



USAID
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HEALTH POLICY INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

The USAID | Health Policy Initiative, Task Order 1, provides seamless policy assistance to help developing countries improve public health outcomes. The project catalyzes bold leadership, encourages meaningful multisectoral engagement, and uses sound evidence to design, implement, and monitor health policies from the national to community levels. Our approach ensures that policies and plans are responsive to those most in need, deliver the greatest impact for the investment, and support program scale-up and long-term sustainability.



PROJECT PROFILE | 2009

ABOUT TASK ORDER 1

Project period: Oct. 2005–Sept. 2010

Funding ceiling: \$100 million

Global reach: The project has worked in more than 30 countries, as well as with six regional and subregional programs.

Implementers: Futures Group International, in collaboration with the Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood (WRA), and Futures Institute.

PROGRAM AREAS

- FP/RH
- HIV and AIDS
- Maternal health
- Infectious diseases

CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

- Gender
- Poverty and equity
- Stigma and discrimination

TECHNICAL EXPERTISE

- Policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring
- Advocacy
- Network formation and strengthening
- Multisectoral engagement
- Operational barriers analysis
- Strategic planning
- Costing and resource allocation
- Projection of epidemic and population trends

Through policy dialogue and implementation, the USAID | Health Policy Initiative, Task Order 1, strives to improve the enabling environment for health—especially for family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH), HIV and AIDS, and maternal health programs.

Policies are the foundation for successful programs and services. They articulate the vision, priorities, and goals of the country or organization. Lack of proper attention to policies often leads to services that are ineffective, inappropriate, or ill-planned. Good policies are important, yet they are not sufficient. Policies must be put into practice. Doing so requires strong leadership, clear operational guidelines, effective institutional arrangements, and strategic planning and resource allocation. Moreover, good evidence and meaningful involvement of various stakeholders are needed to improve policies and facilitate implementation.

Our technical assistance is tailored to the specific needs of the country, district, organization, or network. We emphasize five key strategies:

1. Assisting countries to adopt and put into practice **policies** that improve equitable and affordable access to high-quality services and information
2. Strengthening the capacity of **people** from the public sector, civil society, and most vulnerable populations to assume leadership roles in the policy process
3. Enhancing effective and equitable allocation of **resources** (e.g., human, financial, and material)
4. Facilitating multisectoral **partnerships** in the design, implementation, and financing of health programs
5. Fostering **knowledge** by building in-country capacity to collect, analyze, and use evidence for decisionmaking and program monitoring

Health Policy Initiative, Task Order 1 | Futures Group International | One Thomas Circle, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20005 USA | Tel: 1-202-775-9680 | Email: policyinfo@futuresgroup.com

www.healthpolicyinitiative.com