

Maintains



Research supporting social services to adapt to shocks

Maintains in Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone is prone to a range of shocks, and despite the learnings from Ebola, the health system still lacks the capacity to respond.

Floods and landslides are a major problem due to a large number of rivers, a tropical monsoon climate, unplanned urbanisation and poor waste management. Informal settlements and poor communities are particularly vulnerable.

In addition, high levels of poverty, poor education and sanitation, a weak health system, and other structural problems means that the population is exposed to frequent disease outbreaks, such as cholera and measles.

The Maintains Programme in Sierra Leone is looking at the technical and financial aspects of how to ensure that existing health services are maintained during regular flooding and disease outbreaks, whilst also responding to the new health needs from these shocks.



COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is an extreme shock to social systems in Sierra Leone as in all countries, with direct and secondary impacts on health, social protection and education systems. Maintains is adapting to the new circumstances that COVID-19 presents and adding to our programme of work. This COVID-19 focused work is developing, but so far it includes:

- A [rapid situation analysis of COVID-19 response activities in Sierra Leone](#). This focuses on the national ability to respond to shocks, including the leadership and governance of the response to the pandemic, and its impact across social sectors, health and non-health.

Sierra Leone Research Overview



Health System

How can the health system manage new demands from shocks, whilst maintaining service delivery?

Case studies of recent flooding and disease outbreaks, and a review of emergency preparedness levels, will provide empirical evidence of how the health sector currently responds to health shocks. This is being used to identify and research specific approaches or interventions that can build shock responsiveness, and define crisis levels of care to be provided during a health shock.



Health Finance

What are the economic and financial costs of health shocks, how are they being financed, and how can financing arrangements be improved?

The current state of health financing is being explored in depth through case studies on the economic and financial costs of health shocks, alongside a health shock financing diagnostic. This will provide recommendations for financing donor health programmes and improvements to public financial management of health shock funding.



About Maintains

Maintains is an operational research programme developing 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 is providing 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) is being used to inform policy and practice globally.

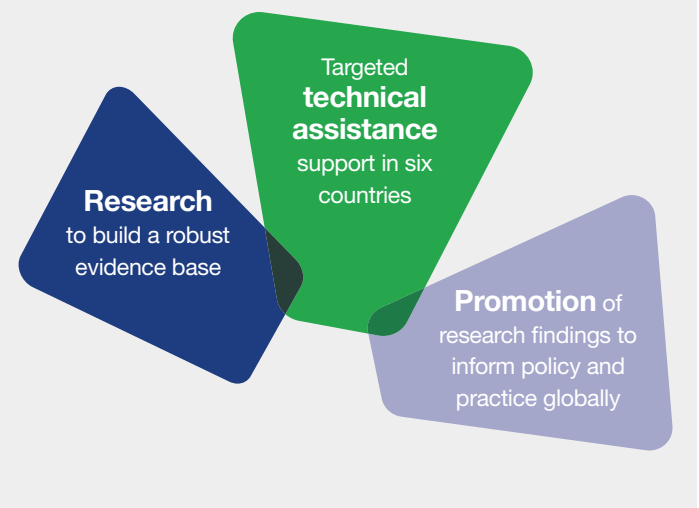
Maintains is seeking solutions that promote equitable responses and support inclusion; and is exploring disaster risk financing options to enable a swift and efficient scaleup. Ultimately, the programme seeks to improve health, education and nutrition outcomes for affected populations, especially the poorest and most vulnerable people.

Maintains

Maintains is adapting to the new circumstances that COVID-19 presents and adding to our programme of work. We are bringing evidence from COVID-19 impacts and responses in all our focus countries and from global studies, to support the government and stakeholders as they respond, adapt and recover from the pandemic. So far this work includes:

- A series of eight sector-specific rapid literature reviews exploring the global experience and evidence base on impacts of epidemics and pandemics; a review of initial COVID-19 responses across 5 countries; a multi-country study of social protection responses to COVID-19; a number of country-specific studies. All are available at: <https://maintainsprogramme.org/resources/covid-19/>

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



In conducting these studies, Maintains will work directly with the Government of Sierra Leone, DFID 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: www.maintainsprogramme.org
To contact the Maintains Sierra Leone team, email the Country Programme Manager, Dr. Alhassan Fouard Kanu on alhassankanu.hrcmaintains@gmail.com

In collaboration with Oxford Policy Management, Maintains' Sierra Leone programme is being delivered by the Health Resilience Consortium, comprising of Dalan Development Consultants, Institute for Development and Institute for Governance Reform.

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