



USAID/NEPAL SECTOR FACT SHEET

INCLUSIVE HEALTH SYSTEMS

USAID’s health sector assistance, dating back more than 75 years, reflects one of the longest and most successful development programs in Nepal. With USAID support, Nepal all but eradicated malaria, proved to the world the value of Vitamin A use for infant and child survival, and launched the female community health volunteers model to provide hard-to-reach populations with basic preventive health care. Nepal has experienced more than two decades of steady improvement in health and has emerged as one of the few countries on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals related to maternal and child mortality. USAID is also helping Nepal make progress towards ensuring adequate nutrition for all, increasing access to reproductive health care and family planning, and combating HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, and other diseases.

USAID has helped equip the various levels of Nepal’s government to perform their new roles under federalism, ensuring the continued provision of quality health services and sustaining Nepal’s historic health sector gains. USAID has engaged communities, civil society, the private sector, and government to define their development challenges, set priorities, co-design programs, and drive implementation, directly funding the Mission’s longest standing government-to-government agreement and ensuring that health services reach the most marginalized.

QUALITY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

USAID has a strong and collaborative partnership with the Government of Nepal (GoN) to improve the survival and quality of life of all Nepalis. USAID health programs employ an integrated approach to improving maternal, newborn, and child health, nutrition, and air quality. USAID also implements programs on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), that provide rehabilitation support for those with disabilities, HIV prevention and treatment, and family planning and reproductive health services. USAID supports Nepal's response to infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and polio. Aligned with the GON's health strategy, USAID builds on existing efforts to address the needs of women, girls, and other vulnerable groups, promoting research, and engaging other donors and civil society in health.

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

USAID strengthens communities' engagement with their health institutions to ensure they address the concerns of marginalized and disadvantaged groups and to hold leadership and providers accountable for delivering quality health services. USAID mobilizes frontline health workers to create demand for maternal newborn, child health, nutrition, and family planning services in 387 municipalities of Nepal. In 138 municipalities of Karnali and Lumbini provinces, USAID engages with municipalities to ensure that marginalized populations have access to high quality, basic health services. Additionally, USAID's activities support Nepal's most vulnerable populations such as those living with disabilities or HIV, to ensure fair access to critical services such as physical rehabilitation and antiretroviral therapies.

HEALTH SYSTEMS THAT CAN WITHSTAND SHOCKS

USAID aided 138 municipalities to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This included critical improvements to Nepal's health system to be able to evaluate, treat, and prevent the spread of COVID-19 through behavior change and vaccine roll out. At the community level, USAID programs have supplied essential information on disease prevention and countering virus misinformation. USAID also supplied critically needed vaccines, personal protective equipment, ventilators, oxygen generating systems, and other lifesaving equipment and commodities. Through USAID's support through the pandemic, Nepal has achieved a 97% vaccination rate (among 12 years and above) and the health system is better equipped and trained for other shocks that may appear.

IMPACT/RESULTS:

- With USAID support, Nepal showed a sustained reduction in stunting from 57% in 1996, to 36% in 2016 (NDHSs).
- Social marketing achieved a remarkable increase in the modern contraceptive prevalence rate from 40% in 2017 to 45% in 2020 was achieved in the USAID target intervention districts.
- USAID improved health services such as the development of skilled birth attendants and use of uterotonics, resulting in increasing institutional birth to 58% in 2016 from a mere 9% in 2001.
- USAID support has contributed to Nepal becoming Open Defecation Free in 2019 and 95% of households using improved sanitation methods.

*Data from FY2021