

## Health

### OVERVIEW

USAID/OFDA supports health programs that focus on the prevention and management of the main causes of morbidity and mortality in disaster-affected countries, including measles, malaria, diarrhea, acute respiratory tract infections, and malnutrition, as well as obstetrical emergencies. USAID/OFDA emphasizes the use of updated evidence-based health interventions that target the majority of the population to ensure the greatest public health impact. These interventions should be implemented through a community-based approach to ensure programs are sustainable and cost effective.

### APPROACHES

**Primary Health Care (PHC):** USAID/OFDA emphasizes programs that strengthen the host government's Ministry of Health (MOH) and reinforce the existing PHC system. The programs should follow national protocols in the areas of child health, maternal health, Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), pharmaceutical and medical supplies, and health education, as well as management and prevention of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STI), and gender-based violence (GBV). Refer to the Additional Program Description Requirements (APDRs) in the newly revised USAID/OFDA proposal guidelines for details and indicators. Interventions in all areas could include support of the following objectives:

- Coordinate effectively with all involved partners, including the MOH;
- Conduct health assessments and surveys;
- Strengthen the national surveillance and early warning systems;
- Strengthen case management, including development of protocols and capacity building through training and supervision according to the country's national strategy;
- Provide commodities such as essential medicines, medical supplies and equipment, vaccines, insecticide-treated materials, and laboratory equipment. (Please refer to USAID/OFDA's pharmaceutical policies in the proposal guidelines);
- Strengthen prevention programs, such as vector control, immunizations, and health education and promotion, to promote behavior change; and
- Link with other sectors, particularly nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as protection, shelter, agriculture, and food security.

**Disaster and Epidemic Preparedness and Response:** USAID/OFDA supports preparedness and response to epidemics and natural disasters by providing emergency relief supplies, including medical kits, vaccines, and laboratory supplies; building national capacity for coordination, surveillance, case management, and prevention; and providing technical support.

**Support of Global Disease Control Initiatives:** USAID/OFDA works closely with the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide technical support and training. USAID/OFDA supports WHO's Disease Control in Humanitarian Emergencies branch to conduct country epidemiologic profiles, risk assessments following disasters, toolkits to aid in response, and field-based training. USAID/OFDA works with CDC to provide technical assistance to field-based programs in response to disasters and epidemics.