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 Kenya

Kenya experiences persistent droughts and frequent floods, causing food insecurity, high levels of malnutrition-related illnesses and deaths, and disruption to livelihoods.

For example in 2017, according to UNICEF, almost 370,000 children required treatment for acute malnutrition, including 72,600 with the most severe form who required specialized, life-saving care. Acute malnutrition rates were at least double the emergency threshold of 15 per cent in some areas of northern Kenya, with Turkana particularly badly affected.

In Kenya, our research will explore how to strengthen health, nutrition and social protection services and systems, so that they can be maintained and adapted during floods and droughts.

## Kenya Research Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Protection</th>
<th>Health &amp; Nutrition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>What role can the Enhanced Single Registry (ESR) play in enabling the social protection system to respond to shocks?</strong></td>
<td><strong>How can health and nutrition systems be more shock responsive?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• What are the opportunities and barriers to the utilisation of the ESR by other government and non-governmental stakeholders?</td>
<td>• How did health and nutrition systems respond to recent drought and floods?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• What are the institutional capacity requirements to manage the ESR as a tool to deliver shock-responsive social protection?</td>
<td>• Can shock-responsive nutrition programming (CMAM Surge) be replicated in other sectors and for other shocks?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• How is the ESR operationalised at a county level?</td>
<td>• How can early warning systems be optimised to support health and nutrition service scale-up?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In conducting these studies, Maintains will work directly with the Government of Kenya, DFID, the World Bank and other development partners. The research will build on and enhance existing evidence and address knowledge gaps.

For more information on Maintains please see the project website: [https://tinyurl.com/project-maintains](https://tinyurl.com/project-maintains)

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Image: ‘International Rescue Committee staff measure the upper arm circumference of 7-year-old Ngikadelio Ngikeny as part of a malnutrition screening programme, at a health clinic in Turkana County, northwest Kenya, 29 March 2017’ by Russell Watkins/DFID via Flickr, licensed under CC BY 2.0