

Management Response and Recommendations Action Plan

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Evaluation Report for Programme Name: Better Assistance in Crises (BASIC)
300467

Response to: Better Assistance in Crises Programme Evaluation - Endline Report

Overall summary:

FCDO thanks Integrity Global for undertaking a comprehensive and insightful endline evaluation of the Better Assistance in Crises (BASIC) programme that was awarded a score of 'Good' in the EQUALS quality assurance process. Thanks also to the BASIC research and technical assistance delivery partners (the Institute for Development Studies and DAI) for their inputs to the process.

The BASIC programme is a £23.5 million programme (2018 to 2027). It was originally due to close in March 2026 but was extended while the evaluation endline report was being finalised. The programme will now close in March 2027.

The purpose of the endline evaluation was to: (1) assess whether, why and how BASIC is achieving its stated outputs, outcomes and progress towards impact, including value for money; (2) identify what worked, what didn't and why; (3) generate learning on what worked, and (4) make recommendations on future programme modalities to support policy, programme and systems change in crisis contexts.

The endline is the final phase of the evaluation and assesses the programme to December 2025. Evidence was collected between August 2025 and January 2026.

Recommendations from evaluation summary:

The evaluation identifies three recommendations and eight sub-recommendations. FCDO accepts the overall direction of the three recommendations and will explore how to take them forward in the final year of the BASIC programme (until March 2027) and through future policy and programme considerations. FCDO will continue to disseminate key lessons from the BASIC programme across FCDO teams and with external partners to better inform social protection policy and programming in crisis contexts.

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Evaluation Report Title: Better Assistance in Crises Programme Endline Evaluation Report		
Recommendations: FCDO	Accepted or rejected	If “Accepted”, Action plan for Implementation or if “Rejected”, Reason for Rejection
Recommendation 1: FCDO should continue to promote and support the use of social protection approaches in responding and building resilience to crises 1.1 The ongoing reorganisation of FCDO should maintain organisational responsibilities and adequate human resources at global and country levels, to continue the department’s established role in promoting the use of social protection approaches. 1.2 Future FCDO international development and related policies and strategies should continue to prioritise support to strengthening and using social protection approaches in crises.	Accepted	FCDO accepts this recommendation and recognises the important role social protection approaches play in crisis response and building resilience. Social protection in fragile and conflict-affected contexts continues to be a priority focus for FCDO’s social protection work, drawing on learning and good practice from BASIC and wider programming. FCDO has undertaken significant policy and programme engagement to promote social protection approaches in crisis contexts, including through BASIC and wider external engagement and partnerships. FCDO will continue to encourage relevant strategies, policies and programmes to reflect the role of social protection in fragile and conflict-affected settings, while future capacity, programming and specific institutional arrangements will remain subject to wider departmental priorities and resources.
Recommendation 2: FCDO should maximise the benefits from the available BASIC research and TA results 2.1 Ensure that there is full publicly accessible library of BASIC Research and TA publications. 2.2 FCDO should promote and encourage system-wide collective ownership of, and responsibility for, actions in support of implementing the Catalytic Agenda for peace, stability and resilience (presented as the outcome document of the HLP). 2.3 FCDO should consider incorporating the use of social protection approaches in crises within the scope of new or existing FCDO Centres of Expertise.	Accepted	FCDO accepts this recommendation and will work with partners during the final year of BASIC to maximise the accessibility and use of BASIC Research and TA outputs. BASIC Research and TA outputs are already publicly available, but they are not always easy to find or navigate. Building on dissemination and engagement undertaken by BASIC partners to date, FCDO will explore ways to improve signposting and support continued sharing of findings, so users can more easily find, understand and apply BASIC evidence and learning. The High-Level Panel recommendations were developed as a collective agenda for governments, international partners and wider stakeholders. FCDO has already undertaken significant engagement to socialise the Panel’s findings and recommendations and will continue to promote wider awareness and action through its external engagement and partnerships. This includes encouraging uptake across relevant communities and actors, including those

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		working on peace and conflict, displacement, humanitarian response, climate and international finance. FCDO will also publish a series of briefing papers that summarise some of the key findings from the Panel's evidence synthesis in more accessible formats. FCDO will also explore how social protection approaches in crisis contexts can be reflected in relevant future technical expertise offers and mechanisms, including communities or centres of expertise where appropriate, subject to wider departmental priorities and resources.
Recommendation 3: To meet continuing user demand and maintain momentum, FCDO should consider ways of sustaining access to relevant technical expertise. 3.1 FCDO should consider putting in place a stop-gap mechanism, such as the historic use of EACDS, to ensure continued access by its staff to relevant expertise while longer-term solutions are considered. 3.2 In the medium term, FCDO should consider the provision of further TA, ideally as a stand-alone social protection facility consolidating related expertise (e.g., integrating the work of the GSP). 3.3 The scope of a future CMP TA facility should: • respond flexibly to demand across situations of protracted conflict, forced displacement and recurrent shocks and natural disasters, • sharpen the thematic focus on the links between SP, climate change and integration of GESI, • continue to work at global and country levels, • sharpen the number and objectives of partnerships with international and regional agencies, consider including limited resources to commission primary research where explicitly linked to specific user requests.	Accepted	FCDO accepts this recommendation and recognises the continued demand from country teams and partners for timely, high-quality technical expertise on social protection in crisis contexts. While the previous BASIC TA mechanism closed at the end of December 2025, FCDO has put in place alternative technical assistance for the final period of BASIC to March 2027, helping to sustain momentum while medium-term options are considered. FCDO will consider options for future technical assistance provision, drawing on lessons from BASIC TA, wider TA learning, and ongoing demand from posts and partners. This includes recognising the value of flexible, demand-led support that responds to country-level needs while also generating learning and evidence for wider policy dialogue, partnerships and global-level influence. Future TA provision should also consider how social protection can better address intersecting conflict and climate risks, and how to mainstream gender equality throughout the work. Any future provision will remain subject to wider departmental priorities and resources.