

Global Health Initiative in Mali



Community health workers showcase the various family planning methods available to women.

Photo: USAID/Mali

In May 2009, President Barack Obama announced the Global Health Initiative - a vision for a new, more effective way for the U.S. Government to maximize its global health investments in communities around the world. Through the Initiative, the United States is investing approximately \$60 billion over six years to help partner countries improve health outcomes among women, newborns, and children. It is a global commitment to improve the quality and reach of health services and public health programs. The Initiative also works with governments to ensure the sustainability of their health programming.

In Mali, the Global Health Initiative is led by USAID and includes U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, Peace Corps, Department of Defense, and Department of State. We've identified several health sector priorities; strengthening ministerial leadership and strategic planning capacity, promoting a unified approach to system strengthening, supporting improved service delivery, and growing human resource capacity.

USAID focuses on:

- Strengthening strategic planning and providing leadership within the partnership of donors and government;
- Expanding access to post-partum family planning; and
- Delivering integrated packages of essential services to communities to work toward meeting the Millennium Development Goals.

The U.S. Government's strategy in Mali aligns with the priorities of the Government of Mali's Health Sector Development Program.

Results from the past year

Despite Mali's complex crisis that led to restrictions on U.S. Government aid between March 2012 and September 2013, USAID achieved impressive results under GHI:

Family Planning

All the USAID-supported service delivery sites provided family planning counseling and/or services. We achieved 685,041 couple years of protection, exceeding the target by 21 percent, and 994 people were trained in family planning methods.

Maternal and Child Health

An estimated 97 percent of USAID-supported community health centers practice active management of the third stage of labor, which helps prevent post-partum hemorrhage, the leading cause of maternal death. In addition, health promotional activities reached 81,290 people and 21 percent adopted a family planning method. Despite the country's protracted political crisis, 72 percent of children 12-23 months of age received measles vaccine by 12 months of age, and 4,633 people were trained in child health and nutrition.

HIV/AIDS

The number of individuals who received testing and counseling services for HIV and received their test results was 32,662, exceeding the target by 63 percent. The number of people (5,789) living with HIV/AIDS who were reached with a minimum package of prevention interventions also exceeded the annual target as did the number (17,478) of people (in most-at-risk populations) reached with individual and/or small group level HIV preventive interventions.

Nutrition

The number of children under five who received Vitamin A from U.S. Government-supported programs was 3,425,447, exceeding the target by 7 percent. A total of 83,574 post-partum women also received Vitamin A supplementation. We also treated 191,842 malnourished children under 5 years.

Malaria

More than 800,000 bed nets were distributed in 2013 in an effort to maintain high levels of ownership and use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets. Additionally, we achieved 85 percent ownership of insecticide-treated mosquito nets and 70 percent usage protecting people during the July-September rainy season.