

Maintains



Research supporting social services to adapt to shocks



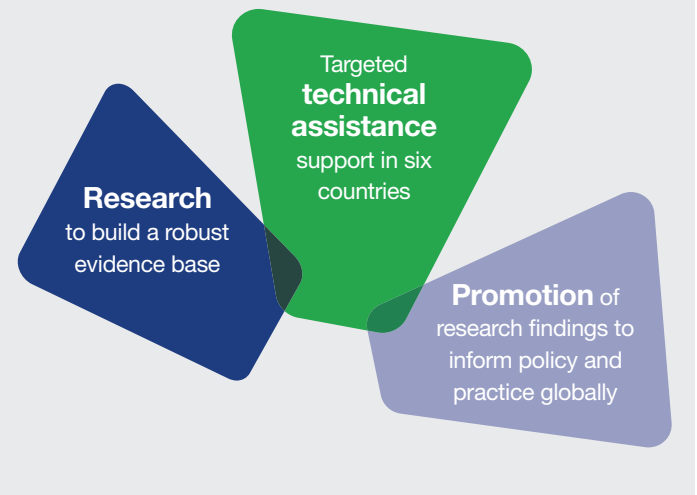
Maintains is an operational research programme that will develop a stronger evidence base on how health, education, nutrition, and social protection systems can adapt and expand to respond to changing needs during and after shocks, whilst also maintaining existing services.

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 Uganda

Uganda is impacted by a range of natural hazards, and is also one of the biggest refugee-hosting countries in the world.

Uganda currently hosts around 1.3 million refugees, most of whom have come from South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Burundi. This puts pressure on all social services as well as livelihood opportunities for both the host community and the refugees.

Drought is a recurrent problem in Karamoja, making it the most food insecure subregion in the country, with persistent and widespread malnutrition. In 2018, UNICEF reported that 84% of people could not afford a nutritious diet, with particularly serious impacts on women and children.

Maintains Uganda will focus on health and nutrition services in Karamoja and education for refugees and host communities in West Nile, through two regionally-focused research programmes.



Uganda Research Overview



Education

Does the Education Response Plan improve the effectiveness of education service delivery, and thereby education outcomes, for both refugees and host communities in West Nile?

The research will explore the ability of different parts of the education system (coordination, financing, information and delivery) to respond to the influx of refugees. It will investigate the effect on educational outcomes and look for global lessons. As refugee flows and policies may change, the research agenda may evolve.

In conducting these studies, Maintains will work directly with the Government of Uganda, DFID and other development partners. The research will build on and enhance existing evidence and address knowledge gaps to support responses to shocks.



Health & Nutrition

What design features need to be incorporated into strengthening health and nutrition systems, in order to build a sustainable shock-responsive health system in Karamoja?

The research will be in three parts. First, case studies will explore in detail how the supply of health services changed during and after shocks. Research will then be undertaken on how to optimise early warning systems, and on what efficient and effective funding arrangements would look like, to support health and nutrition service scale-up.

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

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