U.S. Assistance to Pakistan

Health

With the highest population growth and birth rates in South Asia, Pakistan is the 6th most populous country in the world. Adding over 4 million people annually, Pakistan's population will surpass 300 million by 2050. Such rapid population growth is overwhelming Pakistan's ability to provide power, food, jobs, education, and healthcare to its citizens. Less than one-third of Pakistani women are currently using modern contraceptives despite the desire of 70 percent of married women to delay their next pregnancy or to not have any additional children. Pakistan is lagging behind on a range of health indicators with some of the world's highest maternal, child, and infant mortality rates. Every day 1,120 children under five years of age die due to largely preventable causes; two-thirds of these deaths are within the first month of life. Of those who survive, 44 percent suffer stunting due to poor nutrition, which results in irreversible brain damage, reduces their ability to learn, and significantly increases their risk to severe infectious diseases. In 2000, Pakistan committed to lowering its maternal mortality ratio (MMR) to 123 deaths per 100,000 live births as part of the MDGs. Unfortunately, Pakistan will not reach that target by 2015. Pakistan will also not achieve its child mortality MDG commitment.

USAID's MCH Program is comprised of five interconnected and mutually reinforcing components to implement evidence-based interventions

Architectural model of a 133-bed public hospital in Jacobabad, Sindh currently under construction. March 2014

USAID's Engagement

Investing in health, population, and nutrition is critical for ensuring the medium and long term economic and political stability of Pakistan. USAID is committed to saving the lives of women and children, strengthening families and communities, helping to develop a healthy workforce, and increasing prosperity and human development. Additionally, USAID helps to improve the capacity to provide basic health services to the people of Pakistan. USAID focuses on expanding community-based services and establishing innovative public-private partnerships to reduce maternal and infant mortality, and increasing access to and use of quality family planning services. USAID programs center around high-impact health interventions which align with President Obama's Global Health Initiative and Pakistan's health strategies to improve the health and well-being of women and children

2013 At a Glance

- Delivered quality family planning services to 42,000 women in Sindh and Punjab.
- Provided contraceptives, which covered 70 percent of Pakistan's needs.
- Promoted early and exclusive breastfeeding through television commercials and radio spots.
- Established District Health and Population Management Teams (DHPMTs) in all 23 districts of Sindh.
- Began construction of 133-bed Jacobabad Hospital which will serve 1.2 million residents of Northern Sindh and Balochistan.
- Strengthened four Midwifery Schools (2 private and 2 public) in Sindh by updating the clinical curriculum, building instructors' skills, and upgrading laboratories for practical training.

USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

State-of-the-art training for 1,300 medical students

Improving the health of mothers and children

Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Program

USAID's flagship MCH Program supports innovative approaches to strengthen the capacity of Pakistan's public and private sectors to deliver high-impact, evidence-based health interventions. The MCH Program is comprised of five interconnected and mutually reinforcing components led by national and internationally renowned public health organizations:

1. Strengthening the delivery of integrated family planning services to address the unmet needs of poor and hard-to-reach populations, and improving care in the public and private sectors through franchising, voucher systems and community outreach models.
2. Introducing, scaling up, and developing evidence-based maternal, newborn, and child health interventions.
3. Increasing knowledge, creates demand, and promote healthy behaviors through products and services that use commercial marketing techniques and innovative social and behavior change communication techniques.
4. Strengthening the government's capacity to monitor distribution of essential health commodities, estimate its requirement for health and undertake transparent procurement, while providing technical assistance to improve and sustain the commodity supply chain management and distribution system.
5. Reforming and improving service delivery by addressing governance, workforce availability and capacity, information systems, and overall financing.

Through the MCH Program, USAID assists Pakistan to meet the primary health needs of its most marginalized and vulnerable populations—women and children—and leverage the devolution of services from the federal government to the local government to improve Government of Pakistan health sector ownership and accountability at the local level. For more information on how the MCH Program has partnered with the Jinnah Post-Graduate Medical Center to deliver better health care to women, please watch this video: http://vimeo.com/92307716

Complementary Infrastructure

Infrastructure projects help extend healthcare to women, children, and families. The construction of a comprehensive emergency obstetric and training facility at the Jinnah Post-Graduate Medical Center (JPMC) in Karachi expands life-saving ObGyn services to the poorest segment of women from Sindh and Balochistan. In addition to 20,000 annual deliveries, this facility also provides training for nearly 1,500 medical students, doctors, and nurses annually. To help ensure that there are more healthy deliveries, USAID is also building a new Maternity Ward at JPMC. After the completion of the USAID-funded 133-bed hospital in Jacobabad, millions of under-served and rural poor in northern Sindh and Balochistan will receive much needed critical care services. Finally, USAID supports reconstruction of damaged basic health units and health centers in conflict-affected areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, which will provide critical primary and secondary care to families locally.

Information as of July 2014