



Regional Health & HIV/AIDS



USAID is strengthening care of mothers and children under five in the region by working with African regional organizations and national health providers to reduce mortality.

Overview

The region served by the USAID/East Africa (EA) Mission continues to face daunting health challenges including rapid population growth; high rates of maternal and child morbidity and mortality; and a high burden of infectious diseases. Furthermore, each country experiences health systems challenges that hinder the government’s capacity to meet the health needs of its most vulnerable populations. African leaders and Global Health experts alike recognize the fundamental necessity of regional approaches to health sector development. They also recognize that Health sector development, both regionally and nationally, is dependent on sustainable solutions to health systems strengthening.

The goal of the USAID/EA Regional Health and HIV/AIDS (RHH) office project is to “Facilitate and Support Sustainable African-Led Health Sector Development to Improve the Lives of East Africans.” To contribute to this goal, USAID/EA will align its technical and financial resources to achieve the project purpose: “Catalyze and Accelerate the Scale-Up of High Impact and Sustainable Solutions to Priority Health Systems Challenges in East Africa.”

Regional Health & HIV/AIDS (RHH)

2013 OYB Funding:
\$10.2million

Partners:

- East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA), based in Tanzania
- Regional Center for Quality of Health Care (RCQHC), based in Uganda
- East African Community (EAC) affiliate, Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)
- Family Health International
- Health Insurance Fund

Geographic Location:

12 countries in East and Central Africa

HIV/AIDS

RHH’s HIV/AIDS program’s long-term goal is to achieve an HIV- free generation in East Africa. The program aims to support regional partnerships and transnational action that expands access to quality and standardized prevention, care and treatment services. Priority target groups include migrant laborers, transport workers and other underserved groups traveling and working across East Africa and the Horn of Africa. This year, RHH will prioritize regional cooperation and governance of such programs to mitigate the potential negative impact of regional integration and economic growth on disease transmission across countries. Through assistance to RCQHC in Uganda, USAID/EA supports the development of training materials and pre-service and in-service curricula for pediatric HIV care and treatment incorporating quality improvement (QI) techniques and tools. RCQHC also responds to QI training & mentoring requests.

Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (MNCH)

Nearly all countries in East Africa have made headway in reducing maternal and under-five mortality since the 1990s. But none are likely to meet the related Millennium Development Goals. To accelerate progress, USAID/EA is working with African regional organizations and national health providers to advocate for MNCH to receive higher priority in health-sector budgets, and to scale up proven, low-cost interventions that save lives. USAID/EA is also engaging global health partnerships and the private sector to increase coverage and impact of MNCH programs.



A community-based distributor of contraceptives teaches a mother how to use “cycle beads” to reduce her chance of pregnancy. USAID is promoting family planning/reproductive health

Nutrition

RHH is working with Feed the Future (FTF) to promote dietary diversity and strengthen regional partnerships for food fortification and food safety, including the reduction of aflatoxin. It is also working with the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to improve the quality of nutrition programming for people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. The primary focus of such programs is to: 1) Support inter-governmental cooperation to increase the availability and quality of fortified staple foods through facilitated regional regulation and trade; 2) Partner with public and private sector partners to fortify locally produced staple foods ; and 3) Strengthen nutritional components of HIV/AIDS care and treatment programs through dedicated technical assistance.

Tuberculosis (TB)

USAID/EA continues to lead the policy dialogue on TB as a re-emerging threat to the continent, given the rising rate of TB/HIV co-infection and the threat of multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB). RHH is: 1) Supporting a Center of Excellence in Rwanda to coordinate regional training in MDR-TB and infection control; 2) Assisting to strengthen the sustainability of a “supranational” reference laboratory in Uganda on a par with the highest caliber laboratories in the world; and 3) Working with ECSA-HC to develop a regional policy on the management of MDR-TB treatment failures cases and on the introduction of regional TB data management system to facilitate trans-national cooperation in disease prevention and control.

Family Planning and Reproductive Health (FP/RH)

Since both maternal mortality and population growth in East Africa are among the highest in the world, USAID/EA is promoting FP/RH services through: 1) Improving the capacity of health workers to deliver high-quality FP/RH services; 2) Integrating FP/RH services with HIV/AIDS, MCH, environmental and other programs to facilitate access; 3) Addressing sexual and gender-based violence; and 4) Strengthening health policy and regulation to expand effective delivery of FP/RH.

Polio

USAID supports the Polio eradication initiative in the Horn of Africa. USAID works closely with its USG sister agencies to support lead Polio actors, such as the World Health Organization and UNICEF, and key donors to meet the pressing need for emergency action and containment of the current polio outbreak that began in Somalia in May 2013. USAID has actively coordinated transnational cooperation and the development of a regional polio prevention, detection and control strategy with an accompanying regional communication strategy.