

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

September 2011

## Why we work in India

India is a key strategic partner to the UK and the largest democracy in the Commonwealth. Prime Minister Cameron and Prime Minister Singh have agreed to renew and deepen the partnership between the UK and India.

India is growing fast and is making good progress on tackling poverty. However, India is still home to one third of the world's people living below \$1.25 (80 pence) a day and the average income is one third of China's. Eight states in India are home to 65% of India's poor. More than half of the young children in Madhya Pradesh are undernourished; only one in four people in Bihar have access to a toilet. Poverty reduction in these states remains critical to global success in meeting the MDGs. Inclusive growth and development is a top priority for the Government of India and we will work in partnership to build on their own successful poverty-reduction schemes.



**Safe arrival for newborns:** Rekha Rawat, a health worker in a small village in the state of Madhya Pradesh helps pregnant women to get to hospitals and deliver safely. 'It can be hard to mobilise women to use these services,' says Rekha. 'It makes me particularly satisfied when I can persuade them (to take up services) and they see the benefits for themselves.'



We are bringing our development partnership up to date. Our programme is changing to focus on India's poorest states. We want to help unlock the potential of the private sector to deliver jobs, products, infrastructure and basic services. Our support will also be aimed at the poorest women and girls, to help them get the quality schooling, healthcare, nutrition, and jobs which are the key to breaking the cycle of poverty for the next generation. Over time, we want to move from an aid-based relationship to a mutual, two-way partnership on critical global issues, including trade, global growth, climate change, and food security.

**Ride to school:** As many girls as boys in India attend lower primary school. But when poverty forces families to choose who goes to secondary school, it's usually the boys. In the next four years, DFID will help disadvantaged young women - especially *dalit* and tribal girls - get their chance of a secondary education. We will help build more local secondary schools, train teachers and get help directly to girls to cover the costs of going to school.

## What we will achieve

- Help 3 million people (2.1 million of them women) gain access to credit, insurance and savings and help them work their way out of poverty.
- Help over 400,000 mothers deliver babies more safely with the help of nurses, midwives or doctors.
- Reach 3.9 million children with nutrition programmes.
- Provide 5.8 million people access to improved sanitation facilities.
- Help fight climate change by providing 3.9 million people with low carbon energy (e.g. fuel efficient stoves and solar lanterns).
- Support over 800,000 children to enrol in secondary school and 1.5 million children to enrol in primary school.
- Help 16 million more people (9.3 million of them women) to understand and claim their rights and entitlements.



**Business for development:** Poor people often do not have the skills or finances to take advantage of jobs or economic opportunities that are available. Our new Private Sector programmes will help poor people, especially women, benefit from jobs, skills and access to finance in the low income states. We will help women to increase their incomes, improve their social status, and manage their household finances and business ventures better.

## Who we will work with

DFID delivers its programmes in India in partnership with the Government of India, state governments and increasingly with the private sector, civil society organisations, think tanks and other donors. We also work closely with other UK Government Departments to contribute to wider priorities on trade, climate change, infrastructure, research, education and skills.

## How we will work

More than ever, we have a duty to show that we are achieving value for money in every pound spent on development. Results, transparency and accountability will be our watchwords. As India's economy grows, poverty reduces, and India becomes more prominent in world affairs, our development partnership with India will become about sharing expertise, supporting innovation and building skills. Over the next four years we will:

- **Focus on the poorest people in India's low income states.** UK assistance will benefit the poorest people in three poor states, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa, building on the deep, productive partnerships we have built over the last decade.
- **Put women and girls at the heart of our work.** The UK will invest in: girls' education; access to finance, skills and low carbon energy; safe birth, children by choice and reducing violence against women; children's health and nutrition; and sanitation.
- **Catalyse the private sector's potential to combat poverty.** To support growth in the low income states the UK will develop programmes of pro-poor private investment with Indian institutions in areas like small and medium enterprises, agri-business, energy, infrastructure and financial services that directly benefit poor people in low income states.
- **Deepen our engagement with India on global issues where there may be benefits for poor people elsewhere:** such as growth and trade, climate change, resource scarcity and health and disease control.

### More information

For a more detailed breakdown of India's Operational Plan please visit: [www.dfid.gov.uk/India](http://www.dfid.gov.uk/India)  
Or contact: DFID India, B-28, Tara Crescent, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi – 110016