

# 2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

February 2014

## Global Health Security Agenda (GHS) Launched

Launched in February 2014, the Global Health Security Agenda (GHS) brings the United States and a coalition of international partners together to accelerate action to protect populations from epidemic threats and threats they pose to human life, the global economy, and our national security. The United States has committed to working with at least 30 partner countries to urgently strengthen capacity to prevent, detect, and respond effectively to infectious disease threats like Ebola, as well as other naturally-occurring, deliberate, or accidental outbreaks.

This U.S. Government effort includes USAID, the CDC, the Department of Defense, the Department of State and its Biosecurity Engagement Program; and other parts of Department of Health and Human Services including the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). USAID has a long history in partnering with countries, building capacity to detect and respond to infectious disease threats. Much of this work is the basis for meeting the GHS objectives.

May 2014

## 1 Billion Treatments Delivered to the World's Poorest

USAID celebrated its support of the delivery of 1 billion Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) treatments that have helped more than 465 million people in 25 countries, targeting the world's poorest and most vulnerable populations. NTDs are a diverse group of diseases that affect more than 1 billion people—one-sixth of the world's population—including an estimated 800 million children. NTDs almost exclusively impact poor people living in rural areas and urban slums of low-income countries.

Women and children are especially at risk. For instance, due to their primary role as caretakers of children, women are more commonly affected by trachoma, which causes pain and permanent blindness during the most productive years of life. NTDs also keep children from living healthy, productive lives, causing malnutrition, reduced school enrollment, and compromised intellectual development.

## Key Populations Essential to Realize AIDS-Free Generation

In May, Secretary of State John Kerry and Ambassador Deborah L. Birx, M.D., pledged to target comprehensive HIV services to those most at-risk and in-need, including key populations, women and girls, and orphans and vulnerable children; and increase attention to human rights to ensure access to safe and non-discriminatory HIV care services for all. These include sex workers, men who have sex with men, transgender persons and persons who inject drugs. The high

vulnerability of key populations to HIV is disturbing. Compared to the general population, sex workers are 14 times more likely to be infected with HIV; men who have sex with men are 19 times more likely to be infected; and the limited data we have on transgender women suggest that they are 49 times more likely to be infected with HIV. The global estimates that the number of people

June 2014

## Every Newborn Plan Launched

Neonatal deaths account for 44% of under-5 mortality. Although we have seen incredible success in bringing down under-5 deaths, neonatal mortality rates have declined at a slower pace. This is in part because the leading causes of newborn mortality are sometimes harder to diagnose and treat than leading causes of mortality in older children under age five.

In June, USAID joined a global movement to give newborns a fighting chance to survive and thrive during the most perilous period of life—during delivery and the post-natal period when prematurity, asphyxia and infection pose grave threats to their survival. Action to prevent newborn deaths is a vital element in ending

preventable child and maternal deaths—and helping to save newborns helps us to save moms, and can enable these fragile beings to become healthy children. For more than a year, USAID and our partners have developed the Every Newborn Action Plan, which was endorsed at the World Health Assembly in May 2014 and launched at the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Forum. This is the first plan to unite the global community around progress toward newborn health outcomes -- it is both a historic moment and opportunity. The plan outlines a practical strategy to address newborn mortality and identifies tactics and milestones for the global community to support national and local plans and action.

## Acting on the Call: Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths

Together with our partners, the United States is working to end preventable child and maternal deaths within a generation. In June 2014, USAID and the Governments of Ethiopia and India, in collaboration with UNICEF, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and other partners, came together for a high-level forum: Acting on the Call: Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths to celebrate the progress,

and assess the challenges that remain, and identify the steps needed to drive momentum around concrete action. The *Acting on the Call Report* outlined an action plan to save 15 million children and 600,000 women in the 24 priority countries by 2020. In addition, USAID announced more than \$600 million in new partnerships and awards with more than 26 partners.

August 2014

## Africa Leader's Summit

President Obama welcomed leaders from across the African continent to the nation's capital for a three-day U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit, the first such event of its kind. In Africa, over the past 20 years: HIV occurrence has been cut in half; tuberculosis (TB) and malaria deaths have been reduced by 40% and 30%, respectively; 50% fewer women die giving birth; and 50 million children's lives have been saved due to better access to primary health care, better drug supply chains

and access to skilled health care workers. The theme of the Summit was "Investing in the Next Generation." Focusing on the next generation is at the core of a government's responsibility and work, and this Summit provided an opportunity to discuss ways of stimulating growth, unlocking opportunities, and creating an enabling environment for the next generation.

September 2014

## Global Financing Facility

In September, The World Bank, Canada, Norway and the United States announced the creation of a Global Financing Facility ([www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)) to transform the business of global health and development with scaled-up, smart, and sustainable financing, so that all women and children have access to lifesaving care. The Global

Financing Facility will support countries in their efforts to mobilize additional domestic and international resources required to scale up and sustain essential health services for women, children and adolescents.

October 2014

## Fighting Ebola Grand Challenge Launched

Every day, in hot, humid, and extremely difficult environments, health care workers in Ebola-affected countries are performing critical tasks that save lives and prevent the spread of the virus. While Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) protect health care workers, they are difficult to wear for more than 40 minutes in hot climates, severely limiting the time health care workers can care for their patients, and increasing the number of opportunities for infectious exposure with each change

in PPE. In response to this challenge and the unprecedented Ebola outbreak, USAID along with the White House Office of Science and Technology, the CDC and the Department of Defense launched Fighting Ebola: A Grand Challenge for Development, a competition to develop better PPEs to help health care workers on the front lines provide better care and stop the spread of Ebola.

November 2014

## Commitments to Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) Deliver Progress

In November, the Family Planning 2020 (FP2020) global partnership released a report detailing family planning progress. Family planning enables women to practice healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies, which could lower child deaths by 25% and cut maternal deaths by one-third. With our partners, USAID provides support to national governments that have committed to the goals of FP2020 and are leading the development and implementation of their own country-specific plans. Expanded access to family planning helped avert 77 million unintended pregnancies, compared

to 75 million in 2012; 125,000 maternal deaths, compared to 120,000 in 2012; and 24 million unsafe abortions, compared to 23 million in 2012. Rates of modern contraceptive use have increased from 12% in 1990 to 31% in 2013 in the countries with the largest USAID-supported programs. Access to high-quality, affordable, acceptable, and accessible family planning is vital for enabling women to space pregnancies in a healthy way and control their health and livelihoods.

## Good Nutrition Improves Health, Saves Lives and Builds Prosperity

At the Second International Conference on Nutrition, USAID joined more than 170 governments and nutrition and development leaders agreed upon a framework for action to accelerate progress on nutrition, and affirmed the need to place nutrition at the core of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The 2013 Lancet Series on Maternal and Child Nutrition identified a package of nutrition interventions

that could save 900,000 lives if scaled up to 90% in 34 high-burden countries, 21 of which are EPCMD priority countries. The Lancet Series equipped nutrition advocates and policymakers with the evidence and recommendations to create impact in the world's poorest countries and an evidence-based foundation for the Framework for Action and USAID's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy.

December 2014

## More Than 4 Million Malaria Deaths Averted

Since 2001, malaria mortality has decreased globally by 47% and by 54% in Africa alone. It is estimated that more than 4 million malaria-related deaths have been averted worldwide in this time period—95% of these are estimated to be children under five in Africa. The majority of this progress has occurred since 2007 and the U.S. Government can share in the credit for these impressive results. The President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), led by USAID and implemented together with U.S. Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), works with national malaria programs to scale up proven prevention and control interventions. This includes protecting against exposure to the mosquito vector and preventing infection—with families sleeping under insecticide-treated nets, residual spraying of the insides of houses with insecticides that kill adult mosquitoes—and accurate diagnosis and prompt treatment, and intermittent preventive treatment of pregnant women.