

Maintains



Research supporting social services to adapt to shocks



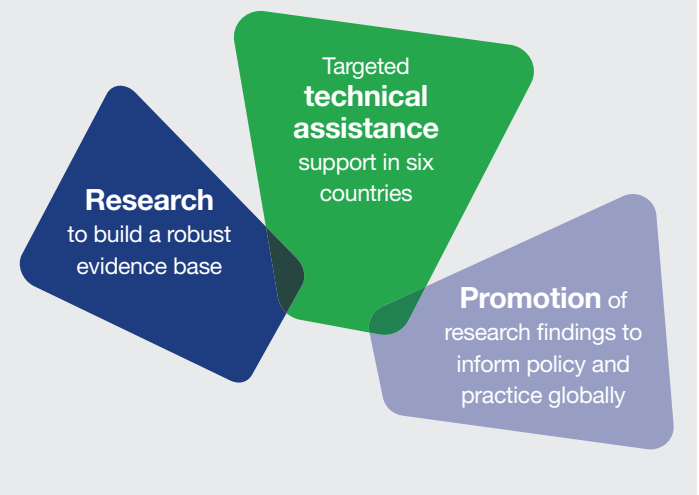
Maintains is an operational research programme that will develop a stronger evidence base on how health, education, nutrition, and social protection systems can adapt and expand to respond to changing needs during and after shocks, whilst also maintaining existing services.

Maintains is a five-year programme, launched in 2018, and funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). The programme will provide new insights on **how to improve the ability of social services to respond more quickly, reliably and effectively to shocks such as floods, droughts, disease outbreaks and population displacement.**

Enhanced evidence and practice from six focal countries — Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Kenya, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, and Uganda — will inform policy and practice globally.

Maintains will seek solutions that promote equitable responses and support inclusion; and explore disaster risk financing options to enable a swift and efficient scale-up. Ultimately, the programme seeks to improve health, education and nutrition outcomes for affected populations, especially the poorest and most vulnerable people.

Maintains has three components that work closely together. Maintains will deliver research that responds to user demand, fills evidence gaps and is accessible and engaging for public and private sector stakeholders. It will also provide technical assistance to support practical implementation.



Maintains in Bangladesh

There is consistent evidence from Bangladesh of the tight and mutually reinforcing nexus between poverty, vulnerability and exposure to shocks.

The country is susceptible to a range of hazards and shocks which hit poor people hardest as they have uncertain and insecure livelihoods, fewer resources, and often live in areas that are the most exposed.

Well-designed social protection systems are proven to support vulnerable people during crises, but currently only 32% of vulnerable households in Bangladesh have access to such systems. To help build the resilience of poorer households before and after shocks, the Government of Bangladesh is committed to expanding social protection coverage.

Maintains research in Bangladesh will therefore focus on supporting the development of shock-responsive social protection systems.

Bangladesh Research Overview



Social Protection

How can formal and informal social protection systems be more shock-responsive?

- Maintains will explore historical evidence on the roles of government, civil society, community, and the private sector in delivering different forms of social protection;
- The programme will undertake field work in four locations to explore how this works in practice, considering a range of operational issues (such as what data is used, how systems are targeted and how delivery can be optimised and dovetailed with complementary programmes and services);
- Finally, Maintains will facilitate transformational labs with key stakeholders to address key challenges and find solutions that are technically and politically feasible.

For this research, Maintains will work directly with the Government of Bangladesh, and with DFID and other development partners, to evolve and adapt existing programmes and systems, as well as innovate both programming and financing that underpin the current social protection approaches.

For more information on Maintains please see the project website: <https://tinyurl.com/project-maintains>

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