



**USAID STATEMENT *for* LIVES IN THE BALANCE SUMMIT**  
CO-HOSTED BY THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MATERNAL NEWBORN AND CHILD  
HEALTH (PMNCH), CORE GROUP AND UHC2030  
December 11, 2020

**COVID-19 RESPONSE AND PRIORITIES FOR MATERNAL, NEWBORN AND CHILD  
HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAMMING**

USAID has committed ***\$1.3 billion to the global fight against COVID-19***. This funding, provided by U.S. taxpayers, is saving lives by improving public health education; protecting healthcare facilities; and increasing laboratory, disease-surveillance, and rapid-response capacity in ***more than 100 countries***.

USAID delivers more than just funds. It delivers expert technical assistance, training, capacity building, health systems strengthening, and life-saving diagnostics and treatment. For decades, the United States has been the world's largest provider of bilateral assistance in global health -- putting countries across the world in a better position to respond to this dangerous pathogen.

USAID offers a robust variety of assistance options for countries responding to COVID-19. USAID's assistance to each country is tailored to their capacity and needs. Our assistance comes in many forms, just a few examples include:

- **Ventilators:** Through the generosity of the American people and the innovation of American private industry, USAID is providing this needed medical technology to help critically ill patients across the world.
- **Case management:** USAID helps countries strengthen clinical care while minimizing the risk of onwards transmission to others.
- **Infection prevention and control:** USAID helps countries prevent and control infections in health-care facilities.
- **Laboratory strengthening:** USAID helps countries prepare laboratory systems for large-scale testing of COVID-19.
- **Points-of-entry public health screening:** USAID helps countries implement emergency plans to screen people arriving at countries' various points of entry, such as airports and land-border crossings.
- **Risk communications:** Communications to provide the public with reliable, verifiable information to keep everyone informed about how to protect themselves and each other.
- **Medical Oxygen:** The United States Government, through USAID, is providing \$18 million to support oxygen activities for 11 affected countries in the global fight against COVID-19.



COVID-19 mitigation strategies are disrupting essential services, including antenatal care, facility-based delivery, and immunization programs. In response, USAID has identified the following approaches to support countries to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and help ensure families can access the health care they need. This includes:

- **Prevent transmission of COVID-19** in maternal and child health and nutrition and other essential service delivery by strengthening water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) in healthcare facilities and infection prevention and control.
- **Provide targeted technical assistance** to countries to identify alternative approaches to safely deliver essential maternal and child health and nutrition programs.
- **Support robust monitoring and evaluation** of COVID-19 response efforts for maternal and child health and nutrition programs.

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For decades, the United States has been the world's largest provider of bilateral assistance in health. Since 2009, American taxpayers have generously funded more than \$100 billion in health assistance and nearly \$70 billion in humanitarian assistance.

The U.S. Government (USG) as a whole has allocated \$20.5 billion for the development of vaccines and therapeutics, preparedness efforts, and other foreign assistance.

In addition to this direct funding from the U.S. Government, our All-of-America approach is helping people around the world to confront the ongoing pandemic. Through the generosity of American private businesses, non-profit groups, charitable organizations, faith-based organizations, and individuals, Americans have now provided more than \$4.9 billion in donations and assistance globally for COVID-19 response, more than any other nation.

END OF STATEMENT – 12/2/2020