

Summary of DFID's work in Pakistan 2011-2015

June 2012

Why we work in Pakistan

Some 60 million people in Pakistan (one in three) live in poverty and regularly go hungry. Pakistan has 12 million out-of-school children. Half of all adults, including two out of every three women, can't read or write. One in eleven children die before their fifth birthday, and 14,000 women die in childbirth every year.

Entrenched poverty denies opportunities to millions of people, and undermines Pakistan's long-term stability and prosperity. Tackling this poverty and building a stable, prosperous, and democratic Pakistan will not only help millions of poor Pakistanis, but will also improve stability and security in Pakistan, the region, and beyond.



Samia attends school thanks to support from UK aid. Her father is dead and she lives with her mother, four brothers, and three sisters in a one room dwelling in Rawalpindi. Her mother Yasmeen earns about £48 (6,000 rupees) a month cleaning houses, more than half of which goes on rent. Samia said: "My favourite subject is English, and I want to be a doctor when I grow up".

What we will achieve

Pakistan's education system is in crisis, and the country has a booming youth population. In twenty years' time the number of young people will be larger than the entire UK population. Every full year of extra schooling across the population increases economic growth by up to one percentage point, as more people with better reading, writing and maths skills enter the workforce. So if educated, healthy, and working, these young people offer a vast mine of talent and productivity - a huge demographic dividend that will unlock Pakistan's potential on the global stage.

That's why the UK's priorities in Pakistan from 2011 to 2015 are: **education**; women and children's **health**; creating **jobs** and supporting **economic growth**; strengthening **democracy**; and building **peace and stability** in conflict-affected areas.

Between 2011 and 2015, if the Government of Pakistan makes progress on reform and results, UK aid will achieve the following results:

- **Education**: support four million children in school and construct or rebuild more than 20,000 classrooms.
- **Health**: prevent 3,600 mothers dying in childbirth; prevent half a million children from becoming under-nourished; and help 500,000 couples choose when and how many children to have.
- **Economy**: help 1.23 million people, more than half of them women, access microfinance loans to enable them to set up their own small business and lift themselves out of poverty; expand branchless banking so that three million people can access financial services from their mobile phones; and provide job and skills training for 40,000 people in the Punjab.

- **Democracy and governance:** help two million more people to register so they can vote in the next general election; work with government to improve delivery of essential services to the public including education and health; improve security and access to justice; provide 50 bridge kits; and help rebuild schools and roads in the regions bordering Afghanistan to replace those destroyed by conflict or floods.
- **Women and girls:** Women and girls are at the centre of everything UK aid does. The UK will support some two million more girls into school; prevent 3,600 women dying in childbirth; help 500,000 couples choose when and how many children they have; help around 700,000 women access financial services such as micro-loans; and support women's rights in Pakistan including tackling domestic violence, empowering women to get involved in local politics, and strengthening legislation.
- In addition, the UK will continue to provide **lifesaving humanitarian assistance** when needed, as it did in response to the devastating floods in 2010 and 2011, and the earthquake in 2005.



Tahira, a Lady Health Worker for five years, with a patient and her 14 day old baby. UK aid has helped more than double the number of Lady Health Workers (LHWs) up to 100,000 since 2002. LHWs visit poor women and children in their homes to provide basic health care and distribute contraceptives. Tahira said: "Since I started my work the health of the whole community has got better, and families are having fewer children".

The UK's aid to Pakistan could more than double, averaging £350 million a year until 2015, to become the UK's largest recipient of aid. However this increase in UK aid is dependent on securing value for money and results, and linked to the Government of Pakistan's own progress on reform at both the federal and provincial levels. This includes taking steps to build a more dynamic economy, strengthen the country's tax base and tackle corruption.

Who we will work with and how we will work

More than ever, in the current financial climate, we have a duty to show that we are achieving value for money in everything we do. Results, transparency and accountability will help us secure value for money for every pound spent on development.

We will continue to work with the Pakistan Government to strengthen its systems and financial management, so public services are delivered more effectively, and ultimately Pakistan will not need to depend on aid. However, where systems are inadequate, we will work through alternative channels, such as international organisations or the private sector. We will work as one team across the UK Government, including the Foreign Office and British Council, as well as closely with other international organisations in Pakistan, including the World Bank, and with other bilateral donors.

More information

For a more detailed breakdown of Pakistan's Operational Plan, and for more information on DFID's work in Pakistan, please visit www.dfid.gov.uk/pakistan and <http://ukinpakistan.fco.gov.uk>
Or contact: DFID-Pakistan, British High Commission, Diplomatic Enclave, Islamabad, Pakistan.