

A flagship project of USAID's Office of Health Systems, the Health Finance and Governance (HFG) Project supports its partners in low- and middle-income countries to strengthen the health finance and governance functions of their health systems, expanding access to life-saving health services. The HFG project is a five-year (2012-2017), \$209 million global health project. The project builds on the achievements of the Health Systems 20/20 project. To learn more, please visit www.hfgproject.org.

The HFG project is led by Abt Associates in collaboration with Avenir Health, Broad Branch Associates, Development Alternatives Inc., Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Results for Development Institute, RTI International, and Training Resources Group, Inc.

Agreement Officer Representative Team:

Scott Stewart (GH/OHS)
ss Stewart@usaid.gov

Jodi Charles (GH/OHS)
jcharles@usaid.gov



Abt Associates
www.abtassociates.com
4550 Montgomery Avenue, Suite 800
North Bethesda, MD 20814

DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the U.S. Government

The HA exercise has brought into sharp focus the need for strong political commitment to public sector financing. One immediate impact has been the articulation by the state's health leadership of the need for greater research and consultation to make meaningful progress on UHC.

As Dr. Sonia Trikha, Executive Director, Haryana State Health Resource Center (HSHRC), put it:

"We will try to conduct more studies to address the gaps that this HA has revealed and bring insights to inform and develop policy."

She also had praise for the Health Finance and Governance (HFG) project team:

"HFG was our main technical partner on the first-ever HA exercise for Haryana. We couldn't have completed it without their support in collecting and analyzing the data to produce these insightful results."

The HSHRC, where the HA activity is housed, received technical assistance from the HFG project in HA methods training, HA production, and interpretation of the results.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Expanding Access. Improving Health. Success Stories



SUPPORTING GUINEA'S POST-EBOLA RECOVERY: HEALTH SECTOR OVERSIGHT BY PARLIAMENT

In Guinea, a country that has some of the lowest health indicators in the world, strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Health (MOH) is key to improving health outcomes. USAID's HFG project is working with the MOH and its partners at the national level to build a more transparent and efficient health system, focusing on governance and institutional strengthening. The goal is not only to improve MOH capacity to provide better health services, but also its ability to better respond to crises such as the 2015 Ebola outbreak.

An important partner in this effort is the Health Commission of the National Assembly. In November 2016, HFG facilitated a series of workshops for members and staff of the Commission to aid them in better understanding the national health budget and its implications for the health system. The workshops have helped Health Commission members and staff to understand and provide critical input on the priorities of the Ministry of Health and its programs. As representatives of the regions and communities most affected by the challenges in the health system, Members of the National Assembly are an important part of the solution.

Using the skills gained in these workshops, the Health Commission then held budget hearings, during which the Minister of Health and his senior staff discussed the health component of the national budget with the commission members. As a result of these deliberations, the final budget contained a 2.4% increase in health funding over the Government's original submission. This level of positive engagement with the MOH is rare in Guinean politics, and was supported by all the parties represented in the Commission. The Honorable Dr. Ben Youssouf Keita, a member of the Commission noted:

"Members of Parliament are not fully equipped in budget analysis – I am a medical doctor. This training initiated by USAID will [...] enable us to better fulfill our mission of controlling government actions and passing laws in defense of the interests of the people."



Bandian Neiba Condé,
Health Commission rapporteur

The MOH has committed to regular consultations with the Commission moving forward as it develops future budgets and programs, and HFG has received requests to expand the budget training to all permanent commissions of the National Assembly—recognition of the Parliament's growing role within the budget cycle.