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# FACT SHEET: USAID ANNOUNCES NEW INVESTMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CARE AND SUPPORT

## BACKGROUND

Access to quality and inclusive care infrastructure and ensuring decent work for care workers is fundamental to women's economic security. As the responsibility of paid and unpaid caregiving falls overwhelmingly on women and girls, investing in care can unlock women's broader participation in economic activity.

To advance the [Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment](#), the U.S. Government's [National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality](#), and the [United States Strategy on Global Women's Economic Security](#), USAID is committed to investing in and strengthening global care infrastructure, including increasing access to and quality of care for children, older persons, and people with disabilities, and strengthening protections for the caregiving workforce.

In recognition of the first official International Day of Care and Support, USAID is highlighting new and ongoing programming to expand care infrastructure around the world.

## CHILDCARE

Investing in childcare creates significant rewards for children, women, families, and economies. Quality childcare and education can enable significant long-term educational and economic benefits, including reducing unemployment and increasing wages. In addition, estimates indicate that closing the childcare gap would [create 96 million new jobs](#) globally by 2035. To address these gaps and increase access to quality and inclusive care, and in alignment with the [U.S. Government Strategy for Advancing Protection and Care for Children in Adversity](#) and the [Global Child Thrive Act](#), USAID is investing:

- **\$3 million** toward expanding care services for women nano/micro-entrepreneurs, and women in the informal economy in **India**. Programming includes generating evidence, testing, scaling, and working with community, government, and private sector-led models for quality childcare services with integrated health, nutrition, and education components.
- **\$2 million** in the **Kyrgyz Republic**, to improve access to quality development and education services for young children while creating opportunities for women entrepreneurs to run successful private care centers.
- **\$300,000** in **Jordan** for innovative solutions to childcare challenges for the manufacturing and industrial sector. Interventions will provide services supporting working parents, including safe, affordable childcare options and dedicated hygiene and wellness rooms, including for nursing. These initiatives aim to enhance women's well-being, work-life balance, and productivity while fostering a more inclusive work environment.

Along with these new announcements, USAID continues to support the following ongoing activities:

- Up to **\$50 million** over five years to the World Bank's Invest in Childcare Initiative. Along with the Governments of Canada, Australia, and Germany, and private foundations, the multi-stakeholder fund will generate over \$180 million over the next five years to increase investments in childcare in **low-and middle-income countries**, alongside impact evaluations to inform country-level efforts and generate evidence and knowledge to inform the global agenda.
- **\$16 million** to support women's economic empowerment, early childhood development, and job creation. Blended finance is used to identify, test, and refine private sector approaches to early childhood care and education to improve service delivery for childhood development programs in **Honduras, Paraguay, India, Rwanda, South Africa, and Tanzania**. Additional research will measure the effect of early childhood care on women's access to high paying, quality jobs, intrahousehold impacts, such as household bargaining and time use, and women's physical and mental wellbeing.

## EXPANDING CARE SERVICES

Women's unpaid care burdens often encompass a range of duties including care for young children, older or sick family members, domestic chores, and providing volunteer community-level social services. Addressing the need to reduce or redistribute these burdens may require holistic approaches, mapping existing gaps and filling these gaps with a variety of services. To support efforts to address unpaid care burdens, USAID joined global stakeholders, including governments, civil society and private sector partners, in the Global Alliance for Care—a multi-stakeholder initiative to promote comprehensive, quality, and equitable care systems while protecting the rights of care workers. New USAID investments include:

- **\$3 million in Colombia** toward expanding access to care services in several municipalities by mapping local actors in the care economy; strengthening human, organizational, and institutional capacities of care providers, including women-led businesses in the care sector; and working with men and families to address gender norms and redistribute care work responsibilities.
- **Over \$400,000 in Bangladesh** under the Asia Care Economy activity to partner with a local private sector company to further develop an online job platform that connects care service providers to clients via a smartphone application. With an **additional co-investment of \$200,000** from the private sector partner, this program aims to strengthen women's economic participation through improved opportunities in the formal economy for care providers and reduced barriers for economic participation for clients seeking care services.

## DOMESTIC WORKERS

Domestic workers — who are overwhelmingly women and many of whom may represent the most marginalized communities, including migrants — often work in the informal economy and are not protected by labor laws. Advancing domestic workers' agency and rights enhances not only their own economic security, but that of their families and communities. Ongoing work includes:

- **\$5.75 million** over five years via USAID's Global Labor Program, which supports the world's most vulnerable workers, including supporting the rights of domestic workers in **every region of the world**. For domestic workers, as with other targeted populations, our activities advance and defend worker rights; strengthen independent, democratic worker organizations; and support interventions that improve the laws, regulations, and policies impacting workers, along with implementation and more robust enforcement.
- **\$2 million in Southeast Asia** to protect and promote the rights of migrant domestic workers, especially women, from abuse, discrimination, and exploitation through strengthening ethical and fair recruitment, empowerment, and support networks; and increased access to skills training and protective services.

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORKERS

The White House Global Health Worker Initiative recognizes that women are the backbone of health workforces all around the world. USAID commits to address the inequality and violence women health workers experience and the systemic barriers they face in the health and social sector, including pay inequity, harassment, and other barriers to career advancement. To further address these barriers, USAID is investing:

- **\$4 million in Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ghana, and the Philippines**, which will strengthen primary health care systems by advancing collective representation and rights of health workers, improving women workers' economic security, and ensuring safe and healthy work environments. Programming will support women leading health worker organizations to advocate for improved wages and working conditions, increasing their retention rates, improving their occupational safety and health, and reducing gender-based violence, stigma, and harassment.

These new announcements advance and build upon efforts as part of USAID's global health portfolio to strengthen the health and social care workforce in recognition of their important role in the care economy. Ongoing investments include:

- **Over \$169 million** of annual funding through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) that supports women as part of the multidisciplinary health workforce that is advancing delivery of HIV prevention, care, and treatment services, including over 31,000 community health and social service workers **across 50 countries**.
- **\$33 million** through the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) to support approximately 100,000 community health workers—the [majority of whom are women](#)—through training and supervision, equipment, and in some countries, payment.
- Launched, with partners, the **Community Health Delivery Partnership** at World Health Summit 2023. The partnership reinforces principles for accelerating country-led action on national priorities to improve access to essential health services by strengthening community-based primary health care, with community health workers as a strategic focus.