



USAID/PAKISTAN HEALTH FACT SHEET

SECTOR OVERVIEW

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is partnering with the Government of Pakistan to prevent child and maternal deaths and combat infectious diseases.

SECTOR BACKGROUND

Since 2010, USAID has partnered with the Government of Pakistan's national and provincial health authorities for improved health of the people of Pakistan. Together, we accelerated progress on national health priorities to expand primary health care coverage in key areas of the country. USAID also leverages key partnerships with academia, civil society, and the private and public sectors to address global health security threats and the spread of infectious diseases. USAID has focused on strengthening key healthcare policies, infrastructure and service provision; workforce training and development, including at the community level. USAID also supports the strengthening of maternal and child health, nutrition, and voluntary family planning/reproductive health services; strengthening public health supply chain capacities at all levels, as well as expanding disease surveillance and response capacity.

SECTOR PRIORITIES

IMPROVING MATERNAL, CHILD AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

USAID is working with the Government of Pakistan at all levels to strengthen the quality of and access to essential health services, especially for women and children. This includes improving reproductive health and voluntary family planning services as well as nutrition services for children under five and pregnant and lactating women.

COMBATING INFECTIOUS DISEASES

USAID has helped Pakistan prevent the spread of infectious diseases, broaden access to medical care, train healthcare providers, and modernize delivery systems for critical medicines. This includes support for National and Provincial tuberculosis (TB) programs to improve prevention, detection and treatment of TB, strengthen management of drug-resistant TB, advance laboratory capacity, and engage local organizations to strengthen social support services.

STRENGTHENING GLOBAL HEALTH SECURITY

USAID is working in partnership with Pakistan to advance Global Health Security, building on a strong foundation of health systems strengthening investments. USAID supported digital health solutions that created better visibility and easier access to infectious disease data and helped inform decision making. USAID also supported the Government of Pakistan to create emergency response centers across Pakistan to accelerate detection and response to emerging infectious disease outbreaks in real time. These improvements resulted in a more efficient government response to health crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and laid the foundation for expanding Pakistan's ability to prevent, detect and respond to emerging infectious diseases.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND BASIC SANITATION SERVICES

USAID invested in infrastructure in Pakistan that provided 2,266,208 citizens with access to basic drinking water services and 702,350 citizens with basic sanitation services. These interventions improved health outcomes and helped prevent the spread of infectious disease. Through the ownership of local municipal services institutions, these projects are not only relevant and effective, but also largely sustainable.

KEY RESULTS

- Since 2010, USAID has trained over 60,000 health service providers to increase access to integrated, equitable, and quality health services and medical products, and to strengthen leadership and governance in the health sector. USAID's training has resulted in a more competent and skilled workforce able to deliver higher-quality and expanded coverage of basic health services, including maternal, newborn and child health, and family planning.
- Strengthened health facilities that provided over 13 million women and children with high-quality basic health services.
- Worked with the Ministry of Health to establish a Health Policy and Implementation Unit that serves as the technical directorate for the Ministry.
- Supported Pakistan's Health Programs through development of key strategic and policy documents, including Universal Health Coverage Benefit Packages for all provincial and regional governments, a National Lady Health Workers Strategic Plan (2022-2028), and a National Digital Health Framework (2022-2030).
- Supported the Sindh Health Department's restructuring which integrated vertical disease programs into the routine health system.

- Provided extensive support for Pakistan's COVID-19 response, including strengthening manufacturing and distribution of personal protective equipment, donation of refrigerated trucks and medical oxygen commodities, and supporting COVID-19 vaccination efforts for both adults and children.
- Established provincial and district disease surveillance and response units and trained rapid response teams in all 157 districts, and scaled up the Integrated Disease Surveillance Response system in over 20 districts.
- Expanded Pakistan's access to mobile laboratories, improving disease detection in areas impacted by the 2022 floods and improving country capacity for future outbreaks.
- Invested in infrastructure that provided over 2 million citizens with access to basic drinking water services and 700,000 citizens with basic sanitation services. These interventions were not only effective in preventing the spread of infectious disease, but were also efficient and largely sustainable.
- Constructed a hospital in Jacobabad and multiple hospital wards in Karachi.

CURRENT/ ONGOING ACTIVITIES

Maternal and Child Health, Family Planning & Reproductive Health, and Nutrition

BUILDING HEALTHY FAMILIES ACTIVITY (BHFA)

USAID is partnering with the Pakistani government to expand access to and utilization of essential health care services in Pakistan. This includes improving the quality of voluntary family planning services and maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition services, for better health outcomes for some of the most vulnerable populations. The Building Healthy Families Activity (BHFA) is addressing malnutrition and food security, two of the most critical issues in flood-affected areas of Pakistan.

UNICEF NUTRITION SUPPORT

USAID and UNICEF have been responding to the needs of the populations impacted by the floods in 2022. This activity addresses the deteriorating nutrition situation in the flood affected districts, enhancing coordination across the government and other partners. Through this activity, UNICEF is supporting the prevention, and early detection and treatment of malnutrition in children under age five and pregnant and lactating mothers in up to 80 sites across Sindh and Balochistan.

MOMENTUM PRIVATE HEALTHCARE DELIVERY (MPHD)

USAID is advancing private healthcare delivery in three districts in Sindh to improve access to voluntary family planning and reproductive health services through marketing campaigns, digital health and broader male and community engagement.

MOMENTUM COUNTRY AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP (MCGL)

USAID's MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership (MCGL) award provides technical and capacity building assistance to the government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) to strengthen postpartum family planning services in two districts and to improve overall access to quality Family Planning (FP) services.

PROMOTING THE QUALITY OF MEDICINES PLUS (PQM+)

USAID has provided assistance to Pakistan's federal and provincial health services, the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), and local pharmaceutical manufacturers of essential medicines. USAID support has strengthened regulatory systems, improved quality control and capacity in diagnostic laboratories and increased local manufacturing capacity for essential medicines and health commodities.

GLOBAL HEALTH SUPPLY CHAIN - PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT (GHSC-PSM)

Through this activity, USAID assisted the provincial and federal governments to upgrade their procurement systems, as well as strengthen the warehousing, storage and distribution, policies and standards for key medicines and commodities. Currently, this activity is

providing assistance in Sindh and Balochistan to support flood response/recovery efforts. This support includes providing equipment and strengthening the capacity of lady health workers and community midwives and operationalizing birthing stations, labor rooms and health facilities to provide maternal and child health, nutrition, immunization and family planning services.

HEALTH SERVICES ACADEMY (HSA)

USAID is supporting Pakistan's Health Services Academy, strengthening the premier public health academic institute of the Government. USAID assistance will help transform the HSA into a University of Public Health while building human capital capacity on infectious diseases nationally.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY (HDA) *(Implemented in coordination with Education Office)*

USAID is supporting the Government of KP to improve educational and health outcomes in the districts of Buner and Upper Dir. Through strengthening local organizations' capacity to implement innovative practices and scaling-up locally relevant health and education programs, HDA (2021-2024) aims to address both access and quality issues pertaining to basic education and health benefiting the most disadvantaged women, girls, children, and newborns. HDA has awarded 22 sub grants to local organizations.

Combating Infectious Diseases and Global Health Security

USAID is partnering with National and Provincial TB control programs to increase universal access to TB diagnosis and treatment, improve programmatic management of MDR-TB, strengthen laboratory capacity, engage local organizations to strengthen social support services, and enhance the National TB program's functionality and sustainability. The following are the TB program activities:

INTEGRATED HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING AND SERVICE DELIVERY (IHSS-SD)

Building on years of health systems investments that strengthened maternal and child health, USAID is strengthening Pakistan's tuberculosis services and improving global health security capacity. This also includes strengthening outreach and linkages with other health sectors and private sector partners to accelerate detection of people with TB and to get them on life-saving treatment. The Integrated Health Systems Strengthening Activity will also enhance engagement and cooperation across different health and animal sector services to improve cross-coordination to better prevent, detect and rapidly respond to emerging infectious diseases.

SUSTAINING TECHNICAL AND ANALYTIC RESOURCES (STAR)

USAID is providing critical technical assistance to Pakistan's National TB Program through four technical advisors who provide direct support to strengthen TB policies and services.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE DETECTION AND SURVEILLANCE (IDDS)

Pakistan has an estimated 600,000 new TB cases every year, and a strong diagnostic network is critical to find these new cases. USAID helped Pakistan map out the many components of the TB Diagnostic network to identify gaps to help improve performance. The activity has also helped develop a protocol for a Drug Resistance Survey and supported quality strengthening within TB laboratories. This activity is helping Pakistan's TB Program more rapidly identify people who have TB disease and to get them on the right treatment.

TB IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT (TIFA)

In concert with other activities, USAID provides small grant support to the National TB Program for key activities that strengthen management and implementation of TB Services. Through TIFA, USAID supports quarterly Interprovincial Meetings to review performance, share successes and challenges and adjust approaches to improve the prevention, detection and treatment of people with TB. Additional small grants are supporting better monitoring and evaluation approaches and materials, and quality improvement.