For over 60 years, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has developed programs and partnerships to save the lives of women, newborns, and children. Together with our partners, USAID’s maternal and child health and nutrition programs focus on achieving a common vision: A world where healthy and well-nourished women, newborns, and children have the same chance of survival, regardless of where they are born.

USAID works in partnership with host country governments, the civil and private sectors, faith-based organizations, and other key partners to save lives by ensuring families and their communities have equitable access to quality, respectful care.
USAID is advancing a healthier, safer, and more prosperous world for women, children, and families. Our programs work to:

**Improve the Coverage and Quality of Care**
USAID improves the equity, accessibility, demand for, and quality of maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition services at all levels—from the community to the facility. Our programs increase the use of cost-effective and proven lifesaving interventions. This involves supporting health providers to comply with clinical standards and deliver care in a manner that promotes dignity and respect.

In 2019, USAID supported more than 84 million women & children to access essential—and often lifesaving—care.

**Promote Equitable Access to Critical Vaccines**
USAID works to eliminate disparities in access to vaccines by strengthening routine immunization systems to protect children and communities from infectious diseases, like measles and diphtheria. In partnership with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (Gavi), USAID supports the accelerated introduction of new and underused vaccines. Vaccines remain one of the world’s most important tools in the fight against new and re-emerging infectious diseases.

USAID helped to protect more than 882 million children with vaccines, saving more than 14 million lives, through the U.S. Government’s contribution to Gavi.

**Prevent Malnutrition in Women and Children**
USAID focuses on preventing all forms of undernutrition with an emphasis on the first 1,000 days—from the start of a woman’s pregnancy to a child’s second birthday—a period in which good nutrition is critical for optimal physical and cognitive development. Our programs ensure pregnant women receive essential nutrients; support exclusive breastfeeding and other child feeding practices; promote diet quality and diversification; and prevent and manage wasting (the deadliest form of malnutrition).

USAID reached more than 27 million children with nutrition programs in 2019.

**Increase Access to Safe Water and Sanitation and Promote Key Hygiene Behaviors**
USAID investments in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) support governments, the private sector, and communities to increase access to sustainable safe water and sanitation services and to promote key hygiene behaviors, including proper handwashing and ending open defecation to limit the spread of infectious disease. Further, USAID supports access to WASH in health care facilities to ensure safe and dignified care.

USAID enabled more than 17 million people to gain access to basic drinking water since 2012.
USAID works in twenty-five priority countries that together account for more than two-thirds of maternal and child deaths. USAID programs are focused on countries with the highest need, demonstrable commitment to achieving and sustaining improved health outcomes, and the greatest potential to leverage U.S. government programs and platforms as well as those of other partners and donors.
Thanks to the generosity of the American people, and through continued bipartisan commitment in the U.S. Congress, USAID investments promote evidence-driven actions that save lives. Our integrated programs prevent pregnancy-related complications for expectant mothers, ensure the best possible birth outcomes for newborns, prevent illnesses and infections in young children, and support the adoption of healthy behaviors by families and communities.