

ACTING ON THE CALL 2017

ENDING PREVENTABLE CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATHS: A FOCUS ON HEALTH SYSTEMS

By focusing on building strong and resilient health systems, USAID can save the lives of 5.6 million children and 260,000 women from 2016-2020.

The 2017 Acting on the Call Report details how a focus on health systems will enable the delivery of essential, quality health services and ensure that they reach the most vulnerable and underserved populations. It also includes country-by-country updates on progress made in the past year in 25 priority countries. For the first time ever, the 2017 report provides quantitative estimates of the value of investing in strengthening health systems by calculating the lives of women and children that will be saved.

Healthy women and children are one of the best indicators of national stability and progress. By working with governments to build strong health systems, we are helping to build and maintain resilience and security for the U.S. and around the world. Scaling up health systems activities, chosen for their country-specific feasibility, is an essential element of our efforts to save 15 million children and 600,000 women between 2012 and 2020.

USAID'S IMPACT SINCE THE 2012 CALL TO ACTION

 **13.1M**
health workers
trained in maternal
and child health
and nutrition

 **69.5M**
treatments provided
to children for
diarrhea and
pneumonia

 **27M**
women reached
with voluntary
family planning
services, annually

 **5.9M**
women gave birth
in a health facility

 **25.3M**
children vaccinated
against deadly
preventable diseases

 **>12M**
children reached
with nutrition
programs, annually

 **6.4M**
newborns
reached with care
after delivery

 **5.6B**
liters of water
treated for
consumption

In 2016, USAID helped 82 million women and children access essential health services.

A HISTORY OF ACTING ON THE CALL

2012: Global leaders convene at the Child Survival: Call to Action Summit and agree around the achievable goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths.

2014: USAID releases Acting on the Call report, at an event of the same name, which lays out a country-specific roadmap to scale up high-impact interventions to save 15 million children and 600,000 women by 2020.

2015: The 2015 Acting on the Call report, launched at an event hosted in India, provides updates on country progress and focuses on the importance of increased access to quality care during labor and delivery.

2016: The 2016 Acting on the Call report provides country-by-country updates, announces Burma as the 25th priority country, and outlines the importance and impact of focusing on equity throughout our work.

2017: The 2017 Acting on the Call report provides progress updates in 25 priority countries and outlines how strengthening country health systems will save 5.6 million children and 260,000 women from 2016-2020.

STRONG HEALTH SYSTEMS SAVE LIVES

USAID investments at national, regional, and local levels work to improve health outcomes for mothers and children in 25 priority countries. Examples of progress made over the past year demonstrate that USAID's work is making a difference.

MALI

13,444 babies in Mali were saved by health providers trained in newborn resuscitation through the USAID-supported Helping Babies Breathe partnership.

GHANA

Helped determine the most efficient routes across Ghana to transport medicine from regional warehouses to health facilities and patients.

UGANDA

Designed a national communications program to address people's misperceptions about family planning, including fear of side effects and other health concerns.

MADAGASCAR

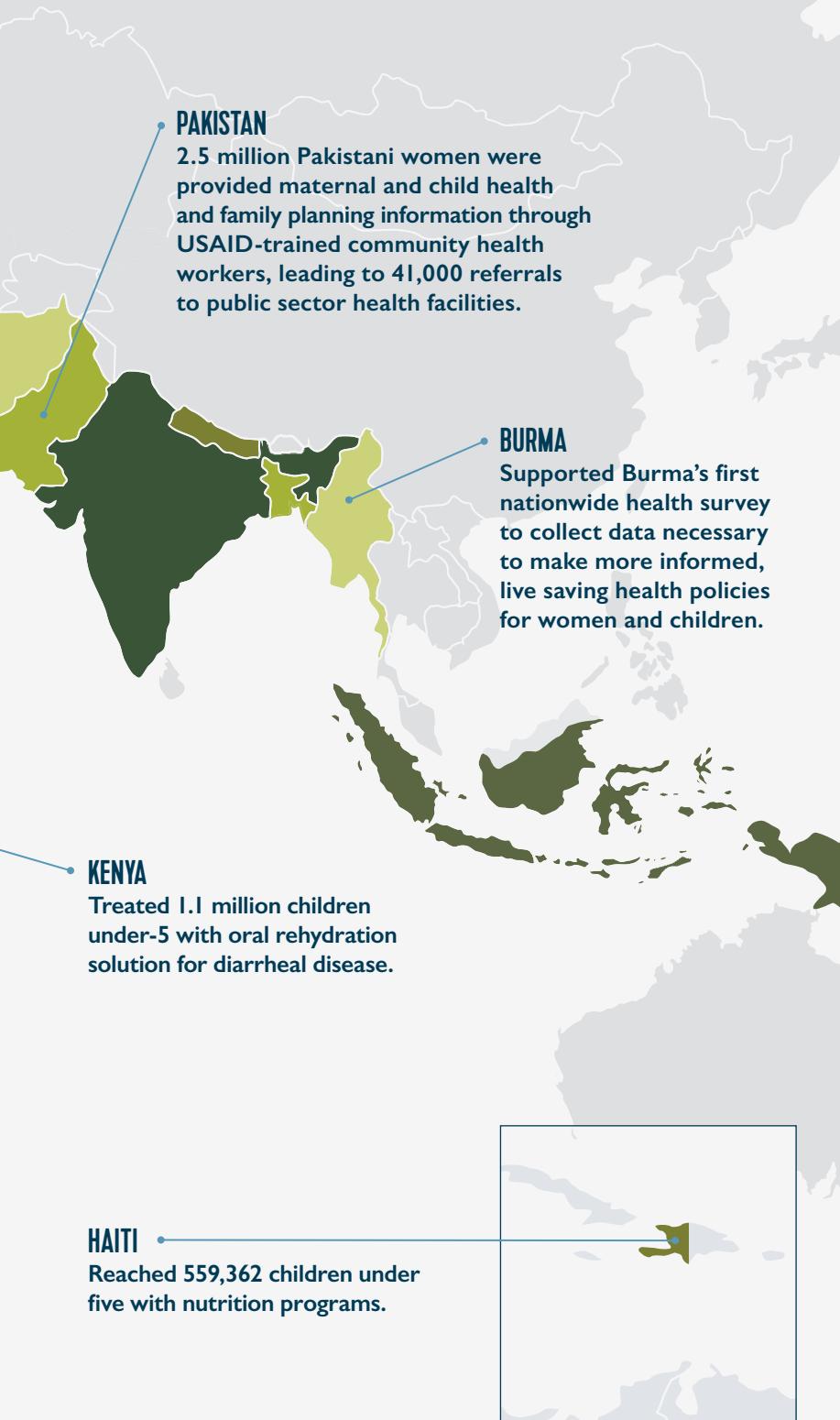
Protected 11.2 million people from malaria through insecticide treated nets.

RELATIVE STRENGTH OF A COUNTRY HEALTH SYSTEM*

RELATIVELY WEAKER
HEALTH SYSTEM

RELATIVELY STRONGER
HEALTH SYSTEM

* Strength of a health system determined based on out of pocket expenditure, human resource density, and country governance and institutional capacity.



HOW DOES IMPROVING HEALTH SYSTEMS INCREASE ACCESS TO CARE?

Child health: USAID works simultaneously on ensuring access to and effective utilization of appropriate, quality-assured medicines and supplies, while also strengthening the service delivery platform through which children access these services.

Family planning: A “total market approach” draws on the comparative advantages and complementary roles of the public, nonprofit, and commercial sectors to foster long-term, sustainable delivery of family planning information, products, and services to all population groups.

Immunization: With new babies born each year who require immunizations to stay healthy, sustaining new vaccine programs and maintaining support for existing programs requires enduring political and financial commitments.

Maternal health: Fundamental to the survival of childbearing women and their newborns is the availability of motivated, sufficiently compensated, effectively deployed, and capable personnel to manage services and provide skilled care.

Newborn health: USAID’s efforts to improve the quality of newborn care focus around quality care at birth, care for small and sick newborns, and improved care in the private sector.

Nutrition: Strengthening nutrition governance in the health system involves equipping key stakeholders across the continuum—from national policy to financing to implementation—to prioritize and actualize quality nutrition-related service delivery and capable human resources in communities and health facilities.

Social and behavior change: Health systems play a key role in helping to achieve and sustain key behaviors on the part of individuals within the health system—clients, providers, etc.—that are necessary to achieve and sustain a healthy population.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH): Community engagement motivates individual households to invest in and use sanitation facilities and services, and also to encourage their neighbors to do the same.

HEALTH SYSTEM BUILDING BLOCKS

Health Financing interventions help countries mobilize sufficient resources to pay for health needs and aim to reduce catastrophic health costs to individuals, thereby improving access to and availability of services that improve and save lives.

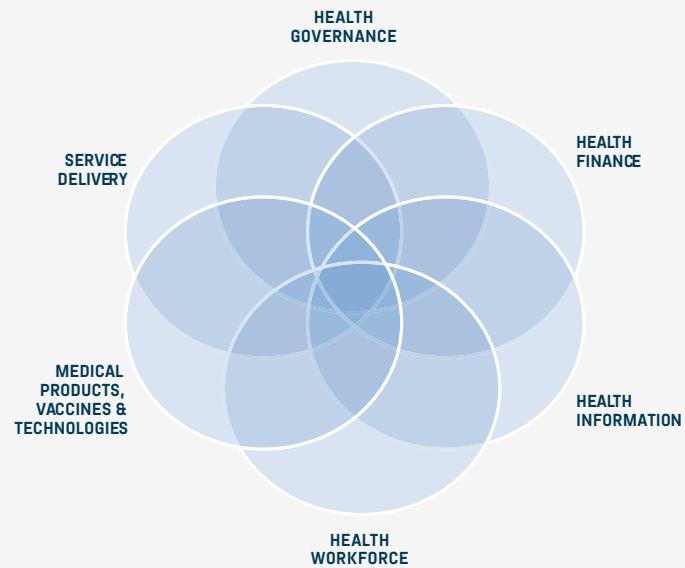
Health Workforce interventions aim to improve the availability and accessibility of qualified health care providers to a population in order to save lives through adequate and appropriate service delivery.

Health Information interventions aim to improve the collection, analysis, dissemination, and timely use of health data in evidence based decision making at all levels of the health system in order to save lives.

Health Governance interventions help improve the responsiveness of health systems to their populations, thus addressing perceptions of poor quality or mistreatment which may impede populations from accessing health services.

Medical Products interventions aim to ensure that people have sustained access to and make appropriate use of safe, effective, and quality medical products to improve their health status and save lives.

Service Delivery interventions aim to ensure access to safe, effective, and high-quality services by individuals and populations when they need them in order to sustain health and well-being and to prevent illness and death.



A SYSTEMS BASED APPROACH

Health systems consist of all people, institutions, resources, and activities who impact the health of the population. A full range of health systems interventions not only enables delivery of quality and affordable services but also ensures that those services reach the most underserved and high need populations.

Whether delivered in a community, a facility, or elsewhere, health interventions are challenged by “bottlenecks” related to the functioning of the health system—including availability of human resources, affordability, geographic access, and more. Reducing the bottlenecks which have the biggest impact on the ability of populations to effectively interact with the health system will save lives. USAID has worked to identify health systems strengthening approaches, organized around the six health systems building blocks, that reduce key bottlenecks and increase access to high quality care for women and children. The 2017 report analyzes the impact each of these approaches will have on saving the lives of women and children in priority countries.

People should have the ability to access needed services and the confidence that the services they seek will be effective and that in seeking them they will be treated with dignity, confidentiality, and autonomy.

TOTAL LIVES SAVED

