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GHANA

HEALTH, POPULATION & NUTRITION

The goal of USAID’s integrated health, population and nutrition program is to promote equitable improvements in the health status of Ghanaians by achieving the following results: increased access to integrated health services; increased availability of community-based health resources; strengthened and responsive health systems; and improved health sector governance and accountability.

OVERVIEW

Ghana has made significant but uneven progress in improving health over the past decade. Despite economic growth, Ghana has a poor healthcare delivery system and Ghanaians are vulnerable to diseases including malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and chronic malnutrition. Child and maternal mortality are high: 41/1,000 infants die before their first birthday, 60/1,000 children die before their fifth birthday and 451/100,000 mothers die due to childbirth-related issues.

As articulated in the Ghana Next Generation Country Development Cooperation Strategy, USAID supports Ghana’s efforts to expand coverage and quality of health services through scaling up interventions to reduce unintended pregnancy; reduce maternal mortality; reduce newborn and under-five mortality; improve nutritional status; and reduce the spread of HIV among the most-at-risk populations.

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USAID's health activities continue to provide focused technical assistance to the Government of Ghana (GOG) to ensure high quality services are broadly accessible and supported by efficient and accountable systems. USAID also assists the GOG with the development of high quality, technically appropriate policies and protocols at the national level, including the exploration of innovative technology applications that will increase progress towards development goals. As a major donor for malaria, family planning, and HIV activities, USAID provides a significant portion of the health commodities in Ghana.

MALARIA

Malaria is endemic in all parts of Ghana and accounts for significant portion of outpatient visits and hospital admissions. USAID leads the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), which aims to reduce the burden of malaria in Ghana. To realize this goal, PMI works to scale up four proven and highly effective malaria prevention and treatment measures: insecticide-treated mosquito nets, indoor residual spraying, accurate diagnosis and prompt treatment with artemisinin-based combination therapies, and intermittent preventive treatment of pregnant women.

FAMILY PLANNING & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

USAID's interventions increase understanding about and access to a range of contraceptive methods. Activities include promoting access to and use of family planning and reproductive health services at the facility and community levels; strengthening competencies for social

and behavior change communication; and strengthening family planning services through the private sector and the scale-up of social marketing. USAID also focuses on creating an enabling environment for commodity security.



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MATERNAL, NEONATAL AND CHILD HEALTH (MNCH)

USAID focuses on improving access, utilization and quality of essential maternal, newborn and child health services. Activities integrate provision of maternal services with treatment and prevention of childhood diseases, including malaria, diarrhea, pneumonia and malnutrition. Maternal health activities focus on improving the quality of services through providing necessary healthcare equipment and training healthcare service providers.



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NUTRITION

As part of the U.S. Government's Global Health Initiative and Feed the Future Initiative, USAID works with the Government of Ghana to improve the nutritional status of women and young children. Activities include improving community services to treat and prevent severe acute malnutrition and teaching individuals and communities about infant feeding practices and care, dietary diversity, and other nutrition-related behaviors. USAID is also working to increase household income through an integrated nutrition and economic resiliency project.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

USAID works to increase access to safe drinking water and access to sanitation facilities. In addition, USAID encourages individuals and communities to adopt positive WASH behaviors and teaches them the skills to plan, manage and sustain WASH programs on their own.

HIV/AIDS

USAID is a leading donor in Ghana for HIV activities. The U.S. Government President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) initiative in Ghana provides leadership and advisory support to the national HIV/AIDS response. USAID's activities under PEPFAR support policies and services for prevention, care and treatment of people living with HIV/AIDS and key populations that are 10-20 times more vulnerable to HIV, such as men who have sex with men and commercial sex workers. USAID supports innovative and evidence-based interventions to reduce new HIV infections, which is critical to the long-term sustainability of HIV/AIDS program.



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HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

USAID supports the Ghana Health Service (GHS) in its efforts to strengthen the overall national health care system and the national policy environment and supports sustainable supervision structures to ensure a high quality of care is provided at all levels of the health system. We provide direct support to promote the delivery of quality services through the Clinical Laboratories Unit and Institutional Care Division. USAID provides assistance in health financing, operations research and data for decision making, leadership development, supply chain reform and financial and management support systems at decentralized levels of the Ghana health sector. USAID provides direct support to the National Health Insurance Authority to strengthen and improve the efficiency of Ghana's National Health Insurance Scheme.

PARTNERS

Abt Associates, Banyan Global, Chemonics International, FHI360, Global Communities, HealthKeepers Network, Jhpiego, John Hopkins Center for Communication Programs, John Snow, Inc. (JSI), MalariaCare, Management Systems International (MSI), Population Services International (PSI), Social Enterprise Development (SEND), United States Pharmacopeia (USP), University Research Co., LLC (URC), West Africa Program to Combat Aids and STI (WAPCAS).

RESILIENCY IN NORTHERN GHANA (RING)

The Resiliency in Northern Ghana (RING) project is an integrated effort under the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative to contribute to the Government of Ghana's efforts to sustainably reduce poverty and improve the nutritional status of vulnerable populations. The project incorporates activities in economic growth, savings, small-scale agriculture, water, sanitation and hygiene, nutrition, and good governance. With technical assistance from USAID, individual districts develop their own needs assessments, work plans, budgets, and monitoring systems to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable households and communities. Across districts, activities focus on:

- Increasing the consumption of diverse quality foods, especially among women and children;
- Improving behaviors related to nutrition and hygiene of women and young children; and
- Strengthening local support networks to address the ongoing needs of vulnerable households.

USAID is currently directly funding 10 District Assemblies and the Northern Region Coordinating Council, and is extending its services by providing funding to 7 districts known as the Tier Two Districts by subcontract through Global Communities.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

In 2015, USAID added in social protection programming into the health portfolio for the impact that it has on nutrition and overall improvements in health status.

The Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty 1000 program (LEAP 1000) is a Government of Ghana social cash transfer program implemented by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, aimed at reducing poverty and stunting in poor households across selected districts in Ghana. Targeting 6,000 households with pregnant women and women with children under 12 months of age, the program expects to improve the nutritional outcomes of infants the crucial first 1,000 days of life, when the consequences of malnutrition are particularly severe, often irreversible, and reach far into the future.

With funding from the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund, USAID is supporting Ghana's national child care reform, with the aim of preventing child separation and reintegrating and placing children in residential care into family based care. USAID plans to provide \$8 million over 5 years to provide both technical and financial assistance. Activities will be implemented through UNICEF and a direct government-to-government agreement with the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.



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