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AMY FOWLER FOR USAID

USAID'S PARTNERSHIP WITH THE GLOBAL FINANCING FACILITY

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is committed to supporting countries in their journey to self-reliance, recognizing the importance of strengthening local institutions, addressing equity in access to health services, and developing sustainable financing for well-functioning health systems that are able to address the health needs of their populations.

Over 5.5 million mothers and children die every year from causes that could be prevented with access to quality and cost-effective services.

There is currently a \$33 billion annual financing gap for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health (RMNCAH) services. USAID works through multiple channels and approaches to help diversify funding for maternal and child survival and reduce this global funding gap. One way is through its support to the Global Financing Facility (GFF), in support of Every Woman Every Child.

The GFF works with governments to assess their funding needs and then leverage additional funding that can be spent on prioritized health areas that benefit women and children. By partnering with USAID, country governments, and other donors, the GFF can help save the lives of up to 38 million women, children, and adolescents by 2030.

Here are some ways that USAID works in partnership with the GFF to strengthen country capacity to meet the health needs of women and children:

I. SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF INVESTMENT CASES AT THE COUNTRY LEVEL

USAID works in collaboration with Ministries of Health, the GFF, the World Bank, and key global and country-level partners to develop investment cases. These are focused budgets and strategic plans that prioritize the most critical drivers of maternal, infant, and child mortality in a country and determine the cost to address these issues. By developing strong investment cases, countries are better able to plan their domestic resources, while donors and private sector partners are able to position their resources to fill gaps and add maximum value to support strong health systems.

In Uganda, the Ministry of Health has a national strategy to scale up proven interventions for women and children across the country. Along with the GFF, USAID supported the development of the sharpened national health strategy, which enabled the government to align external and donor investments across the entire country. USAID supports health systems strengthening efforts in many districts in Uganda, and financing from the GFF is used in another region to achieve the goals in the national strategy. In Mozambique, USAID worked closely with the Ministry of Health and the GFF on an investment strategy that identified six provinces with the poorest health indicators as the areas that warranted prioritization for funds. Together with financing from the GFF, the Ministry of Health will expand adolescent health services, roll out community health workers in Mozambique's most remote areas, and increase access to nutrition services to reduce stunting rates.

2. APPLYING TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

USAID serves on the GFF Investors' Group and uses our global presence and deep technical knowledge to promote best practices across GFF investments. Through our engagement with the GFF at the global level, USAID plays a key role in shaping technical priorities in partnership with other key financiers for RMNCAH to promote evidence-based approaches.

For example, USAID provided technical assistance through the GFF to develop guidelines on increasing access to high-quality equipment and medications for women and children in participating countries. These guidelines help ensure that GFF countries are able to maximize their investments in commodities.

3. ALIGNING OUR PROGRAMS WITH GFF INVESTMENTS

By working alongside and as part of the GFF, USAID is able to leverage additional GFF investments to strengthen our work on health systems and quality RMNCAH services. In Tanzania, USAID provides technical assistance to strengthen public sector health services that are being implemented with GFF funds. In Liberia, the investment case led the Ministry of Health and partners to prioritize six underserved counties, complementing USAID's support in three of them and laying the foundation for comprehensive, coordinated support to community health programs that provide maternal and child health services.

4. PROVIDING DIRECT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Recognizing the importance of collaborating with the GFF to support collective goals, USAID has established direct agreements with the World Bank in Tanzania, Mozambique, and the Democratic Republic of Congo to use our resources to finance technical assistance for activities within the investment cases developed by the Ministries of Health, amounting to a total of \$81.5 million in support across the countries. This support ranges from expanding results-based financing in Tanzania to using innovative approaches to strengthen the supply chain in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In Mozambique, USAID and the GFF are partnering to expand community health services and life-saving nutrition interventions to help improve reproductive, maternal, and child health outcomes. These are strategic investments, harnessing the technical expertise of USAID and the World Bank to build stronger capacity in Ministries of Health and Finance.

Currently, out of 36 countries participating in the GFF, 21 are priority countries for USAID's efforts to prevent child and maternal deaths. This overlap creates an excellent opportunity for increased impact. Through partnership, technical leadership, and investments that strengthen health systems and diversify financing sources, USAID work with the GFF is one example of collaboration with new partners, including the private sector, to help end the need for foreign assistance.