

# Preventing Child and Maternal Deaths

A Framework for Action in a Changing World, 2023-2030

## A DECADE OF PROGRESS

This past decade was one marked by a collective commitment to save children's and mothers' lives. In 2012, the global health community rallied together to advance a shared vision to end preventable child deaths in a generation. Two years later, in 2014, USAID introduced the Acting on the Call Report, outlining simple, cost-effective, evidence-based interventions, which, if adopted at high coverage, could save millions of children's lives. Convenings in India and Ethiopia reaffirmed this commitment and catalyzed national action. These efforts played a pivotal role in creating a worldwide movement behind the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs outline concrete, measurable targets to improve health globally, including two specific goals for preventing child and maternal mortality and a dozen others that are inextricably linked to improving maternal and child survival. Building on this momentum, USAID partnered with country governments to develop specific national action plans to drive annual progress towards these ambitious goals. Together, we made meaningful progress.



**44 million**

women gave birth in a health facility



**33 million**

newborns reached with care after delivery



**115 million**

treatments provided to children for diarrhea and pneumonia



**23 million**

people gained access to basic drinking water



**14 million**

health workers trained in maternal and child health and nutrition

#Results achieved since 2012



**27 million**

women and couples reached with voluntary family planning



**11 million**

pregnant women reached with breastfeeding counseling and support



**12 million**

newborns reached with postnatal care within two days of birth



**31 million**

children reached with nutrition programs



**91 million**

people protected from malaria-carrying mosquitos

\*\*Results achieved in 2021

In 2021 alone, USAID helped more than **91 million women and children** access essential, often lifesaving, care.



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: 2023-2030

Improving the survival chances and quality of life of women, newborns, and children remains an urgent global challenge. The continued effects of ongoing conflicts, crises, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and other stressors have severely impacted sustainable progress. As USAID rises to meet these new challenges, this new framework will guide our efforts.

## VISION

**A world where all women, newborns, and children survive**, are healthy, and are able to develop and reach their full potential, contributing to the development of their communities and countries.



## GOALS

**To save lives**, decrease disease, and increase the potential of women, newborns, children, families, and communities to thrive.



## OBJECTIVES

- 1 **Reduce preventable child and maternal mortality** in 25 priority countries to 12 percent or lower of total deaths by 2030.
- 2 **Increase coverage levels of lifesaving interventions** across priority countries to a level of 68 by 2030, as measured by the reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH) service coverage subindex.



## FOCUS AREAS

- 1 Strengthen Quality
- 2 Enhance Equity



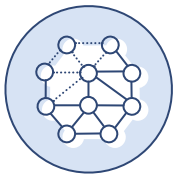
## STRATEGIC APPROACHES

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Primary Health Care</li> <li>2 Reach the Hardest to Reach</li> <li>3 Local Partnership</li> </ol> |  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 Human Resources for Health</li> <li>5 Commitment and Accountability</li> <li>6 Data for Decision-Making</li> </ol> |
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## WE CAN SAVE MORE LIVES

As we look ahead to the 2030 deadline for the SDGs, our shared global goals have not changed. Together with our partners, the U.S. government is working to significantly reduce child and maternal deaths, with the goal of all countries having fewer than 20 deaths per 1,000 live births and fewer than 50 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2035. To do so, we must prioritize coverage, quality, and equity to measurably improve health outcomes for women and children.



**Coverage.** Health services must be available to those that need them most, when they need them. USAID supports governments and the private sector to develop a health workforce that is sufficient in size and is accessible to every individual.



**Quality.** Quality care must be safe, effective, timely, respectful, and coordinated. When care is delivered in a manner that is respectful and culturally acceptable, it promotes patient satisfaction and fosters positive health-seeking behavior in the future.



**Equity.** An equitable health system affords every individual a fair opportunity to attain the highest level of health regardless of social or demographic factors such as race, ethnicity, income, gender, ability, or location.

## INTEGRATED PROGRAMS INCREASE IMPACT

Strong, integrated health systems can produce improved and sustainable public health outcomes for women and children. USAID's maternal and child survival programs integrate multiple health interventions and approaches, including maternal, newborn, and child health; reproductive health and family planning; nutrition; infectious disease control; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), to achieve long-term, sustainable results. The focus of these integrated programs is on strengthening health systems, building the capacity of local organizations, and improving health behaviors and practices at the community level.



## SIX STRATEGIC APPROACHES

- 1. Reaching the Hardest-to-Reach:** Women and adolescent girls; preterm, low-birth-weight, and sick newborns; children who have never been vaccinated; those vulnerable to wasting and malnutrition; people exposed to conflict or environmental risk factors; and the urban poor are at the highest risk of acute illness, injury, or death.
- 2. Primary Health Care:** Health systems anchored in primary health care are associated with better health outcomes, improved equity, and better cost efficiency.
- 3. Local Partnership:** Local actors have a deeper understanding of the challenges facing their communities and are best positioned to develop solutions that can be sustained.
- 4. Human Resources for Health:** Health workers play an instrumental role in advancing accessible, equitable, and high-quality care. They must be skilled, available in sufficient numbers, and supported by robust referral systems.
- 5. Commitment and Accountability:** Commitment from government leaders, the private sector, civil society, and communities and accountability mechanisms must be in place at all levels.
- 6. Data for Decision-Making:** Data provide the information needed to address disparities, improve the quality of health care, and determine what approaches work best. Quality, reliable, real-time data are necessary to track progress and prioritize future investments.

# ACCELERATING MATERNAL AND CHILD SURVIVAL THROUGH PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

## Pregnancy and Childbirth

Through primary health care, women receive at least eight antenatal contacts, skilled attendance at birth, and postnatal monitoring. These services are proven to improve outcomes for women and infants.



## Childhood

Primary health care promotes child health through routine immunizations, nutrition counseling, and the prevention and treatment of common childhood illnesses—including malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea.



## Adulthood

In adulthood, primary health care delivers family planning and reproductive health services, allowing women and couples to plan and space their pregnancies, reduce high-risk pregnancies, and achieve their desired family size.



## Newborn

Primary health care supports a healthy start for newborns through breastfeeding counseling, routine immunization, and timely and accurate monitoring for complications, illness, and hygienic care practices.



## Adolescents and Youth

As children progress into adolescence, primary health care services deliver routine immunization and help to prevent and treat illness and infectious disease. Nutrition along with water, sanitation, and hygiene programs keeps adolescents in good health for academic success while family planning programs equip them with the knowledge and means to delay childbearing.

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## REALIZING OUR GOALS

The United States government remains committed to preventing child and maternal deaths, and USAID's new strategic framework will guide us toward that goal. Over the next seven years, USAID will focus on shaping and supporting policies, practices, and country-led programs that improve the quality of care, promote equity, and achieve the optimal coverage of life-saving care. Our six strategic approaches will help bring critical promotive, preventive, and curative health services—in both public and private facilities—closer to the communities and families who need them. When women and children thrive, communities and economies flourish. These investments keep Americans safe, instill goodwill, and help our fellow nations achieve stability that benefits our interconnected global economy.

