

# Case Studies

What does human development really look like? These stories from Pakistan and Ethiopia are vivid examples of where DFID has supported programmes which improve people's access to essential services and break the cycle of poverty.

## Training women health workers

For a country where vaccines are widely available, Pakistan's recent record on immunisation is poor with only half of its children fully immunised. Now, Bai and the other 100,000 'Lady Health Workers' trained by Gavi in Pakistan will increase immunisation coverage rates the hard way – by walking door to door.



30-year-old health worker

Shankotila Bai's daily objective is to visit 8 to 10 families in her home village of Mithrio Bhatti, located in the Thararkar district of Sindh Province. Priority is given to vaccinating all children and mothers who have not been to the nearest health clinic in Mithrio for their immunisations.

Like other 'Lady Health Workers' across Pakistan, Bai attended a six-month course preparing her to attend to the basic health needs of the women and children among the 2,000 people living in her village. Having also completed grade 12 of her education, Bai is also qualified to give vaccines.

One of her visits is to Seeta Bai, 27, whose infant son Jetesh was born with the help of a local *dai* (traditional birth attendant). Wearing a black *taweez* to ward off evil spirits, the mother appears tired and weak. She had not brought her child to the health clinic for vaccination. Now Jetesh will need to get up to speed, starting with oral polio vaccine and followed by injectable pentavalent vaccine in the right thigh and pneumococcal vaccine in the left.

Over [one third](#) of DFID's spending is made through multilaterals like Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Gavi's 'Lady Health Worker' programme has been running for almost 30 years as is a great example of how UK Aid money is unlocking access to healthcare in hard-to-reach communities.

Source and further reading: [Gavi in Pakistan](#)

## Women teachers empowering girls in Ethiopia

Ethiopia is currently the [second largest recipient](#) of UK bilateral aid. One example of how this aid is spent is on the Girls' Education Challenge (GEC), launched by DFID in 2012 as a 12-year commitment to reaching the most marginalised girls in the world.

Alongside [CHADET](#) and [Childhope](#), the GEC has been running a project which supports the most vulnerable girls to stay in school, but also to do well whilst there, by supporting teachers to provide intensive academic tutorials as well as broader care and support for targeted girls.



Mastewal is an Amharic teacher, but as a GEC focal teacher she also facilitates Life Skills sessions, and has been trained to run the Girls Club. For the girls she teaches, Mastewal is a figure of who inspires their education but also offers a care and support.

Melesu is a student of Mastewal's – her early schooling was sadly typical for girls in rural areas. From her first enrolment she hardly attended and was performing badly. As the oldest child in her family, it fell to her to look after all her siblings and assist her mother in running the house. Melesu's parents decided she would marry because they lacked confidence in school and the bride wealth that would earn from her marriage would be transformative for the entire family.

"I felt so afraid and unhappy, because I knew I would be taken from school and I would leave a life of learning and friends." But Melesu also knew she had a chance to stop it. During Girls Club they had learned about the 'Letter Link' (pictured above) box and told why it was there – to report illegal child marriages.

After the marriage was reported, Mastewal contacted the community volunteers, well-known to all and well versed in the Girls Education Challenge principles. Together they started discussions with the parents, reminding them both of the law and of how CHADET could support Melesu to stay in school. Melesu's mother Bezunesh actually believes firmly in education, but feels poverty left her little choice: "I knew that with the bride wealth for her marriage I could afford to buy the things her younger siblings needed for school. Now that we are supported with the school costs for Melesu, and now that we are more aware about the consequences of child marriage, I would never take that decision again."

Mastewal and Bezunesh are Melesu's support team, cheering her on as she steadily improves at school and gets more confident at life. Mastewal reports happily: "She has a really good approach to tutorials. After her marriage was stopped and she started attending them, she began to improve at school, and her grades have really gone up since then."

As well as the tutorials, a shift has occurred in how Melesu's family sees the value of her education. Now Melesu still helps at home but is now given time to study and to attend tutorials on Saturdays.

Source: [Girls' Education Challenge Case Studies](#). You can find out more about DFID's work in [Ethiopia](#), and lots more stories in the form of short videos on DFID's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.