



Somali Joint Health and Nutrition Program

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To reduce the number of illnesses and deaths among women and children, USAID supports the training of midwives.

Managing Partner:

United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)

Implementing Agencies:

UNICEF

United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA)

World Health Organization (WHO)

Overall Funding Level for JHNP:

\$99 million through December 2014

Budget forecast: \$236 million

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Funding Contribution:

\$3,255,395

Duration:

September 2012 – March 2016

Activity Goals:

- Improve health and nutrition status of Somali people
- Reduce maternal and child mortality
- Increase use of reproductive, maternal, new-born, and child health and nutrition services that are accessible, affordable, and high quality

Activity Accomplishments:

- Reproductive health units were established with 3 Reproductive Health experts from

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

USAID supports the Somali Joint Health and Nutrition Program (JHNP), a multi-donor fund managed by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) that strengthens health systems and service delivery across Somalia. By supporting quality reproductive, maternal, new-born, and child health (RMNCH) and nutrition services that are accessible and affordable, JHNP continues to improve the health and nutrition status of the Somali people and reduces maternal and child mortality.

ACTIVITY AREAS

USAID investments are combined with resources from five international donor agencies to facilitate Somali-led health and nutrition services and sector reforms that:

- Improve governance and leadership at all levels of the health sector;
- Strengthen and expand the number of skilled and trained public health workers, and ensure equitable distribution across Somalia’s regions to deliver high quality RMNCH and nutrition services;
- Increase the availability and utilization of RMNCH and nutrition services;
- Support the development of a robust, equitable, and efficient health financing system;
- Improve availability and quality of essential medicines, vaccines, reproductive health commodities, medical equipment, and physical structures; and
- Enhance availability, quality, and use of health information.

As one of the donor agencies, USAID invests in activities critical to improving the health status of women, girls, and children especially related to their particular risks on gender-related health issues. For example, USAID support:

- Advances reproductive health policies, regulations, and guidelines to improve access to and use of RMNCH services;
- Helps develop legislation and policies related to female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C);
- Facilitates community-based interventions to change social behaviors related to female genital mutilation/cutting practices;
- Strengthens the midwifery school in Mogadishu and the training of midwives;

- the Diaspora, along with working groups and female genital mutilation task forces in each region
- More than 120 health workers were trained on maternal and child health services using a standardized curriculum in all three regions
 - Essential medicines, supplies, and nutrition commodities, as well as reproductive health commodities, were made available

Contributing Donors:

Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Finnish Development Cooperation

United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID)

USAID

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

Key Partners:

Ministry of Health, Federal Government of Somalia

Ministry of Health, Puntland

Ministry of Health, Somaliland

Activity Locations:

Puntland (Nugal, Mudug and Bari)

Somaliland (Togdheer, Awdal and Sanaag)

South Central Somalia (Lower Juba, Galgadud and Benadir)

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- Builds the capacity of clinical staff in maternal and new-born health, including comprehensive emergency obstetric care and anesthesia; and
- Trains health staff, including community health workers in child health and nutrition.

ACTIVITY IMPACT

JHNP, with USAID support, has established reproductive health units, working groups, and task forces in Puntland, Somaliland, and South Central Somalia to address strategic issues involving RMNCH services in the long term. These units are staffed by Reproductive Health experts from the Somali Diaspora who were recruited to strengthen the capacity of health ministry staff in each region and develop policies and plans on Reproductive Health. USAID activities build support at both the government- and community-level for the reduction and/or abandonment of the practice of FGM/C which is a significant factor contributing to maternal mortality in Somalia. Interventions are focused on 81 communities with the potential to abandon the practice of FGM/C, as well as on policy development, legislation, and advocacy around abandoning the practice of female genital mutilation/cutting in all three regions.

Curricula for comprehensive emergency obstetric care for clinical staff has been developed and used by the World Health Organization to train 70 clinical staff. Furthermore, a curriculum to train community health workers was developed and endorsed by the Ministries of Health in Puntland and South Central Somalia. Increasing the number of skilled clinicians lead to better quality emergency obstetric and newborn care.

Finally, USAID-funded activities established and strengthened nine midwifery schools in the three regions. Specifically, USAID resources focused on strengthening the midwifery school in Mogadishu, and training 40 midwives at the school in order to increase the number of skilled birth attendants able to handle complications which can cause maternal mortality and morbidity.