

ACTING ON THE CALL 2021

PREVENTING CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATHS: A FOCUS ON SUSTAINING LIFESAVING HEALTH SERVICES AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In 2012, USAID, along with the United Nations Children's Fund, the Governments of India and Ethiopia, and other key leaders in health convened the *Child Survival Call to Action* to catalyze global commitments around maternal and child survival. The Call to Action challenged the world to end preventable deaths among children and mothers. In 2014, USAID developed a bold roadmap, titled *Acting on the Call*, which detailed effective interventions needed to end preventable deaths among children and mothers within a generation.

Today, the annual *Acting on the Call* report continues to highlight progress towards this shared vision and commitment to preventing child and maternal deaths. This year's report illuminates how sustained commitment, financial investment, and technical leadership from the United States have ensured that critical, lifesaving health services continue reaching women, newborns, children, and families amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

DELIVERING LIFESAVING RESULTS



32 million
Women gave birth in a health facility



21 million
Newborns reached with care after delivery



105 million
Treatments provided to children for diarrhea and pneumonia



21 million
People gained access to basic drinking water



13 million
Health workers trained in maternal and child health and nutrition



27 million
Women and couples reached with voluntary family planning



8 million
Pregnant women reached with breastfeeding counseling and support



27 million
Children reached with nutrition programs



8 million
Preventive malaria treatments provided to pregnant women



87 million
Mosquito nets distributed to protect communities against malaria

In 2020 alone, USAID helped more than **92 million women and children** access essential—and often lifesaving—care.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

*Results achieved since the 2012 commitment.

*Results achieved in 2020.



PHOTO: Karel Prinsloo, Jhpeigo

A HISTORY OF ACTING ON THE CALL

2012: At the [Child Survival Call to Action Summit](#), over 80 countries represented by their governments and a multitude of partners from the private sector, civil society, and faith-based organizations gather to rally around the goal of ending preventable child deaths.

2014: USAID releases its action plan "[Acting on the Call: Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths](#)," laying out a bold, country-specific strategy to save 15 million children and 600,000 women by 2020.

2014-2021: USAID publishes an annual [Acting on the Call report](#) to the U.S. Congress outlining collective and individual country progress towards preventing child and maternal deaths.

2015: The "Delhi Declaration" is signed at the end of the [Global Call to Action Summit: Ending Preventable Maternal and Child Deaths](#) hosted by the Government of India. Over 500 leaders from around the world commit to making measurable improvements in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health through their respective country health plans and, where needed, to develop country-focused investment frameworks.

2017: The [Acting on the Call Summit](#), hosted by the Government of Ethiopia, brings together ministries of health, key country stakeholders, NGOs, the private sector, and donors to celebrate progress to date, share best practices, and outline key actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals 2030 targets as reflected in the [Global Strategy for Women's, Children's, and Adolescents' Health](#).

2020-2021: The global COVID-19 pandemic threatens decades of progress made towards improving maternal and child survival in countries around the world. The [2020 USAID Acting on the Call Report](#) focuses on the key role that nurses and midwives play in providing essential health care and services to women and children, including during times of crisis.

2022: The 10th Anniversary of the global *Child Survival Call to Action*.

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT

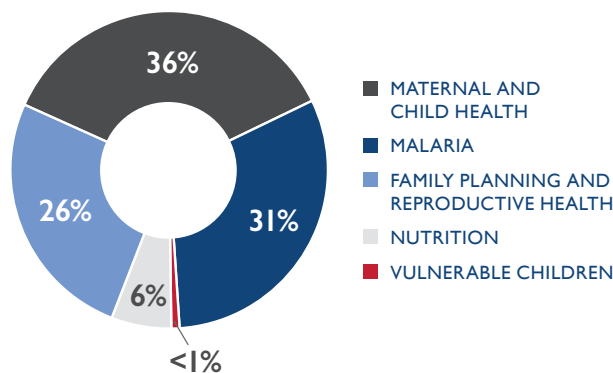
With the bipartisan support of Congress and the compassion of the American people, the U.S. Government invested more than \$21 billion from 2012 to 2020 to prevent child and maternal deaths.

PRIORITY GLOBAL HEALTH INVESTMENTS FROM 2012-2020

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND USAID	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	TOTAL
(\$ MILLIONS)	8,599	8,420	8,826	9,277	8,841	8,867	8,801	8,939	9,210	79,780
PREVENTING CHILD & MATERNAL DEATHS	2,285	2,262	2,398	2,534	2,417	2,372	2,362	2,381	2,430	21,441
CONTROLLING THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC	5,893	5,773	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,050	6,260	53,976
COMBATING INFECTIOUS DISEASE THREATS	421	385	428	743	424	495	439	508	520	4,363

INVESTMENTS IN PREVENTING CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATHS

TOTAL 2012-2020:
\$21,441,000,000



A RENEWED CALL FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION ON MATERNAL AND CHILD SURVIVAL

Improving the survival chances and quality of life of women, newborns, and children remains an urgent global challenge. Tenacity, innovation, and reinvigorated commitment are critically needed from the global health community to avoid needless deaths and help families and communities thrive. As outlined in USAID's *Vision for Health System Strengthening 2030*, our shared success will require emphasis on strong local partnerships and capacity development, and depend on the ability of countries to deliver improved outcomes that promote quality, equity, and resource optimization within their health systems. Greater country ownership achieved through inclusive development and locally-led solutions will be paramount.

To achieve lasting gains on maternal and child survival, USAID will focus on supporting countries to dramatically increase the strength and adaptability of their health systems to withstand and effectively respond to both chronic health problems and emerging threats. As the pandemic continues, USAID and our partners will need to be nimble and flexible in the way we deliver programs and resources—adjusting and adapting policies and approaches to respond to constantly emerging challenges. Together with our partners, USAID remains committed to improving maternal and child health outcomes across the globe.