

HEALTH POLICY PLUS: Kenya and East Africa

Photo: John Schlinker

Project Overview

Health Policy Plus (HP+) is a USAID-funded, five-year US\$185 million project implemented by a consortium of partners, led by Palladium (formerly Futures Group). The project's HIV activities are supported by PEPFAR. HP+ has a mandate across global, country, and sub-national levels to strengthen and advance health policy priorities in family planning and reproductive health, HIV, and maternal health. In Kenya, HP+ builds on the successful efforts of its predecessors, the Health Policy Project (2012-2015) and the Health Policy Initiative (2005-2010), to support the Government of Kenya to improve national- and county-level policies, strategies, and guidelines and to strengthen mechanisms to ensure that Kenya achieves sustainable financing of its health-care system and reaches global HIV and AIDS targets. HP+ will also support the East African Community (EAC) secretariat to harmonise resource-tracking tools to measure progress towards sustainable health financing and universal health coverage.

Our Work

HP+ Kenya and East Africa focuses on the following programme areas:

Supporting the development and implementation of the Kenya Health Financing Strategy

Kenya's Health Financing Strategy aims to develop a financing system that can deliver high-quality health-care to all Kenyans and offer protections for the poor. HP+ provides technical assistance to Kenya in the development of its health financing strategy and will continue to provide assistance in the finalisation, approval, and adoption of the strategy by:

- Supporting forums for discussion and consensus-building around the development of the strategy to ensure widespread buy-in by all stakeholders
- Supporting the Ministry of Health (MOH) to generate evidence to inform the strategy's proposals and to provide answers on contentious issues
- Building the capacity of the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) to engage in the development and implementation of the health financing strategy
- Supporting the MOH to develop an implementation roadmap for the strategy
- Promoting alignment of NHIF roles to support universal health coverage

Increasing sustainable finance and domestic resource mobilisation for Kenya's health sector

In light of the reduction in donor funding for health and HIV, which is expected further decline in the long term, HP+ supports efforts to mitigate threats to financing healthcare in Kenya through the mobilisation of domestic resources:

- Supporting sustained, high-level advocacy efforts with the MOH and National Treasury to ensure budget line items for HIV, family planning, and other priority programmes are maintained and allocations enhanced
- Providing technical support to MOH to improve absorptive capacity to use the resources allocated for HIV and increase efficiency in the use of HIV and AIDS resources
- Improving the capacity of counties to generate evidence to inform advocacy on increased resources for health including key programmes such as HIV and AIDS and family planning

Strengthening national and county linkages to enhance Kenya's health finance, policy, and governance

Beginning in 2013, Kenya began to devolve authority from its central government out to 47 newly created counties. This shift in governance has required a great deal of coordination between a range of stakeholders and agencies in the public and private sectors, including coordination between multiple government ministries at and across county and national levels. HP+ builds on HPP's success in supporting inter-governmental relations in the devolved system by supporting the Health Sector Inter-governmental Forum's coordination efforts:

- Assisting the forum's technical working group on universal health coverage to improve policy analysis, development, and monitoring
- Supporting sharing of best practices across counties and the dissemination of national standards and policies
- Assisting the forum's secretariat to fulfill its coordination and management functions
- Supporting the development and dissemination of national and county government performance data, particularly in PEPFAR focus counties to support their advocacy for additional funds for health and HIV and AIDS

Fostering increased private sector engagement in Kenya's healthcare financing

In Kenya, the private sector plays a critical role in supporting government efforts in ensuring access to high-quality services. HP+ supports policy initiatives to enable commercial, private-sector facilities to sell antiretrovirals (ARVs) for those who can pay and to strengthen coordination of the private sector health stakeholders by

- Generating evidence on antiretroviral therapy penetration in the private sector
- Supporting MOH and National AIDS & STI Control Programme to develop a private sector, HIV care engagement framework

- Supporting the MOH to develop market strategies to increase commercial ARV sales in selected counties where the commercial sector is already active in health

Supporting regional (Eastern Africa) health networks to better position the health financing agenda

HP+ supports the EAC health secretariat to promote domestic resource mobilization among the member states, to raise funds for the health sector, including HIV and AIDS by

- Strengthening EAC capacity on resource-tracking tools to support health financing reforms and domestic resource mobilisation initiatives in member countries
- Revitalising the EAC experts committee on health systems and services development
- Strengthening EAC capacities for policy and advocacy for health financing
- Supporting finalisation of the EAC regional health policy

How to Work with Us

For more information on how to work with HP+, please contact:

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Health Policy Plus (HP+) is a five-year cooperative agreement funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development under Agreement No. AID-OAA-A-15-00051, beginning August 28, 2015. The project's HIV activities are supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). HP+ is implemented by Palladium, in collaboration with Avenir Health, Futures Group Global Outreach, Plan International USA, Population Reference Bureau, RTI International, the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (WRA), and ThinkWell.

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