**USAID/Senegal Health Concept Note**

# **Introduction**

This Concept Paper is a key step in the process for designing a sector-wide USAID/Senegal Project Appraisal Document (PAD) and the authorization and award of a new generation of health programs by 2016. The proposed objectives outlined in this Concept Paper build on the current integrated portfolio of activities that will come to an end in October 2016. In FY 2010 the Mission launched its integrated health program, which works across health earmarks and at all levels of the health system. The five components, representative of a health system strengthening (HSS) approach, work together to expand the Government of Senegal’s (GOS) integrated package of services to improve family planning, reproductive health, maternal, neonatal and child health at the community and clinical levels. USAID continues to play an important role in supporting the GOS to meet its health challenges for the remainder of this decade, especially as the health sector undergoes major changes in the organization and administration of health service delivery. This new, five-year project will continue to respond to the urgent need to save lives now, with proven cost-effective high-impact health interventions for women, children and infants and other vulnerable populations.

# **Problem Statement and Development Hypothesis**

The Senegalese population continues to suffer from high rates of infectious disease and preventable maternal and child deaths due to limited adoption of healthy behaviors, weak health systems and governance, and inadequate service delivery.

The project development hypothesis is: *If strategic investments are made to strengthen the management and performance of the health system, increase access to a high quality package of essential health services, and increase engagement of individuals and communities in the management of their own health and health services, then the health status of women, children, and other vulnerable populations will be improved.*

# **Relation to the USAID/Senegal Country Development and Cooperation Strategy**

This new health project supports the CDCS’ second Development Objective (DO): *Improved Health Status of the Senegalese Population*. To achieve this DO, USAID/Senegal proposes to continue support for Senegal’s progressive health reform program, which is based on UHC, decentralization of the health system, and greater involvement and inclusion of the private sector in providing health services and generating new revenue streams for health. This Concept Paper will reinforce USAID’s commitment to strengthening the private sector, supporting decentralized structures, supporting local communities, and improving governance in the health sector overall.

# **Results Framework**

The overarching goal of the 2016-2021 Health Program is to improve the health status of Senegal’s population, as stated in the approved CDCS. This health project will make strategic investments to build country capacity that will have a sustainable impact on maternal and child mortality and key public health priorities. This long-term goal of the USAID/Senegal health program focuseson three key objectives: increasing access to quality services, increasing the engagement of individuals and communities in the management of their own health and health systems, and improving the management and performance of the health system. These objectives will contribute to achieving the GOS MOH goals to: 1) reduce maternal mortality; 2) reduce under-5 mortality; 3) reduce neonatal mortality; 4) increase the modern contraceptive prevalence rate; 5) reduce unmet need for contraception; and 6) reduce the prevalence of underweight children under five. These three objectives are laid out below as Intermediate Results (IR) in an updated Results Framework for USAID/Senegal’s health portfolio.

Senegal is at a crossroads in its human development. Not only must it tackle high rates of infant and maternal mortality, it must also cope with a growing crisis of non-communicable and emerging diseases such as the threat of Ebola. The government's efforts to implement widespread reforms including decentralization, universal health coverage and integration of community health services, bring new challenges to ensuring that these policies are implemented effectively and efficiently. The success of Senegal's health program will hinge on its ability to balance a portfolio of "traditional" key public health interventions while also adapting to a rapidly changing globalized world focused on new technologies and innovation.

The project addresses seven health technical areas corresponding to Senegal’s health funding streams with a strong focus on maternal, child and newborn services, family planning/reproductive health, nutrition, HIV/AIDS and malaria prevention, treatment and control. Other selected neglected tropical diseases and emerging illnesses will also be addressed in this project. **The geographic focus of the project will be determined based on data from the consolidated 2012-2014 C-DHS, a donor mapping exercise, and discussions with the MOH, conducted during the development of the PAD.**

**Intermediate Result 1: Increased Access to a High Quality Package of Essential Health Services**

***Sub-IR 1.1: Increased Access to Quality Health Services and Products in the Public Sector***

USAID will support the public sectors to improve the provision of care and life-saving products along the community-to-facility continuum to ensure quality service delivery at the community and health facility levels. Activities will focus on high-impact interventions that reduce maternal, child, and newborn morbidity and mortality.

***Sub-IR 1.2: Increased Availability of Private Sector Service Delivery Points and Products***

The number of private healthcare providers in Senegal has increased, as health *mutuelles* reimburse for services and pharmaceuticals. USAID will provide support to Senegal to update its procedures for regulating private sector providers to ensure that quality standards are met. This project will also support social marketing of health products.

**IR 2: Increased Commitment of Individuals and Communities in the Management of their own Health and Health Services**

***Sub-IR2.1: Increased Adoption of Healthy Behaviors***

The adoption of healthy behaviors can be a long and complex process that is affected by social, cultural, religious, and gender related factors. For interventions to change behavior to truly be effective, activities must be strategic, evidence-based, targeted, and sensitive to Senegal's unique cultures and changing demographics.

***Sub-IR2.2: Improved Community Involvement in Health System Governance***

Sustainable and lasting improvements in health care services cannot be achieved without the commitment and engagement of the communities that use these services. Civil society can play an important role in assuring accountability of service providers as well as sensitizing communities to the importance of taking ownership of and responsibility for their own health.

**IR 3: Improved Performance of the Health System**

***Sub-IR 3.1: Improved Health System Governance and Finance***

Good governance at all levels of the health system is essential for ensuring accountability and transparency in the management and delivery of quality health service. Good governance can help build the capacity of program managers to ensure that they have the knowledge, skills, and tools to adapt to new challenges such as emerging diseases, climate-related shocks and constant changes that affect health services.  The GOS' commitment to Universal Health Coverage provides an excellent framework to help reduce financial barriers to health services. This project will support the expansion of community-based health insurance, and the integration of free services aimed at protecting women, children and the elderly.

***Sub-IR 3.2: Improved Management and Availability of Qualified Human Resources***

Senegal’s health system suffers from insufficient quantity and quality of health personnel, who are unevenly distributed in rural and urban areas. Public sector employees are frequently underpaid, unmotivated, and insufficiently supervised. To address these challenges, USAID will focus on improving the human resource management system in order to make more sustainable and lasting improvements to human resources for health.

***Sub-IR 3.3: Improved Management of Public Health Commodities***

Senegal’s supply chain and commodity distribution system are hampered by limited access and availability of essential drugs, contraceptives and other health commodities at all levels of the health system. Recent developments—such as Senegal’s commitment to ensuring access to 15 life-saving commodities identified by the UN Commission—provide a framework for accelerating system reforms. Under this project, USAID will support the development of new approaches to strengthen the management of public health commodities.

***Sub –IR 3.4: Improved Information and Data Use for Decision Making***

Health workers at all levels have limited capacity to use and interpret health data. USAID can contribute to strengthening the capacity of health sector personnel to collect, analyze and use health information to improve decision making at central, regional, and district levels.

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# **Customer/Partner Ownership**

**Identification of Principal Stakeholders & Partners**: This project directly responds to Senegal’s National Development Strategy, *Plan Senegal Emergent*, the MOH National Health Plan (PNDS) 2009-2018, the National Child Survival Plan, and the National Family Planning Action Plan. The principal stakeholders critical to the Project’s success in Senegal include the Ministries of Health, Education and Decentralization; regional governors, regional health committees, regional and district health officials, community health committees, district councils, local leaders, and civil society organizations, including community and faith-based organizations. International donors including USAID, the World Bank, the Belgian Development Agency (CTB), Luxemburg Development Agency (LuxDev), and Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), WHO, UNICEF and non-profit organizations, represent 19 percent of all financing in the health sector.

USAID/Senegal welcomes public comments about this Concept Paper. Please send them to usaidsenegalhealth2016@usaid.gov by April 10, 2015.