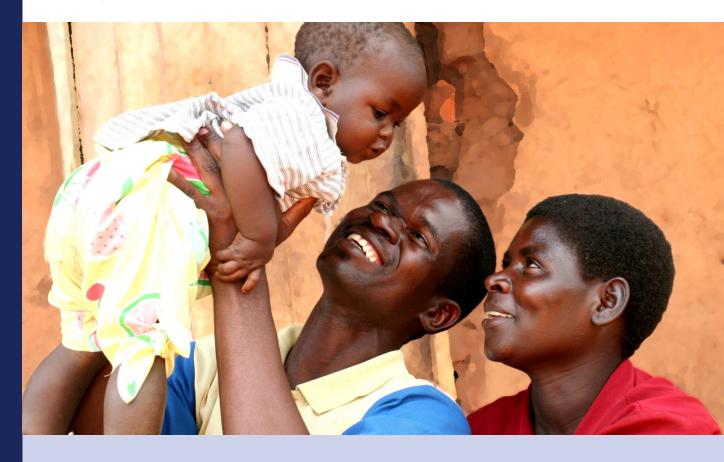# HEALTH POLICY PLUS

Project Overview

September 2017

Health Policy Plus (HP+) is a five-year project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) that works to strengthen health policy at the global, national, and subnational levels to improve health outcomes worldwide. HP+ advances family planning and reproductive health, HIV, and maternal and child health programs and infrastructure by supporting equitable, effective health systems through evidence-based policies, sustainable health financing, improved governance, and expanded global leadership and advocacy. Our expected results are:

- Improved health equity, access, and knowledge through strong policy
- Maximized impact through adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing for health programs
- Increased government stewardship, accountability, and transparency
- Advanced global leadership and advocacy that reinforces progress toward sustainable development goals

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HP+ HEALTH POLICY PLUS

POLICY: *Improving equity, access, and knowledge*

HP+ helps countries develop and implement policies that will ensure that all citizens can experience the highest attainable standard of health. By working with partners to assess the needs of each country at the national and sub-national level, HP+ informs the policy and resource mobilization decision-making process and addresses operational barriers to policy reform and implementation along the way. For example, we:

- Support **passage and implementation of laws, strategies, guidelines, frameworks, and operational plans** to protect family planning, reproductive health, and age-of-marriage rights *(Guatemala, Kenya, Madagascar, and Mauritania)*

- Support **Costed Implementation Plan execution** to foster a comprehensive approach to policy implementation and performance management *(Cameroon, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Togo, Uganda, West Africa, and Zimbabwe)*

- Support **development of health care financing strategies and universal health care approaches** *(Cambodia, Guatemala, Kenya, Madagascar, and Tanzania)*

- Develop and apply models to quantify **scale-up of antiretroviral therapy for pediatric and adult populations**, to meet "90-90-90" commitments *(Ghana and Indonesia)*

- Design and cost **community-level differentiated HIV care models** for children and adults *(Ghana, Indonesia, and Tanzania)*

- Apply **policy scan and action planning** to improve the HIV clinical cascade for better clinical outcomes *(Ghana and Lesotho)*

HEALTH FINANCING: *Maximizing impact through adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing*

Foreign assistance to developing countries is diminishing. As a result, many low- and middle-income countries are ramping up mobilization of domestic resources to maintain funding for vital health programs and services. HP+ supports health financing reform for universal access to high-quality services; mainstreams vertical programs into health financing arrangements; provides evidence to support advocacy for increased domestic resources; improves technical efficiency of health services; and engages the private sector for reaching universal coverage. For example, we:

- Support governments on **major health financing reforms**, such as designing and assessing the feasibility of reform proposals and strategies *(Cambodia, Guatemala, Kenya, and Malawi)*

- Conduct **fiscal space analysis** on health broadly and specific domains *(Indonesia, Madagascar, Mali, and Tanzania)*

- Provide **health financing system assessments** to diagnose readiness for reform and assess key strengths in purchasing, pooling, and resource allocation *(Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, and Tanzania)*

- Assess health financing policy impact on **household utilization and financial status**, such as analysis on catastrophic health expenditure and benefit incidence *(Guatemala, Indonesia, and Kenya)*

- Produce **investment cases** for domestic resources for services such as tuberculosis and reproductive, maternal, and child health *(Cambodia, Madagascar, and Mozambique)* and conduct feasibility studies on **including HIV and family planning in insurance schemes** *(Cambodia, Indonesia, Nigeria, and Tanzania)*

- Develop **National Health Accounts** for advocacy, including mapping to National AIDS Spending Assessments *(Cambodia, Kenya, and Madagascar)* and support **national and subnational budget planning** and advocacy *(Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, and Tanzania)*

- Engage the **private sector on a total market approach** for sustainable health programming *(Malawi)* and analyze reimbursement, provider capacity, and market changes for large **health insurance programs** *(Indonesia)*

GOVERNMENT STEWARDSHIP: *Increasing stewardship, accountability, and transparency*

HP+ works with government partners to develop tools and practices that improve stewardship, accountability, and transparency. Much of this work entails health systems strengthening and policy reform strategies that improve efficiency and strengthen democracy. By setting strong structures and processes in place, HP+ can help local governments adopt new responsibilities and give citizens a greater opportunity to influence health and development policy decisions. Examples include:

- Promote health sector reform by conducting **legal and political environment analysis** to identify obstacles and opportunities in planning *(Guatemala, Madagascar, and Pakistan)*

- Support **government decentralization** by translating national policies to actionable regional- and country-level implementation plans *(Guatemala, Kenya, Malawi, and Pakistan)*

- Improve the **HIV treatment cascade** by using adaptable tools to conduct baseline assessments, design facility-based **stigma and discrimination reduction interventions**, and develop stigma and discrimination reduction plans with a newly developed endline assessment to evaluate progress based on data *(Ghana, Jamaica, and Tanzania)*

- Strengthen the capacity of civil society to **track commitments and hold governments accountable** for resource allocation *(Guatemala, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Uganda, and West Africa)*

SPOTLIGHT:

Supporting Indonesia's achievement of its healthcare expansion goals

HP+ is a key partner in helping the Government of Indonesia identify innovative opportunities to scale-up health programs sustainably. HP+ conducted a one-of-a-kind market landscape on the private sector and civil society and identified innovative partnerships, beyond the health sector, for the government to leverage to address maternal and newborn health issues. HP+ is also conducting a comprehensive assessment of Indonesia's national health insurance scheme to understand its health and economic impacts while identifying opportunities to achieve universal coverage sustainably. HP+'s analysis informs different government institutions on the critical issues affecting sustainability of the scheme and how to enhance its pro-poor and pro-competition effects. All HP+ activities are conducted hand-in-hand with government institutions to build their analytical capacity so that they can continue to apply these analyses to improve the Indonesian health system.

Tackling Stigma at Health Facilities for Youth Living with HIV in Tanzania

In Tanzania, there is a first-time focus on reducing stigma and discrimination at the health facility level for adolescents and young adults living with HIV. At two district-level government facilities in Morogoro, HP+ and local implementing partners—Muhimbili University of the Health and Allied Sciences and Kimara Peer Educators and Health Promotors Trust Fund—along with the National AIDS Control Programme, are adapting and implementing a set of stigma and discrimination tools to focus on youth. These new tools, which address the drivers of stigma and discrimination through assessment, staff training, and review and strengthening of facility policies and standards of practice, will be adaptable to other settings.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY: *Improving health outcomes worldwide*

Effective leadership and advocacy empower countries to translate their commitments to global health priorities—such as the Sustainable Development Goals, UNAIDS 90-90-90 goals, and Family Planning 2020 (FP2020)—into actionable policies and programs. HP+ builds upon stakeholders' existing capacities to leverage relationships and networks to hold their leaders accountable for following through on their commitments. Where local partners are successful, HP+ promotes these approaches at global forums. Additionally, HP+ promotes and strengthens the global thought leadership and advocacy agenda for equitable, sustainable health policies at all levels of government. Examples include:

- **Strengthen the capacity of civil society**, including women leaders, to promote accountability for global FP2020 commitments and local implementation *(Malawi, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Uganda)*

- Contribute to the global knowledge base by **documenting and sharing best practices and lessons learned** in peer-reviewed journal articles, in publications, and at global fora

- Develop **customizable models**—including a Sustainable Development Goals model and youth model—that generate evidence to demonstrate how family planning investments help nations achieve development goals

- Contribute to **global agenda setting** through active participation and support for the efforts of the U.S. Government Pediatric and Adolescent Care and Treatment Technical Working Group to advance new approaches and a USAID and World Health Organization-led working group on health financing and universal health coverage

SPOTLIGHT: *Elevating women's voices in Pakistan*

The Pakistani government has made a commitment to meet FP2020 goals. Recognizing the critical role of women's voices in reaching these goals, HP+ dedicated its efforts toward heightening Pakistani women's roles and voices through a women's leadership initiative. Using skills learned through the initiative, the women developed and carried out an advocacy strategy that resulted in inclusion of youth-specific and age-disaggregated indicators into Sindh's Costed Implementation Plan and added performance management plans and youth-specific content to the national standards for family planning. The women leaders are now partnering with the government to develop an accountability tool to monitor the roll-out of expanded services for youth.

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