

50 Years of Accomplishments in Global Health

USAID was born out of a spirit of progress and innovation and as a reflection of Americans’ values, character, and a fundamental belief in doing the right thing. President John F. Kennedy recognized the need to unite development in a single agency to maximize expertise. In 1961, USAID was created. Since that time, USAID has been a force for progress, fostering a more peaceful and secure world.

For a half century, USAID has pioneered new approaches to community-based public health, service delivery in health facilities, supply chain management, and health systems strengthening. These on-the-ground interventions have been complemented by USAID support for research and development of new technologies.

Fifty years of USAID global health investments have resulted in proven, effective public health interventions that reduce morbidity and mortality, and contribute to alleviating poverty and building a more prosperous world for all.

1961

President John F. Kennedy by executive order creates USAID to implement development assistance programs in the areas authorized by Congress in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.



1966

USAID provides financial assistance to smallpox eradication programs in 20 African countries, thereby contributing to the elimination of the disease in those countries.

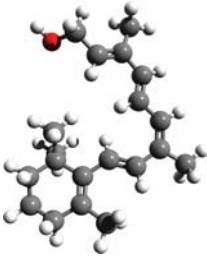
1973

USAID develops a proposal calling for “new directions” in foreign aid that emphasize “basic human needs,” food and nutrition; population planning and health, and education and human resources development. The proposal is adopted by Congress in an amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act then signed into law (PL 93-189) by President Richard Nixon in December 1973.



1985

Through multimillion-dollar agreements, USAID mounts vitamin A research programs in Bangladesh, the Philippines, and Zambia to replicate the ground-breaking USAID-supported study in Indonesia that linked vitamin A supplementation to disease prevention.



1988

In 1983, Egypt launched its National Control of Diarrheal Disease Program with USAID support. Five years later, Egypt’s rate of infant and child mortality from diarrhea declined by 53% and 47%, respectively. While mortality from non-diarrheal causes showed little change, these reductions clearly show the impact that national oral rehydration therapy programs can have on diarrheal mortality.

USAID stepped up efforts to improve maternal health and nutrition by launching the MotherCare (Maternal and Neonatal Health and Nutrition) project, which worked to improve pregnancy outcomes through technical assistance, training, and research in 14 countries.

1996

USAID releases the National Health Accounts (NHAs) user manual. More than 100 developing countries have since applied NHAs. Countries, including Malawi and Rwanda, have used NHA results to improve health policy and increase efficient use of health resources.



2003

The U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is enacted in 2003. PEPFAR authorizes up to \$15 billion over 5 years to address HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria in low- and middle-income countries through bilateral assistance and contributions to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The United States Congress passed a bipartisan, 5-year reauthorization bill, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008.

2009

President Barack Obama launches the Global Health Initiative (GHI) to focus attention on broader global health challenges, including child and maternal health, nutrition, family planning, and neglected tropical diseases. The Initiative adopts an integrated approach to fighting diseases, improving health, and strengthening health systems using cost-effective interventions.

1965

USAID’s population and reproductive health program begins the same year that President Lyndon B. Johnson declares he will “seek new ways to use our knowledge to help deal with the rapidly increasing world population and the growing scarcity of world resources.”

1972

USAID’s Office of Population develops reproductive health training and international surveys such as the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) – the global gold standard for monitoring health development progress. As of 2010, DHS has conducted 260 surveys in 90 countries.



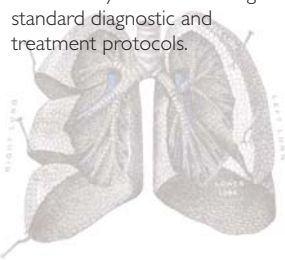
1979

USAID provides the greatest share of funding to establish the International Centre for Diarrheal Diseases Research in Bangladesh, where scientists will conduct research that leads to improved formulations of oral rehydration salts that prevent diarrhea and save children’s lives.



1986

USAID/Nepal launches one of the first projects to investigate acute respiratory infections as part of its child survival effort. The project also explores whether primary health care workers can identify and care for seriously ill children using standard diagnostic and treatment protocols.



1994



CORE Group Polio Project, India

Polio is officially declared eradicated in the Western Hemisphere, with USAID’s Child Survival program making a crucial difference in this victory.

2000



With USAID support, GAVI is launched; by 2009, it had prevented more than 3 million premature deaths and served a key role in increasing the global vaccination rate by 10 percentage points. To date, GAVI has funded vaccines against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, hepatitis B, pneumonia, measles, and yellow fever. GAVI and its partners are now preparing to finance the introduction of two new vaccines – pneumococcal and rotavirus – in the poorest countries.



USAID plays a vital role in funding research for Oxytocin-Uniject™. This single-use device safely provides

oxytocin to contract the uterus during the third stage of labor, thus reducing excessive bleeding – the leading cause of maternal death and responsible for an estimated 125,000 deaths each year.

2005

The President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI), a 5-year, \$1.2 billion expansion of U.S. Government resources, is launched to reduce the intolerable burden of malaria and help relieve poverty on the African continent. The goal of PMI is to reduce malaria-related deaths by 50 percent in 15 focus countries with a high burden of malaria by expanding coverage of four highly effective malaria prevention and treatment measures.



2010

USAID funds microbicide research and development since 2001 and is the major funder of CAPRISA 004, the Centre for the AIDS Programme of Research in South Africa and its successful microbicide gel trial, an innovation that helps protect women from HIV.



At a high-level nutrition roundtable, co-hosted by Canada, Japan, and the United States,

through USAID and the World Bank, USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah announces the 20 focus countries of the U.S. Government’s Feed the Future program, an initiative that targets the causes of hunger and aims to reduce poverty, hunger, and undernutrition.

“To fail to meet those obligations now would be disastrous; and, in the long run, more expensive. For widespread poverty and chaos lead to a collapse of existing political and social structures which would inevitably invite the advance of totalitarianism into every weak and unstable area. Thus our own security would be endangered and our prosperity imperiled. A program of assistance to the underdeveloped nations must continue because the Nation’s interest and the cause of political freedom require it.”

– John F. Kennedy –