

3 things it would be good to learn more about:

1) Clarity about the existing strategy:

The report states: *“The Scottish Government’s 2016 International Development Strategy, which was developed under public consultation, was not itself under review, but rather the review sought to refresh our approach”*. We would welcome further clarification about the extent to which the 2016 Strategy continues to exist and drive policy, and the extent to which it has been superseded by the outcomes of this review. There are core tenets of the Strategy which are less visible in the findings of this review but it is our understanding that, unless a change in approach has been highlighted in this most recent report, all aspects of the 2016 Strategy remain relevant. We suggest it would be helpful to publish a refreshed version of the strategy, including these most recent changes of approach, after the May Holyrood election, so government policy is clear.

2) Clarity about whether the policy will continue to evolve?:

There are a number of references in this most recent report to future, further changes or evolutions of the policy:

- *“this new evolving phase of our approach to international development”;*
- *“This Review ... is the start of the process of aligning our work with our with our new eight Programme Principles”;*
- *“As has been reiterated throughout this report, we see this Review as the start of the process ... and not the end: both for implementing changes in our IDF Programme as well as the application of the new Principles to the wider contributions to international development by Scottish Government Ministerial portfolios.”*
- *“We outline here some initial next steps...”*.

While we appreciate that Covid-19 presents an unavoidably dynamic landscape, it would be helpful to have clarity as to the likely extent of further changes in the medium-term.

3) Clarity about budget allocations between the different programmes:

We note that the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICE) submission to the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee inquiry into the review highlighted the decreasing proportion of the Malawi Development Programme from 2017-2020 (SPICE chart reproduced below). The 2016 Strategy gave indicative budget allocations to the different streams of the IDF: we would welcome such information again if it is available, highlighting the relative indicative budget allocations for the new funding streams, and the three country programmes.

Figure 1: International Development Fund spend 2017-20

