

HEALTH POLICY PLUS: Mali

Overview

Health Policy Plus (HP+) is a five-year project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by a consortium of partners, led by Palladium. The project's HIV activities are supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Globally, the project works to strengthen and advance health policy to improve the enabling environment for equitable and sustainable health services, supplies, and delivery systems in the areas of family planning and reproductive health, HIV, and maternal health.

For more than a decade, HP+ and its predecessor health policy projects have complemented USAID's presence and ongoing field-based efforts to address barriers that impede service delivery for family planning. By enhancing engagement strategies targeted to males, religious leaders, and other stakeholder groups, HP+ Mali works to strengthen the country's policy environment for voluntary, equitable, rights-based health programming.

Our Work

HP+ Mali addresses specific health areas of maternal, neonatal, and child health; family planning/ reproductive health; and HIV through the cross-cutting thematic axes of policy, financing, governance, and advocacy. This work focuses on the following areas:

Leveraging sustainable financing for health workers to implement essential services at the community level

Mali is facing growing pressure to transition health sector financing from international partners to

domestic sources. HP+, in partnership with USAID and the Malian government, provides support for this by:

- Gathering data on the community health worker (ASC) workforce to determine the full cost of quality service provision and tabulate funding sources to identify forecasted challenges in securing domestic funds
- Supporting advocacy initiatives to increase domestic ASC budget support
- Providing technical assistance to support the development of a community health law to address the needs of community workers and households

Strengthening the government's capacities to plan and develop sustainable health financing models that allow for scale-up of key health service delivery

HP+ is working with stakeholders to bolster the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene's capacity to generate evidence for health financing reform and expand access to health services. Throughout this highly participatory approach, HP+ continues to:

- Work with the government to identify priority areas of focus for domestic resource mobilization
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Health and Public Hygiene and the Ministry of Economy and Finance to develop and update information on Mali's health financing systems
- Support the National Federation of Community Health Associations and the national mandatory insurance fund with the decentralization of financing and governance

- Strengthen governmental decision making through execution of the country's Family Planning Costed Implementation Plan and support the use of a total market approach in government stewardship

Enhancing Malian legal and regulatory environments to support voluntary, equitable, rights-based health programs

HP+ and USAID work in Mali to address several equity and rights-based issues that impact access to and use of health services. Specifically, HP+ is:

- Updating the RAPIDWomen advocacy tool, which demonstrates the benefits of investments in women-centered strategies on quality of life for women and girls
- Supporting advocacy to promote maternal, neonatal, and child health; family planning and reproductive health; girls education; and decreased violence against women
- Promoting constructive male engagement in reproductive health and rights issues
- Supporting the development of a roadmap to improve HIV services for key populations by engaging police and justice stakeholders to break down stigma and discrimination (aligning Mali with the 2016 West Africa Regional Dakar Declaration)
- Supporting development of a new national HIV policy
- Advocating for policy changes to support the introduction of Sayana Press
- Engaging Malian religious leaders to advocate for voluntary, equitable, rights-based health programs

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