



Photo Credit: Mwangi Kirubi,
PMI Impact Malaria

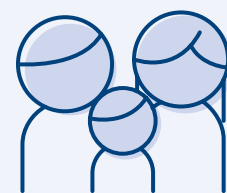
CHILD HEALTH: FOSTERING BETTER HEALTH AND WELL-BEING FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

JULY 2024

For more than 60 years, USAID has championed child survival around the globe, contributing to remarkable changes in the landscape for child health. From the groundbreaking eradication of smallpox to the effective management of cholera through the widespread adoption of oral rehydration therapy — a simple solution comprising sugar, salt, and water — USAID has consistently led the charge in global health innovation. As the largest donor in this space, USAID continues to prioritize investments aimed at expanding the reach and enhancing the quality of proven child health interventions worldwide.

Today, USAID's child health programs are committed to supporting countries to make progress towards achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal three target of reducing mortality for children under age five to 25 or fewer deaths per 1,000 live births by 2030.

Globally, 2.6 million children died between one month and five years of age in 2022. Pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria are the leading causes of child mortality — yet, are largely preventable and treatable. To reduce these preventable deaths, our programs are anchored on primary health care and utilize innovative approaches to prevent, detect, diagnose, and treat the major threats to child health. Leveraging programming across USAID's Bureau for Global Health, we maximize every health care touchpoint in efforts to reach even the most vulnerable children.



SINCE 2000,
**CHILD DEATHS
UNDER AGE
FIVE HAVE
FALLEN BY 58%**
ACROSS USAID'S
25 PRIORITY
COUNTRIES FOR
MATERNAL AND
CHILD SURVIVAL.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PRIORITIZING COVERAGE AND QUALITY

USAID prioritizes 25 countries where more than 70 percent of maternal and child deaths occur, directing resources for child survival towards the communities most in need. We coordinate closely with country partners to expand coverage of the highest-impact interventions and improve the quality of care for child health. Improving quality leads to better health outcomes while also increasing demand for services and reaching children at high risk. For health providers, this means strengthening skills, changing behaviors, and providing ongoing support. In health facilities, quality improvement includes strengthening sanitation and hygiene practices and managing medicines and supplies to prevent stockout. These investments help providers accurately diagnose health conditions, treat those conditions quickly and safely, and instill a culture where patients are treated with kindness, respect, and dignity.

DELIVERING PROGRAMS THAT ARE INTEGRATED, EFFICIENT, AND EQUITABLE

USAID delivers our programs through the Integrated Management of Newborn and Child Illness (IMNCI) approach in facilities and integrated Community Case Management (iCCM). Through this approach, USAID works with community and faith-based leaders and health providers to deliver frontline care and prevention services to children in their homes and communities. Working with communities in this way helps to reduce equity gaps in who is able to access care.

Through IMNCI and iCCM, we reduce missed opportunities to provide high-impact, low-cost solutions for all children, such as:

- Accurately diagnosing pneumonia, malaria and diarrhea in a timely manner and prescribing low-cost medications to allow children to recover from severe illnesses;
- Educating families about early breastfeeding and good nutrition to enable children to grow and develop to their full potential;
- Providing children with insecticide-treated mosquito nets to protect them from malaria;
- Promoting handwashing with soap and water to cut deaths from diarrhea and acute respiratory infections;
- Assessing health needs at every primary care contact to identify children who need immunizations and reduce vaccine-preventable disease.

The Global Child Thrive Act is an innovative, U.S. whole-of-government commitment to elevate and integrate early childhood interventions across foreign assistance programs. USAID programs fostering child health are critical to deliver on this commitment.

INVESTING IN ESSENTIAL SERVICES AND PRIMARY HEALTH CARE

Primary health care bolsters child health by delivering vital services like immunization, nutrition counseling, and the prevention and treatment of common childhood illnesses — including malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea. Primary care also includes support for caregivers, helping them to prevent child illnesses and care for their children if they do become sick. By strategically integrating health care delivery, our programs reach more children and better identify those at higher risk of severe illness due to birth complications, preterm birth, low birth weight, or being under-immunized. Strengthening primary health care platforms supports child health, reduces gaps in reaching all children, increases referrals for children who need specialized care, and maximizes every opportunity to support good health across the life course of children.



IN 2022, USAID PROGRAMS TREATED **11.4 MILLION CASES** OF DIARRHEA AND PNEUMONIA IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.



THROUGH USAID'S ENGAGEMENT IN GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS SUCH AS THE **CHILD HEALTH TASK FORCE, CHILD SURVIVAL ACTION**, AND THE COMMUNITY HEALTH ROADMAP, OUR PROGRAMS MOBILIZE RESOURCES AND IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES FOR CHILD HEALTH IN COORDINATION WITH GLOBAL EFFORTS.



IN 2022, USAID DELIVERED **48 MILLION PREVENTIVE MALARIA TREATMENTS**, PROTECTING 12 MILLION CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.



USAID PARTNERS REACHED **28.2 MILLION CHILDREN** WITH NUTRITION PROGRAMS, WHICH HELPS YOUNG CHILDREN SURVIVE AND THRIVE BY SUPPORTING THEIR OVERALL HEALTH AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT.