda. The Group offers a unique opportunity to create a partnership among countries committed to, and undergoing, a digital finance transformation, and provides an effective forum to share lessons quickly and inclusively.

Scholarships

The Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) is the overarching agreement under which Commonwealth governments offer scholarship opportunities to citizens of the other nations, and celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2019. The UK Government contributes to the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan in two ways:

First, the UK Government funds scholarships and fellowships to Commonwealth citizens for postgraduate study and professional development in the UK through the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC), housed at the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU).

- The CSC expects to deliver some 2,250 new awards over the three-year period starting from April 2018, predominantly in low and lower middle income countries, with an increasing focus on development and on access and inclusion.
- Over 740 new awards in the 2018/19 intake have already commenced their studies. This includes 8 special awards to Gambian students on the re-accession of The Gambia to the Commonwealth.
- At the 2018 Global Disability Summit the CSC signed the Charter for Change and as part of its commitment allocated an increase of 20 scholarships in 2019/20 for people with disabilities and in subject areas related to the rights of people with disabilities.
- After studying, students return to their home countries usually as leaders in their professional fields or in governmental or parliamentary roles.

Second, at CHOGM, the UK also made a £5m investment to support the expansion of the Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarships (QECS) scheme, as announced by the Duke of Sussex. The QECS scheme supports Commonwealth citizens to undertake Master's degrees in Low and Middle Income Countries, contributing to SDG4b (substantial expansion of higher education scholarships available to developing countries). The QECS Scheme is underpinned by an Endowment Fund, funded by several Commonwealth governments, and managed by the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU).

- The ACU and DfE have been working to raise the profile of the scheme and encourage other Commonwealth governments to contribute to the Endowment Fund, to ensure that the number of scholarships on offer continues to increase.

- The ACU has subsequently secured a donation from the Fijian government, the first Pacific island nation to contribute, and verbal commitments have been received from elsewhere in the Commonwealth.
- At least 18 low and middle income Commonwealth countries will have the opportunity to host QECS scholars in 2019/20.
- The first application round since the expansion of the QECS scheme was launched in December 2018 and has attracted more applications from potential scholars than the previous two application rounds combined. 18 QECS scholars have been selected to begin their study in Summer 2019, and a further 10 awards are currently being advertised for study commencing in January 2020.

OVERVIEW OF OUTCOMES FROM CHOGM 2018

COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE	PARAGRAPH	THEME	SUB-THEME
Emphasised that the full social, economic, and political participation of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status, is essential for democracy and sustainable development to thrive.	2	Fairness	Democracy
Heads committed to ratifying and implementing the Convention on the elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).	3	Fairness	Women and Girls
Heads agreed to mainstream youth priorities into national development policies and plans, and to promote the participation of young people at all levels of decision making.	5	Fairness	Youth
Heads agreed to address the stigma around disability in all its forms and manifestations, as well as around mental health.	6	Fairness	Human Rights
Encourage all member countries to ratify and implement the UN Convention on the Rights of persons with disabilities.	6	Fairness	Human Rights
Encouraged member countries to prioritise access to ICT for all in their national development plans.	7	Prosperity	Economic Development
Providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable and inclusive national institutions are essential for development to flourish.	8	Fairness	Democracy
Heads encouraged the strengthening of National Human Rights Institutions in line with the Paris Principles.	12	Fairness	Human Rights
Sharing human rights best practice and expertise across the Commonwealth.	12	Fairness	Human Rights

Agreed to support National Human Rights Institutions and the Universal Periodic Review Process.	12	Fairness	Human Rights
Commitment to the Commonwealth (Latimer House) Principles.	13		
Address global challenges of poverty, inequality, discrimination, and underdevelopment and to promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts globally in centenary year of birth of Nelson Mandela.	14	Fairness	Human Rights
Called for active involvement in the lead up to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly, and Regular Migration, and for active involvement in the lead up to the Global Compact on Refugees.	15	Fairness	Migration
Underlined the importance of resisting all forms of protectionism.	16	Prosperity	Trade
Reaffirmed commitment to free trade in a transparent, inclusive, fair, and open rules-based multilateral trading system.	16	Prosperity	Trade
All Commonwealth WTO members agreed to ratify and work towards timely implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and agreed to consider providing programmes of capacity building and other targeted interventions in developing countries.	16	Prosperity	Trade
Agreed to share best practices and experiences and undertake voluntary mutual support to enable member countries to realise their full economic potential and deliver prosperity for all their people.	17	Prosperity	Trade
Agreed to work together towards an appropriate framework and to facilitate business-to-business contacts.	17	Prosperity	Trade and Investment
Resolved to address systemic barriers to women's full and equal participation in the economy.	18	Prosperity	Women and Girls

Encouraged Commonwealth and partner organisations to work towards an increase in the number and enhancement of the success rate of women-owned businesses.	18	Prosperity	Women and Girls
Importance of creating meaningful employment opportunities for the Commonwealth's growing youth populations.	19	Prosperity	Youth
Emphasised that improved access to reliable and affordable energy will create an enabling investment environment for successful industrialisation.	19	Sustainability	Climate Change and Resilience
Called for large scale public and private investments and better coordinated strategies by international financial institutions in sectors that underpin growth and increase employment.	19	Prosperity	Economic Development
Recognised that concerted action is required to address the unique challenges and vulnerabilities of small and vulnerable states.	20	Sustainability	Small States
Urged further action in addressing these challenges, including issues of unsustainable debt, limited access to development financing and other threats posed to their socioeconomic development.	20	Prosperity	Economic Development / Resilience
Encouraged support for Commonwealth Small States Centre of Excellence and the Commonwealth Small States Trade Financing Facility.	22	Prosperity	Women and Girls
Called for sustained international, regional and national efforts to identify effective solutions to combat 'de-risking'.	23	Prosperity	Economic Resilience
Renewed commitment under the Paris Agreement.	24	Sustainability	Climate Change and Resilience
Consider ratifying and implementing the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol and the Doha Amendment for parties to the Kyoto Protocol.	24	Sustainability	Climate Change and Resilience

Affirmed the Commonwealth's strength in sharing experience and expertise on the links between oceans, wellbeing, and prosperity of the people of the Commonwealth.	28	Sustainability	Oceans
Climate Change (including sea level rise and acidification), biodiversity, overfishing, and plastic pollution as some of the most significant pressures on the ocean, and called for ambitious, coordinated global action.	28	Sustainability	Oceans
Adopted the Commonwealth Blue Charter, setting out principles by which Commonwealth member countries will lead international efforts by sustainably developing and protecting their ocean.	29	Sustainability	Oceans
Committed to take action to safeguard the ocean for future generations. Heads agreed to establish Action Groups on ocean issues led by Commonwealth member countries, which will collaborate with partners at national, regional, and international levels.	29	Sustainability	Oceans
Agreed to share best practice in effectively developing, governing and managing natural resources on the basis of sustainability, equity, transparency, good governance, and wealth creation.	30	Fairness	Transparency
Encouraged cooperation among member countries, and partnering with relevant organisations on how to transition to clean forms of energy to promote sustainable economic growth	31	Sustainability	Climate Change and Resilience
Encouraged member countries to participate in Queen's Commonwealth Canopy.	31	Sustainability	
Reiterated commitment to achieving health-related goals of the 2030 agenda, particularly Goal 3.	32	Sustainability	Global Health

Agreed to achieve compliance with International Health Regulations, accelerate Universal Health Coverage, including through sustainable financing, strengthening health systems and integrated services which promote prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and palliative care.	32	Sustainability	Global Health
Called for coordinated global action to address the problem, including through the One Health approach.	32	Sustainability	Global Health
Committed to halve malaria across the Commonwealth by 2023	33	Sustainability	Global Health
Committed to take action towards achieving access to quality eye care for all, including eliminating blinding trachoma by 2020.	33	Sustainability	Global Health
Encouraged the implementation of specific actions to provide the opportunity for at least 12 years of quality education and learning for girls and boys by 2030, by investing in skilled motivated and supportive teachers, educational facilitates, and focusing on education reforms.	34	Fairness	Women and Girls
Agreed to support marginalised groups, especially disadvantaged girls, children with disabilities, and those who have dropped out of school to progress through secondary education and training through appropriate policies, advocacy and strategic partnerships.	34	Fairness	Human Rights
Committed to work with Commonwealth sports bodies to maximise this positive impact, and take collective action to promote good governance, address Corruption, protect the integrity of sport, and promote human rights through sport.	35	Prosperity	Sport and Human Rights
Adopted a Commonwealth Cyber Declaration that reflects Commonwealth values, and sets out a common commitment to an open, democratic, peaceful, and secure internet, respecting human rights and freedom of expression.	36	Security	Cyber

Opposed the use of chemical weapons under any circumstances, and committed to strengthen the effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons convention. Reiterated commitment to strengthening disarmament and non-proliferation regime against the spread and use of chemical weapons.	37	Security	Serious and Organised Crime
Underlined importance of timely investigations and stressed that the conduct of all investigations of all alleged use of chemical weapons must be in accordance with the provisions of the convention.	37	Security	Serious and Organised Crime
Condemned violent extremism in all its forms, and expressed their continued support of the UN SG's plan of action to prevent violent extremism, and welcomed the commemoration of 2019 as the International Year of Moderation.	38	Security	Serious and Organised Crime
Encouraged member countries to actively share expertise and best practice, to work cooperatively with the Secretariat's Countering Violent Extremism Unit.	38	Security	Countering Violent Extremism
Encouraged active involvement in finding solutions to the challenges associated with the phenomenon of violent extremism.	38	Security	Countering Violent Extremism
Called for effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery, and human trafficking, and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour in all its forms by 2025, including the unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers.	39	Security	Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
Encouraged to endorse the 'Call to Action to End Forced Labour, Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking' presented at the 72nd meeting of UNGA. Encouraged ratification and implementation of relevant outstanding international agreements, and to develop appropriate national strategies in this regard.	39	Security	Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery
Agreed to take action to end child sexual exploitation online including through joining relevant international bodies and initiatives.	39	Security	Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

Resolved to tackle enablers of Serious and Transnational Organised Crime by cooperating with international and regional bodies.	40	Security	Serious and Organised Crime
Encouraged cooperation among member countries' law enforcement and prosecution bodies; strengthening cooperation with the private sector; supporting the Commonwealth Network of Contact Persons; and adopting and implementing recommendations of the Financial Action Taskforce to strengthen anti-money laundering and counter terrorist financing regulations. Scale up international cooperation by advancing the exchange of information which will enable domestic resource mobilisation.	40	Security	Serious and Organised Crime
Denounced illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; encouraged countries to become State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, the UN Firearms Protocol, and the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.	41	Security	Serious and Organised Crime
Agreed to strengthen cooperation in combating illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, including taking further steps to fully participate in relevant international initiatives and to continue to collaborate and exchange information, where agreed, through INTERPOL and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.	41	Security	Serious and Organised Crime
Agreed to enhance cooperation and share holistic approaches to address the root causes of urban crime.	42	Security	Serious and Organised Crime
Endorsed the principles and actions of UNSC Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security. They urged member countries to consider support for youth-led mechanisms that enable the meaningful participation of young people in peace building and social cohesion processes in their communities.	43	Security	Youth
Foreign Ministers to decide what action to take on Commonwealth Reform at CFAMM meeting at UNGA.	44	Institutions	Reform of the Secretariat
Heads conveyed support for continued international efforts to mobilise assistance in response to the expressed needs of countries and territories who suffered catastrophic damage as a result of hurricanes.	51	Sustainability	Vulnerability and Resilience

OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS ANNOUNCED BY THE UK IN SUPPORT OF THE OUTCOMES FROM CHOGM 2018

PROJECT	SUB-THEME	COMMUNIQUE PARAGRAPH
Prosperity		
Additional funding for the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission	Economic Empowerment, Youth	5, 19
Support for the Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan (CSFP) through the creation of a new fund to increase the number of awards.	Economic Empowerment, Youth	5, 19
Technical assistance to improve Commonwealth Governments' and Business access to finance .	Economic Development	16, 17, 20
Enhancing Commonwealth central bank capacity to regulate and supervise financial systems in developing countries.	Economic Development	17, 19, 20
Developing a Commonwealth 'SheTrades' Programme to promote the increased participation of women-owned business in trade.	Economic Empowerment, Women & Girls	3, 18
Creating a Commonwealth Standards Network to increase collaboration between Commonwealth national standards bodies, and so facilitate intra-Commonwealth trade and investment.	Trade Facilitation	16, 17
Supporting the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement through the World Customs Organisation, creating more efficient customs procedures and facilitating more intra-Commonwealth trade.	Trade Facilitation	16,17
Promoting greater inclusion of the world's poorest into the digital economy through a three year digital access programme in three African Member States	Economic Development	17, 36
Creating a Commonwealth Digital Finance Champion's Group to enhance member state cooperation on the inclusive digital finance agenda.	Economic Development	17, 36

Security		
Support for a cadre of experts on Countering Violent Extremism to strengthen national strategies in the Commonwealth.	Countering Violent Extremism	38
Enhancing Cyber Security across the Commonwealth by identifying vulnerability and gaps in capacity, and providing support to member states to address them.	Cyber	36
Cyber Security Capacity Building in three countries to help build specific country domestic capabilities and foster greater cooperation in South Asia.	Cyber	36
Support for legislative reform, law enforcement training, and data collection regarding child labour .	Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery	39
Supporting member countries to develop national strategies on modern slavery and human trafficking through legislative reform and technical assistance on criminal justice.	Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery	39
Building member state capacity to tackle online child sexual exploitation with the WePROTECT model for national response.	Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery	39
Tackling illicit flow of arms by providing tools to strengthen cooperation, coordination and information-sharing between member countries.	Serious and Organised Crime	41
Sustainability		
Pacific Facility for Resilient Low Carbon Transition: establishing a hub of technical excellence to help Commonwealth Pacific Island states develop and implement plans to reduce their carbon footprint and build resilience to climate change.	Climate Change and Resilience	19, 20, 24
Development of Energy and Emissions Calculators in five Commonwealth Countries, technology that helps countries develop strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	Climate Change and Resilience	24
Strengthening Small Island and Developing States preparedness and financial resilience to disasters , with a focus on the Caribbean.	Climate Change and Resilience	20, 21, 27

Satellite Enablement for Disaster Risk Reduction in Kenya	Climate Change and Resilience	27
Eliminating blinding trachoma in the Commonwealth by 2020.	Global Health	32, 33
Development of Triple Artemisinin Combination (TACTs) therapies for malaria.	Global Health	32, 33
Enabling Commonwealth Marine Economies: programme to gather data and develop plans to help Commonwealth Small Island Developing States develop and protect sustainable marine economies.	Oceans	20, 21, 29
Commonwealth Marine Plastic Taskforce: As part of the Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance, support the development of marine plastic reduction plans for six Commonwealth states.	Oceans	29
Formation of ' Commonwealth Clean Oceans Alliance ' co-led with Vanuatu, to encourage actions to reduce plastics entering the oceans, with UK technical assistance for members.	Oceans	29
Marine Plastics Challenge Fund: Research and Innovation: initiative to develop a shared framework and platform for research and innovation in the Commonwealth to build capacity to tackle plastic pollution.	Oceans	29
Partnership to drive business and government co-operation across the Commonwealth to tackle impact of plastic pollution .	Oceans	29
Aid Match with UK charities active in Commonwealth countries taking action on waste management	Oceans	33
Sustainable Manufacturing and Environmental Pollution Programme: development and application of technology-based solutions to reduce the environmental impact and pollution of manufacturing.	Waste Management	29

Enhancing Digital Identity to increase access to services for women and girls: Enabling participation of women and girls in the formal economy by providing digital solutions that allow them to run small businesses or have independent bank accounts.	Women & Girls	3, 36
Fairness		
Support for the Commonwealth Electoral Observation Programme , to broaden observation to the whole electoral cycle.	Democracy	2, 11
Advancing Inclusive and Accountable Democracy in the Commonwealth through greater inclusion of women, young people, persons living with disabilities, people from religious minorities, and the LGBT+ community; and greater political accountability through more effective and transparent parliaments.	Democracy	2
The project is to improve the employment prospects of young people , including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, by piloting and introducing new approaches to employer led skills development	Economic Empowerment, Youth	5, 19
Building Fairer, More Equal and More Inclusive Commonwealth Societies by supporting countries seeking to reform laws that discriminate against women and girls and LGBT people.	Human Rights	2
Pacific Commonwealth Equality Project: increasing the ability of young people, women, persons with disabilities and LGBT communities to fully participate in policy and decision-making in order to drive sustainable development in the Pacific.	Human Rights	2, 12
Enhanced support for the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)	Human Rights	2, 12
Eliminating the stigma and discrimination of disability and mental health through expanding the UK's 'Time to Change' campaign to end mental	Human Rights	2, 6

health discrimination to Commonwealth countries.		
Additional support for the Commonwealth Small States Office in Geneva , enabling greater participation in rules-based international organisations on human rights and trade.	Human Rights and Trade	12, 16
Support to deliver 12 Years of Quality Education for Girls in 9 Commonwealth countries	Women & Girls	3, 34
Developing a Network of Women Mediators in the Commonwealth	Women & Girls	3, 8