

# Summary of DFID's work in Pakistan 2011-2015

April 2011

## Why we work in Pakistan

38 million people in Pakistan (one in four) live in poverty on £1 a day or less. Pakistan has 17 million out-of-school children. Half of all adults, including two out of every three women, can't read or write. One in ten 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 help not only 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 the slums of 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 over the next four years are: **education**; women and children's **health**; creating **jobs** and supporting **economic growth**; and strengthening **democracy**.

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

- **Education:** Get over four million more children into school; recruit and train 90,000 new teachers; provide more than six million text book sets; and construct or rebuild more than 43,000 classrooms.
- **Health:** Prevent 3,600 mothers dying in childbirth; prevent half a million children from becoming under nourished; and save the lives of 110,000 children, including 44,000 newborns, by expanding basic health services at community level.
- **Economy:** Help 1.5 million people, more than half of them women, access microfinance loans to enable them to set up their own business and lift themselves out of poverty; expand branchless banking so that another three million people can access financial services from their mobile phones; provide job and skills training for 125,000 people in the Punjab; and enable 75,000 rural dairy farmers to increase their income.

- **Democracy and governance:** Get another two million people, half of them women, to vote at the next general election; provide legal aid to 5,000 women; work with the Government to strengthen weak budgeting, auditing and management to improve delivery of public services; improve policing and access to justice; and provide 66 bridge kits and reconstruct 40 schools in the areas bordering Afghanistan to replace those destroyed by conflict.



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 up to 100,000 since 2002, who 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.”*

- **Women and girls:** Women and girls are at the centre of everything UK aid does. The UK will get some two million more girls into school; prevent 3,600 women dying in childbirth; help 400,000 couples choose how many children they have; help around 900,000 women access financial services such as micro-loans; and support legislation protecting women including on land rights, marriage rights and domestic violence.
- 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 earthquake in 2005.

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](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/Pakistan) and <http://ukinpakistan.fco.gov.uk/en/>. Or contact: DFID-Pakistan, British High Commission, Diplomatic Enclave, Islamabad, Pakistan.