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New Global Health Project to Strengthen Finance and Governance Systems



Countries need strong health systems that are well-managed and country-financed if they are to increase the use of priority health services, especially by girls and women as well as poor and rural populations. To achieve this goal, domestic financing for health will need to grow in many countries. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) launched the Health Finance and Governance Project to support this economic transition. This five-year (2012- 2017), \$209 million flagship project is designed to improve health finance and health governance systems in partner countries, leading to expanded access to health care, including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and reproductive health services.

The HFG project team, led by Abt Associates, brings proven experience working with country partners, such as Ministries of Health, to build their capacity to strengthen their health systems. In particular, the HFG team works with countries to increase their domestic resources for health, manage those precious resources more effectively, and make wise purchasing decisions. Designed to fundamentally strengthen health systems, the HFG project supports its partners as they advance their health system priorities, which may include universal health coverage.





The Health Finance and Governance (HFG) project works with countries to increase their domestic resources for health, manage those precious resources more effectively, and make wise purchasing decisions. Designed to fundamentally strengthen health systems, HFG will help improve health outcomes in partner countries by expanding people's access to health care, especially priority health services. The HFG project is a five-year (2012-2017), \$209 million global project funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

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

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In particular, HFG partners with countries to:

- ▶ Improve financing by mobilizing domestic resources, reducing financial barriers, expanding health insurance, and implementing provider payment systems;
- ▶ Strengthen governance for better health system management and greater accountability and transparency;
- ▶ Improve country-owned health management and operations systems to improve the delivery and effectiveness of health care, for example, through mobile money and public financial management; and
- ▶ Advance techniques to measure progress in health systems performance, especially around universal health coverage.

In Haiti, for example, HFG works closely with the Ministry of Health to strengthen its capacity in human resources for health management and in health financing. HFG is building these capacities in four units of the Ministry of Health (Decentralization, Planning and Evaluation, Human Resources, and Budget and Administration) which will help to enable the Ministry to carry out its role as steward of the health sector.

HFG Projects Grows Quickly

Together, HFG's project partners have on-the-ground presence in 96 countries, which has enabled activities to be launched quickly worldwide. HFG is at work in 11 countries - Bangladesh, Benin, Burundi, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Ukraine. HFG is the flagship project of USAID's Office of Health Systems and builds on the achievements of the Health Systems 20/20 project. For more information, please visit www.hfgproject.org.

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