



# Summary of DFID's Regional Work in Asia 2011-2015

June 2013



Flood warning siren Nepal.

## Why we work across the Asia Region

DFID's Asia Regional Programme covers Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Vietnam, Indonesia and also Central Asia. Despite reasonable economic growth rates in most of these countries, 40% of their people live on less than \$1.25 a day, and 74% on less than \$2 a day. The region is also very vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

The region faces many complex economic, political, social and environmental problems. Gender inequality and social exclusion are amongst the biggest challenges. While such problems are also addressed in our Country

Programmes, the impact of DFID's work can in many cases be improved by taking a regional perspective.

The Asia Regional Programme therefore seeks to make strategic, well-targeted investments that instigate change at a regional level. We will aim, for example, to help to ease restrictions on growth and trade, and attract much larger investments from international organisations such as the World Bank, the private sector, and national governments.

## What we will achieve

- Prevent 7,780 maternal deaths.
- Develop eight national programmes which integrate a multi-sectoral approach to food security and nutrition, and reduce malnutrition.
- Support 100,000 women and girls to reduce their risk of being trafficked into garment and domestic work within Asia and to the Gulf States and Middle East.
- Help 250,000 people cope with the effects of climate change.
- Reduce by 10% the time taken for goods to cross four key regional border posts.



An outreach worker providing advice on family planning methods in Pakistan.  
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## Who we will work with

The Asia Regional Programme will be delivered through international partners such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, UN agencies, the private sector and civil society organisations. We also aim to work with other donors, governments and regional organisations and influence regional processes such as Abu Dhabi Dialogue and Colombo Process on labour migration.

Partners have been chosen based on their strengths. For example, in the case of our South Asia Water Initiative, a World Bank multi-donor Trust Fund has been chosen because the World Bank has significant expertise in supporting regional processes in river management, and is one of the key lenders on water infrastructure and water resource management.



A consultation on family planning in India  
© Marie Stopes International / Peter Caton

## How we will work

The Asia Regional Programme aims to achieve results that can improve the lives of poor people in a sustainable way. Our regional work will complement our Country Programmes, and enhance progress in key areas such as intra-regional trade, cross-border natural resource management and people trafficking and also on improving maternal health and tackling hunger. Changing the lives of girls and women is a particular priority for our work in Asia, where gender equality indicators are amongst the worst in the world.

More cross-border trade and regional integration will increase growth and create jobs; help address energy constraints, and reduce incentives for cross-border conflict. Better management of shared eco-systems, including rivers that cross into more than one country, will address the critical links between food, water and power generation in the region.

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 be our watchwords and we are determined to get value for money for every pound spent on development by us and by our partners.

Some actions we will take on transparency include:

- Publishing clear, concise information on our programme on the DFID website;
- Continuing collaboration with development partners on transparency and accountability;
- Helping civil society and non-governmental organisations' to be more transparent themselves and to encourage greater accountability from national governments.

## More information

For a more detailed breakdown of the Asia Regional Operational Plan, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development>