

# OVER THE HORIZON | FOCUS COUNTRIES



**OVERVIEW:** USAID launched Over the Horizon (OTH) to prepare for a world altered by COVID-19. OTH was a time-bound, cross-Agency strategic review to enable USAID to plan effectively for an uncertain future. To understand the fluid strategic context, USAID first conducted a [landscape analysis](#), followed by a rigorous, Agency-wide scenario-planning exercise. To provide a framework for USAID’s medium- to long-term response to COVID-19, USAID then established a Goal, a set of Strategic Principles, and three Strategic Objectives (SOs), focused on building stability and resilience, addressing compounding household shocks, and strengthening health systems and security.

**FOCUS COUNTRIES:** USAID used quantitative and qualitative data, drawing on both external resources and USAID’s technical and geographic expertise, to identify a set of OTH Focus Countries. Through this process, USAID assessed places that, given the impacts of COVID-19, are at the nexus of humanitarian and development need, opportunities for program impact, and U.S. national security interests. In Focus Countries, USAID will concentrate efforts to implement the SOs. USAID Missions, with headquarters support, will make strategic pivots, as needed, to advance relevant SOs. In some cases, this may mean reinforcing or expanding programs that align with the SOs; in others, Missions may opt to adjust programs or start new ones. In the future, areas of geographic focus may inform budget requests and resource allocation decisions.

**GOAL:** USAID advances U.S. national security and foreign policy objectives by leading the U.S. Government’s international development and disaster assistance for a world altered by COVID-19, so that partner countries continue to build self-reliance and progress beyond assistance.

**STRATEGIC PRINCIPLES:** Continue to deliver life-saving humanitarian assistance, protect hard-won development gains, and counter the negative impact of malign actors in areas of significant USAID investment and partnership.

<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1</b> Build more <b>stable, resilient systems</b> in countries that are increasingly fragile due to COVID 19	<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2</b> Respond to dramatic increases in <b>food insecurity, extreme poverty, and loss of educational opportunities</b> in communities most impacted by COVID 19	<b>STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3:</b> Strengthen public and private <b>health systems</b> strained by COVID 19 in partner countries critical to <b>global health security</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Kenya</li> <li>● Nigeria</li> <li>● Ukraine</li> <li>● Northern Triangle / El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras</li> <li>● Sahel / Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger</li> <li>● South America / Colombia, Peru, Venezuela</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bangladesh</li> <li>● Mozambique</li> <li>● Nigeria</li> <li>● Northern Triangle / El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras</li> <li>● Sahel / Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bangladesh</li> <li>● Nigeria</li> <li>● Northern Triangle / El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras</li> <li>● South America / Colombia, Peru, Venezuela</li> </ul>

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