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KENYA

HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING

An effective, sustainable health system is vital to improving the health of Kenyans. Kenya has a mixed system where health care goods and services are provided by both the public and private sector. In Kenya, public health care systems are constrained by insufficient financial resources, a shortage and poor distribution of health care workers, weak legislation and information systems, and a lack of management and other technical expertise. Accessing quality health services is especially difficult for women and youth. The private sector plays a critical role in complementing the public health sector efforts. USAID has engaged with the private sector to use market-based approaches to increase patients' options.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

Strengthening the health system is at the core of the Government of Kenya's universal health coverage agenda. USAID supported the formulation of foundational health policies, laws, and guidelines stemming from the 2010 Constitution and assists health ministries and counties to better plan, manage, and finance quality health services to meet local needs. USAID supports development of leadership and governance curricula, which cover topics such as financial management, the budget process, and sustainability in the health sector.

HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH

Kenya has an acute shortage of health workers. In addition, inequitable distribution and retention of health care workers remains a serious concern, particularly in regions where the need is greatest. USAID has helped build human resources for health systems. USAID also contracts health workers where necessary to ensure the continuity in service delivery, with an emphasis on regions with high disease burden and low workforce availability. The aim is to transition the USAID-contracted health care workers to county governments for sustainability.

HEALTH FINANCING AND SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

The cost of healthcare remains a major barrier to access, especially for the poor who spend a large share of their household income on health care. A priority for health financing is to ensure that existing and future funds are used efficiently and better targeted to reach poor and underserved populations. USAID supports increased domestic resource mobilization for health from both the public and private sectors and improved planning and budgeting processes at the county and national level. USAID works with the Government of Kenya to develop health financing policies and strategies; supports innovative health financing approaches that target increased coverage for those lacking access to care; and supports National Hospital Insurance Fund reforms to improve sustainable and equitable financing for health services.

MISSION CONTACT

John Kuehnle
Director of the Health, Population and Nutrition Office
Tel: +020-363-2000
E-mail: jkuehnle@usaid.gov

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: usaidkea@usaid.gov
Website: www.usaid.gov/kenya
Facebook: USAIDKenya
Twitter: @USAIDKenya

HEALTH PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGIES

The Kenyan Government has prioritized the strengthening of systems for managing health products and technologies. They aim to make health commodities accessible and affordable; meet quality, efficacy, and safety standards; and are appropriately utilized, reported, and accounted for. USAID has contributed to gains made in this area by strengthening the national procurement and supply chain system, building oversight capacity for county-level supply chain systems, and strengthening local public, private, and faith-based institutions.

HEALTH INFORMATICS AND ANALYTICS SYSTEMS

Despite investments over the years, Kenya still has fragmented digital health systems that are not aligned with national standards. Integrated health systems are critical to determining the health status of Kenyans and informing policies and programs. USAID has prioritized investments in integrated data analytics systems capable of providing health leaders and policy makers with targeted outcome level information for health policy formulation, planning and implementation management. USAID supports the deployment of ICT infrastructure to support the implementation of integrated facility wide electronic health records at the select priority counties. The digital health solutions include Early Infant Diagnosis database and the Child Protection Information Management System that generate triangulated data on key health outcomes required for program evaluations, policy reviews, and adaptations.