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## THE U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT'S COVID-19 RESPONSE IN TANZANIA

The United States government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has provided nearly \$44 million to help Tanzania respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding has largely supported getting COVID-19 vaccines to people safely and equitably and ensuring widespread access to the vaccine. Activities also focus on reducing deaths from and mitigating transmission of the virus, especially before the vaccine became available. These activities include communicating about health risks and combating mis- and dis-information about COVID-19; enhancing communities' abilities to prevent and control infections; strengthening laboratory capacity for efficient and accurate COVID-19 testing; conducting virtual training for educators and youth; and supporting civil society to monitor human rights issues.

Vaccines are one of our best tools to combat the pandemic and help prevent the emergence of future variants that will threaten the health of Tanzanians and everyone globally. The U.S. is redoubling efforts to help countries efficiently receive, distribute, and administer vaccines in Tanzania. To support these efforts, USAID contributed \$25 million to Tanzania through a partnership between the U.S. and Tanzania under the U.S. government's Initiative for Global Vaccine Access, or Global VAX.

The Global VAX initiative seeks to turn vaccines in vials into vaccinations in arms around the world. In Tanzania, the funding helps to accelerate vaccination efforts, specifically through investing in creating demand for vaccines, strengthening health care workers' ability to support vaccination efforts, managing the supply chain, monitoring vaccine safety and data, and supporting regional governments to bring vaccines to communities. Global VAX support focuses on ensuring that hard-to-reach and rural populations have access to vaccinations, and all activity is coordinated and planned in close collaboration with the Government of Tanzania and other key partners.

U.S. government funding for COVID-19 efforts builds upon long-term U.S. assistance in Tanzania. The United States has invested more than \$7.5 billion in development and humanitarian assistance in Tanzania over the past 20 years, of which nearly \$4.9 billion has been for health.

For decades, the United States has been the world's largest provider of bilateral assistance in global health -- putting all countries in a better position to respond to this dangerous virus. Across the world, the U.S. government has assisted more than 120 countries in the fight against COVID-19, and has committed to delivering more than 1.2 billion vaccines to countries in need, including over seven million vaccines to Tanzania to date. Globally, through the Global VAX initiative, the United States has already committed more than \$1.7 billion to support vaccine readiness work in an effort to get shots in arms and save lives around the world.

## **CURRENT COVID-19 ACTIVITIES**

### **Momentum Country and Global Leadership (MCGL)**

MCGL focuses on getting COVID-19 vaccines to people, as well as creating demand for the vaccine to help improve COVID-19 vaccination rates. The activity provides technical assistance for the COVID-19 vaccine roll out; monitoring and evaluation; policy, planning and coordination; human resources for health; training and supervision. MCGL also works at national, regional, and community levels, including community-based door-to-door outreach to increase uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine.

*Total Funding: \$9,500,000*

*Activity Locations: National (coordination and policy); Arusha, Dodoma, Morogoro, Kagera, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, and Singida (vaccine service delivery and demand creation)*

### **Meeting Targets and Maintaining Epidemic Control (EpiC)**

EpiC provides support and services to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine, as well as creates demand for the vaccine. To help reach vaccination targets and to address vaccine hesitancy and mis- and dis-information, EpiC is designing and implementing a national multimedia campaign across TV, radio, and social media. EpiC also implements events-based demand creation activities, including using top artist performers and influencers to draw people to vaccine-related events, coupled with service delivery to administer the vaccine at the events. The activity conducts mobile and community outreach at the district and community level, and also conducts mapping to provide vaccines to people in community institutions and places of work. EpiC provides additional services, including support for vaccine policy, planning, and coordination; monitoring of adverse events following immunization; supply chain and logistics support; and training of Community Health Workers on the Government's digital records system.

*Total Funding: \$7,500,000*

*Activity Locations: National (vaccine demand creation); Iringa, Lindi, Mtwara, Njombe, and Ruvuma (vaccine service delivery and demand creation)*

### **Medicines, Technologies, and Pharmaceutical Services (MTaPS)**

MTaPS supports the timeliness and quality of COVID-19 vaccine adverse events following immunization (AEFI) reporting, analysis, and use and strengthens electronic reporting and data management for

Pharmacovigilance (PV).<sup>1</sup> The activity includes the development, adaptation, and dissemination of messaging about COVID-19 vaccine safety and promotes timely AEFI reporting, development of procedures and tools for COVID-19 vaccines PV, training of healthcare staff on PV, and provides coordination support among stakeholders on COVID-19 PV-related activity.

*Total Funding: \$1,000,000*

*Activity Locations: National*

## **Global Health Supply Chain - Technical Assistance (GHSC-TA)**

GHSC-TA supports Tanzania's COVID-19 vaccine supply chain and logistics, specifically expanding support on vaccine forecasting to ensure ongoing alignment between supply and demand. The project also increases visibility and use of health information systems, including developing additional reports and dashboards. The project improves vaccine cold chain storage and temperature monitoring, strengthens vaccine distribution, and strengthens vaccine supply chain management through capacity building.

*Total Funding: \$1,000,000*

*Activity Locations: National*

## **Community Partnerships for Respectful Care (CPRC)**

This community partner leverages existing Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (RMNCH) activities and relationships built at the local level and across regions to support mobilizing people in communities and creating demand for the vaccine. The project supports efforts to get the vaccine to people, mainly in Mwanza and Shinyanga regions, focusing on hard-to-reach and vulnerable communities.

*Total Funding: \$3,800,000*

*Activity Locations: Mwanza, Shinyanga and other regions as needed*

## **Afya Yangu - North/Central,- Southern and RMNCH**

Afya Yangu supports the integration of COVID-19 vaccine services into family planning, HIV and tuberculosis services; and demand creation and service delivery at the community level. People living with HIV or other comorbidities are at a higher risk of being negatively impacted by COVID-19 if they contract the virus, so targeting them for the vaccine is critical.

*Total Funding: \$2,850,000*

*Activity Locations: Regions with a focus on People Living with HIV (PLHIV): Dodoma, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Manyara, and Singida (Afya Yangu North/Central); Njombe, Ruvuma, Iringa, Lindi, Mtwara, and Morogoro (Afya Yangu Southern); Region with a focus on RMNCH populations: Manyara*

## **Police and Prisons**

Police and Prisons supports the rollout of vaccines among police and throughout the prison system, including outside of prison facilities such as in barracks and police training colleges. The project works

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<sup>1</sup> Pharmacovigilance, also known as drug safety, is the science and activities relating to the detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects or any other medicine/vaccine-related problem.

to create demand for the vaccine among this priority population, and all activities are planned and conducted in close collaboration with Police Medical Units.

*Total Funding: \$200,000*

*Activity Locations: National among police and prison sites*

## **Boresha Habari (“Improve the News”)**

Boresha Habari supports an open, inclusive environment in which media and civil society provide accurate and impartial information that promotes participation, inclusion, and accountability. Specifically, the project provides training to journalists so they are well equipped to identify stories and report on COVID-19, as well as provides support to community radio stations and journalists via small grants and stipends to create and air COVID-19 messages and stories. Activities also include organizing fora for media, health, and regulatory officials to collaborate and ensure continued widespread reach of public health messaging.

*Total Funding: \$1,000,000*

*Activity Locations: National*

## **Digital Square**

Digital Square works to enhance the Government of Tanzania’s digital COVID-19 vaccination information system, Chanjo COVID, to improve: data collection and reporting processes; system user experience; and ultimately help increase COVID-19 vaccination coverage. The project supports Tanzania’s Ministry of Health in clearing existing COVID-19 vaccination data backlog across all regions, addressing existing technical issues in Chanjo COVID, and enhancing existing digital Community Health Information Systems to include COVID-19 vaccination information.

*Total Funding: \$753,000*

*Activity Locations: National*

For more information about how USAID is responding to COVID-19 across the world, please visit [www.usaid.gov/coronavirus](http://www.usaid.gov/coronavirus).

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to organizations that are conducting relief operations. USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed; can be transferred quickly and without

transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.

- For more information and to donate, visit USAID’s Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org).
- USAID has established an inbox ([covid19tf\\_pse@usaid.gov](mailto:covid19tf_pse@usaid.gov)) to coordinate private sector engagement around the COVID-19 response. In addition, the UN supports an initiative for businesses seeking to donate money, goods or services. Please visit [connectingbusiness.org](http://connectingbusiness.org) for more information.
- USAID can accept unsolicited applications and proposals. The Agency has set up a COVID-19 Concepts portal at: <https://www.usaid.gov/coronavirus/funding-requests-unsolicited-proposals>