

ACTING ON THE CALL 2020

PREVENTING CHILD & MATERNAL DEATHS: A FOCUS ON THE ROLE OF NURSES AND MIDWIVES

Acting on the Call—the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s response to the 2012 global Call to Action—lays out a bold agenda to save the lives of women and children. Since 2014, this flagship report has served as a roadmap for accelerating progress against one of the Agency's top global health priorities: preventing maternal and child deaths. This year's report highlights how far the global health community has come in accelerating access to essential health care for mothers, newborns, and children in 25 countries where they are most vulnerable.

In honor of the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife, USAID has dedicated this year's report to recognizing the heroic efforts of nurses, midwives, and other health care providers on the frontlines. Nurses and midwives have an invaluable role to play in improving access to, and quality of, maternal and child health care, in turn reducing maternal, newborn, and child mortality. During the COVID-19 pandemic, nurses and midwives are playing a critical role in the outbreak response in addition to maintaining essential health care.

The United States remains deeply committed to ensuring all women and children have the same chance of a healthy life, regardless of where they live.

DELIVERING LIFE-SAVING RESULTS

USAID helped more than **84 million** women and children access essential—and often life-saving—care in 2019 alone.



More mothers are delivering their babies safely

- 16.1 million women gave birth in a health facility since 2012, and
- 15.5 million newborns reached with care after delivery since 2012.



More families have access to clean water and nutritious foods

- 17.6 million people gained access to basic drinking water since 2012, and
- 27.2 million children reached with nutrition programs in 2019.



More health facilities are equipped with essential commodities and well-trained, health workers

- 13.6 million health workers trained in maternal and child health and nutrition since 2012, and
- 27 million preventive malaria treatments provided to pregnant women in 2019.



More children and communities are being protected from deadly diseases

- 92.8 million treatments provided to children for diarrhea and pneumonia since 2012, and
- more than 760 million people have been immunized, helping to save 13 million lives since 2001.*



More couples are able to practice healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy through voluntary family planning

- 24.3 million women and couples reached with voluntary family planning in 2019.

* Since 2001, the U.S. Government, through USAID, has contributed more than \$2 billion to Gavi. Through this partnership, USAID has supported the immunization of more than 760 million people, and helped to save 13 million lives.

ACHIEVING OPTIMAL COVERAGE OF SKILLED NURSES AND MIDWIVES

A key contributor to achieving our shared global goals rests on having sufficient numbers of nurses and midwives. USAID supports countries in developing and sustaining a health workforce that is sufficient in size, equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills, and is accessible to every individual.

REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA: Updated the national pre-service curriculum for nurses and midwives, in collaboration with the Liberian Board for Nursing and Midwifery, to include training on the Essential Care for Every Baby and the Helping Babies Survive protocols

REPUBLIC OF GHANA: Facilitated cross-facility collaborations between health workers to share experiences and skills, describe challenges to providing care, and identify solutions. These efforts contributed to a 33 percent reduction in institutional maternal mortality, 41 percent increase in voluntary family planning care utilization, and 28 percent reduction in stillbirths among participating districts in just a year and a half

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA: Going forward, support mentorships at health facilities with high burdens of maternal and perinatal deaths to improve workers' skills and competencies in providing high-quality health care

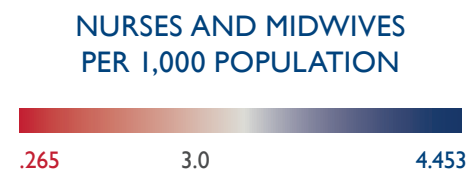
REPUBLIC OF MALAWI: Provided more than 1,100 nurses, clinicians, and other service providers from 869 health facilities and village clinics with training, mentorship, and supportive supervision to implement integrated community case management, a community-level approach to treat malaria, diarrhea, and pneumonia in children under five

REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR: Going forward, help the government to provide supportive supervision visits to frontline health workers to improve their knowledge, skills, and capacity to provide high-quality health care

FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA: Introduced in 1,012 health facilities a cohesive process to identify the causes of maternal deaths at facilities and use this information to improve service quality and prevent future deaths

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN: Going forward, expand the number of female doctors, nurses, midwives, and community health workers to enhance access to voluntary family planning and increase institutional deliveries

FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF NEPAL: Trained 11,632 frontline health workers, including nurses, midwives, and community health workers, to provide integrated nutrition services across 42 targeted districts



Global Standard: 3.0 nurses and midwives per 1,000 population

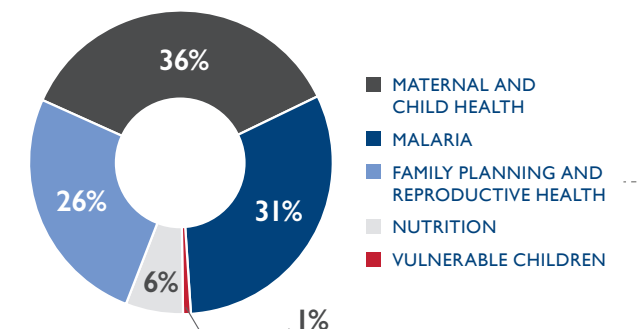
Maximizing U.S. Government Investments

Through bipartisan commitment in the U.S. Congress and the compassion of the American people, the U.S. Government committed over 19 billion dollars from 2012 to 2019 to prevent maternal and child deaths.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND USAID	2012 FISCAL YEAR	2013 FISCAL YEAR	2014 FISCAL YEAR	2015 FISCAL YEAR	2106 FISCAL YEAR	2017 FISCAL YEAR	2018 FISCAL YEAR	2019 FISCAL YEAR	TOTAL
(\$ MILLIONS)	8,599	8,420	8,826	9,277	8,841	8,867	8,801	8,939	70,570
PREVENTING CHILD & MATERNAL DEATHS	2,285	2,262	2,398	2,534	2,417	2,372	2,363	2,381	19,011
CONTROLLING THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC	5,893	5,773	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,050	47,716
COMBATING INFECTIOUS DISEASES	421	385	428	743	424	495	439	508	3,843

OUR INVESTMENTS IN PREVENTING CHILD AND MATERNAL DEATHS

TOTAL 2012-2019: \$19,011,000,000



EMPOWERING NURSES AND MIDWIVES WITH THE SKILLS FOR SUCCESS

Well-trained nurses and midwives are vital to preventing maternal and child deaths, fostering resilient health care, and ensuring health for all. A health workforce empowered by education and supportive management can better provide reliable, accessible, high-quality care. By helping countries build the capacity and skills of their own health workforce, USAID accelerates progress along their Journey to Self-Reliance.

Start off with the Right Skills

Bolster pre-service education programs to better prepare nurses and midwives with the expertise and skills they need to succeed from the start.

Our partnerships with academic institutions promote strong linkages across classroom learning, practical skill-building, and clinical practice.



Advance Health Workforce Motivation, Satisfaction, and Performance

Support health facilities and clinics to institutionalize mentoring, coaching, and supportive supervision to motivate nurses and midwives to deliver respectful, culturally acceptable care, and to help those with less experience learn from those with more expertise.



Ensure a Competent and Compassionate Workforce

Improve pre- and in-service training and professional development opportunities. Our investments strengthen the capacity of private sector education institutions and professional associations to deliver health education using innovative adult learning methodologies.



Equip Workers with Necessary Supplies and Resources

Mobilize domestic resources, improve supply chain efficiencies, and support procurement. Our investments help governments and the private sector equip their nurses and midwives with the essential medicines and resources needed to provide timely, comprehensive care.



Promote Good Governance and Decent Working Conditions

Partner with governments and health professionals' associations to develop and revise policies, guidelines, and accreditation standards that support nurses and midwives to reach their full potential.

