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# USAID MALI

## HEALTH PROGRAM OVERVIEW



The Health Office manages a \$63.9 million portfolio for 2016 to improve the overall health of the Malian population. This portfolio includes Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths and numerous Presidential Initiatives which include the President’s Malaria Initiative; President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief; Global Health Initiative; Feed the Future; and Global Health Security Agenda – all of which are aligned with the U.S. and Malian governments’ strategic health priorities. These programs, many of which work in collaboration with the mission’s other offices, seek to make sustained improvements in health, especially for mothers, infants and children, through increased use of high impact health services and healthy behaviors.

## SERVICE DELIVERY

Although the health of Malians has slightly improved over the last three years, the country still needs to address many challenges with regard to the status of some health indicators including child survival and maternal health outcomes. To respond to these and for a better programmatic integration to enhance coordination and efficiencies, two main projects have been launched in 2015: *Services de Santé à Grand Impact* and *Keneya Jemu Kan*.

The service delivery project has a significant maternal, newborn and child health focus, as well activities related to malaria; family planning; reproductive health; HIV/AIDS; nutrition; and water, sanitation and hygiene to improve the use and access to health services by women, girls and children under five years of age in Mali. The project covers a total population of approximately 9,200,000, including 2,000,000 women of reproductive age and 1,600,000 children under five. This represents 65 percent of the population of Mali. The targeted regions have 670 community health centers (roughly 60 percent of all community health centers in Mali).

Moreover, HIV/AIDS prevention activities focus on HIV-positive individuals and most-at-risk populations and will be conducted in those locations where these populations are most concentrated. Similarly, indoor residual spraying is targeted to high malaria transmission districts of Mopti, where they will have the most benefit. Resilience activities will be implemented in the resilience zones which were chosen in part because of high malnutrition rates, making populations more vulnerable to shocks.

The health program contributes to the procurement and distribution at the national level of more than 60 percent of malaria commodities including bed nets, 80 percent of family planning commodities, and water treatment products.

## SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE COMMUNICATIONS

In Mali, health-related social behavior change communications (SBCC) are generally recognized as relatively weak and poorly coordinated. The health program strategy focuses on 1) national-level capacity building in SBCC strategic planning and coordination and formative research; message development and testing; materials and tools production and mass media, including the government of Mali and an independent Malian SBCC partner; and 2) community-level dissemination through community mobilization, interpersonal communication and other local media (such as community radio).

This project increases: 1) the adoption of key health behaviors and increases demand for and use of high impact health services and related products at the community and household levels in the USAID targeted areas; and 2) availability of social marketing high impact products in targeted areas.

## HEALTH SYSTEM STRENGTHENING AND MANAGEMENT

Key health systems must function well at all levels of the health care pyramid to effectively ensure the delivery of quality health services. For example, family planning services cannot be offered at the community level if the national contraceptive commodity logistics system does not function smoothly. Family planning commodities must be accurately quantified, ordered in a timely manner, and distributed from the national to the community level to ensure a steady supply of products at service delivery points. Other key health systems include the health management information systems; governance and accountability; human resources; and health financing. Projects focus on strengthening decentralized health systems and health management at the community, district and regional levels. Additionally, the health program strategy will support the strengthening of key national systems required for the effective delivery of decentralized health services.