USAID Programmatic Support for COVID-19 Response and Vaccines

Organization: USAID

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USAID COVID-19 Priorities

- Mitigate spread of COVID by expanding testing, surveillance, communication and community engagement, health care workforce, rapid response, infection control, and public health standards

- Bolster a resilient health system to address COVID-19 and emerging disease threats

- Support the roll out of a safe, effective, and comprehensive vaccination program

- Prepare for, mitigate, and address-second order impacts of COVID-19 (economic, social, health services delivery, ect).

USG Global Vision to Strengthen the International COVID-19 Response and to Advance Global Health Security (GHS)

- On January 21, 2021, the White House issued a National Security Directive on US Global Leadership to Strengthen the International COVID-19 Response and to Advance GHS and Biological Preparedness.

- The memorandum includes a call to develop a USG-wide plan to combat the global COVID-19 pandemic, which shall identify principal strategic objective and corresponding lines of effort.

- An adjustment of the US' current and planned future deployments of public health, health security, and health diplomacy personnel overseas focused on the COVID-19 response.

- A review of the funding allocated for the COVID-19 response, GHS, and pandemic preparedness to assess whether funding levels are sufficient to support COVID-19 response needs.

New USG support to Gavi/COVAX will help expedite and increase COVID-19 vaccine supply to AMC countries

- On January 21, 2021 at the WHA Executive Board, Dr. Fauci announced the intent of the USG to join the COVAX Facility and support global access to vaccines.

- On December 27, Congress appropriated $4 billion to be made available through the end of fiscal year 2022 to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19, including for vaccine procurement and delivery through a contribution to Gavi. USAID will provide this funding over two years and COVAX still requires additional funding from other donors to meet 2021 goals.

- These funds will support Gavi's efforts to provide access to vaccines for 92 AMC-supported economies.

- Given the size of the USG contribution to Gavi for the procurement and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, it is critical for USAID Missions to be fully engaged in vaccine readiness and deployment efforts at the country-level.

Guiding Principles for USAID COVID-19 Vaccine Support

- Maximize impact by filling the most critical needs within countries (e.g., gaps identified by VIRAT tool in country assessments)

- Maintain country-specific lens to ensure efforts support and align with national vaccine deployment plans

- Leverage handful of identified mechanisms with proven, relevant capabilities to support countries' needs efficiently and effectively, including select bilateral mechanisms

- Engage in collaborative partnerships to help meet large, urgent needs

- Track key indicators to define success and monitor progress in near and long term

- Stay connected to key developments across partners and countries in the global COVID-19 vaccine effort and evolve support over time, as needed

Priority TA areas to facilitate successful and equitable introduction and delivery of COVID-19 vaccine

Vaccine introduction
- 1 Policy, Planning & Coordination
- 2 Pharmacovigilance and monitoring adverse events

Supply chain & logistics
- 3 Supply Chain & Logistics
- 4 Vaccine service delivery

Communications, advocacy & training
- 5 Human Resources for Health, Training & Supervision
- 6 Communications & Advocacy

Demand
- 7 Community Engagement & Demand

Data
- 8 Monitoring, Evaluation & HIS

Program and policy guidance to support COVID-19 vaccine TA

What resources can be used to support COVID-19 vaccine TA?	⟩	(1) Redirection / reprogramming guidance (2) Congressional Notification to allocate $75M in funding across recipient countries (on hold; country list being finalized)
Where can I find programmatic guidance?	⟩	Program Guidance for USAID Missions to Support Country Readiness and Delivery
How do I approach supporting technical assistance in countries with both approved and non-approved vaccines?	⟩	Guidance under clearance; shared with CDC and there is agreement to a common approach

Funds may be redirected to support COVID-19 vaccine readiness and delivery per this guidance

Funds	Description
COVID-19 Supplemental-GHP (COVID-GHP) and Global Health Security-GHP (GHS-GHP)	Any redirection of previously obligated COVID-GHP and GHS-GHP resources must remain in the existing mechanism for implementation in the same country, and be consistent with the overall scope of the mechanism.
Maternal and Child Health-GHP (MCH-GHP)	Operating Units may have flexibility to program MCH funds. Missions must clearly demonstrate that MCH funding to support COVID-19 vaccine country readiness and delivery activities will strengthen the country's routine immunization system. Operating Units are encouraged to program existing pipelines to support these efforts.
Other Health Program Areas within the GHP Account	GHP-USAID funds remain subject to the Guidance on the Definition and Use of the Global Health Programs Account, Standardized Program Structure and Definitions, approved Operational Plans, and Congressional notification requirements. Refer to the Reprogramming Guidance for Foreign Assistance Program Funds. Funding reprogrammed from the following health program areas will require Congressional Notification: HIV/AIDS (HL 1), Tuberculosis (HL 2), Malaria (HL 3), Other Public Health Threats (HL 5), Family Planning/Reproductive Health (HL 7), and Nutrition (HL9).

Pending Guidance on Non-Approved Vaccines

USAID Funds cannot be used to purchase vaccines or ultra-cold refrigeration

Please find here the most updated of vaccines approvals.

Regarding non-Approved vaccines, USAID **should not**:

- ❌ Support the **transport and delivery** of a non-Approved Vaccine.

- ❌ Actively **promote the uptake of non-Approved Vaccines among the target populations**, including generating trust in the safety, quality, and efficacy of the non-Approved Vaccine.

- ❌ Provide **ancillary materials** for non-Approved Vaccines (e.g., syringes).

- ❌ **Support training and supportive supervision** for non-Approved Vaccines.

Questions for Small Groups

1- How are we going to live with COVID-19 and prevent development backsliding of the health system we intend to build?

2- How may COVID-19 impact implementation of other activities in the next five years?

3- How will other programs contribute to the COVID-19 response including COVID-19 vaccination?

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