USAID has supported health programs in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Social Development for over 60 years. In 2020, USAID managed an $85 million portfolio aimed at improving the overall health and well-being of the Malian people in the face of short and long-term shocks and stressors. USAID’s health activities align with the U.S. and Malian governments’ strategic health priorities. Focus areas include health systems strengthening; maternal and child health and family planning; prevention, detection and treatment of infectious diseases including malaria, HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, and other emerging global health threats; promotion of nutrition; and water, sanitation, and hygiene activities.

USAID/Mali’s integrated health programs increase Malians’ ability to plan, finance, and manage their own health at the individual, household, community, district, regional, and national levels. Scaling local solutions in a country characterized by compounding and protracted crises is essential to fostering a healthier, more resilient Malian population. USAID-supported health programs are being implemented in 991 health districts in the regions of Sikasso, Kayes, Koulikoro, Segou, Mopti, Gao, Tombouctou and Bamako, accounting for 17 million people, 80 percent of Mali’s total population.
PREVENTING MATERNAL AND CHILD DEATHS

USAID prioritizes the reduction of maternal, newborn, and child mortality using high impact primary health care services and promoting healthy behaviors. Activities increase the availability of quality antenatal and obstetric care, newborn and child health services, and family planning. Interventions include training providers in antenatal care, basic and emergency obstetric care, and essential newborn care; improving access to and quality of antenatal services; ensuring skilled attendance at birth and care for low-birthweight babies; and treating neonatal infections. In addition, activities focus on preventing childhood illnesses including diarrhea, pneumonia, and malaria; and improving routine immunization. Since malnutrition accounts for approximately 45 percent of deaths in Malian children under the age of five, USAID also works to improve infant and young child feeding; increase local production of nutrient-rich foods; train community health workers in the management of acute malnutrition; and conduct micronutrient supplementation campaigns to distribute vitamin A to young children, and iron and folic acid to pregnant women. USAID supports improved access to voluntary family planning services through a private sector approach, ensuring community access to a full range of contraceptive methods and information. USAID promotes the adoption of healthy behaviors through social and behavior change, leveraging interpersonal communication and social and mass media, including local radio.

COMBATING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

To combat infectious diseases and emerging global health threats, USAID programs focus on the prevention, detection, care, and treatment of malaria, HIV/AIDS, neglected tropical diseases, COVID-19, and other emerging infectious diseases. Malaria is the leading cause of child mortality in Mali. USAID approaches to fight malaria include: the procurement of essential commodities including insecticide-treated bed nets, rapid diagnostic tests, and treatment medications; the provision of seasonal malaria chemoprophylaxis to prevent malaria in children under the age of five during the high-transmission season; and indoor residual spraying against mosquitos in certain geographic areas. USAID supports training and supervision of health workers in the diagnosis and treatment of malaria. USAID also supports HIV prevention, testing, and linkages to treatment services for key populations who have a much higher HIV prevalence than the general population. USAID works closely with the Government of Mali, and national and global partners to control and combat the spread of COVID-19, ensuring that Malians have credible and accurate information on how to protect themselves, and works closely with government and multi-lateral partners to accelerate equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines.

SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

USAID Mali’s health systems strengthening and community health activities are cross-cutting at all levels of the health care pyramid (including the public and private sectors.) Systems strengthening investments build capacity of the national health commodity logistics system and procurement of essential medicines to ensure adequate quantification, supply, and distribution from the national level to community service delivery points. Key health system investments include strengthening and digitizing Mali’s health management information systems; strengthening the governance and accountability of primary health care services; and adapting human resource strategies to facilitate localized recruitment and retention for resilience in the context of mounting insecurity across the country. USAID also works to strengthen human and animal laboratory networks, biosafety and biosecurity, pharmaco-vigilance, and waste management, and to expand innovative health financing modalities for universal health coverage. All USAID/Mali health programs are designed to increase self-reliance at the community level and enable communities to hold health workers and local governance officials accountable for the availability and quality of health services; increase engagement with and ownership of local health services; and reduce local cultural barriers to the adoption of healthy behaviors.