



ACCELERATING PROGRESS TOWARD STRONG, SELF-SUSTAINING HEALTH SYSTEMS IS POSSIBLE

The Health Systems Strengthening Accelerator (Accelerator) is a global initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), with co-funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Its goal is to support countries' efforts to create high-performing, sustainable health systems on their journeys to self-reliance.

Catalyzing Innovative Health Systems Strengthening Activities and Scaling up Solutions

Many countries inconsistently put known solutions into practice, fail to introduce coherent reforms and interventions across the health system, and do not effectively engage stakeholders to ensure relevance, coordination and buy-in. They also too rarely engage in continuous learning and improvement to ensure that interventions are working, and if so, that they stick and scale over time.

To help countries overcome these challenges, the Accelerator utilizes a country engagement model to drive progress towards health systems goals by prioritizing co-creation processes to build consensus around home-grown solutions; supporting knowledge translation and adaptive learning to identify and scale up contextually appropriate best practices and innovations; and

AT A GLANCE

- **Duration:** 5-year global initiative (2018-2023)
- **Funders:** \$200 million dollar ceiling through Cooperative Agreement with USAID
- **Approach:** The Accelerator partners with countries to address specific health system issues while institutionalizing country-driven processes for the selection, rapid testing, and purposeful scale-up of health system strengthening interventions.

facilitating knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer learning to accelerate progress towards self-sustaining health systems. In partnership with other global initiatives and donors, the Accelerator is also developing a community of local and regional experts who have practical, relatable experiences with similar challenges; and who can work with countries to support continuous health systems improvement after donor-funded technical support ends.

Over five years, the Accelerator will systematically learn, and share new knowledge, about how to build sustainable, country-led institutions for iterative health systems strengthening that ultimately help countries and development partners develop new strategies, partnership models, and approaches to supporting countries on their journeys to self-reliance.

Program Goals

- **Increased financial risk protection:** The Accelerator partners with countries to reduce financial barriers to accessing essential health services. Drawing on its deep expertise in health financing, the program helps countries accelerate progress towards sustainable, self-financed health systems in support of health for all.
- **Improved quality of essential health services:** The Accelerator improves the quality of services to help ensure that essential health services meet the needs of the communities they serve. The program also works with health systems stakeholders to embed collaborating, learning and adapting (CLA) practices into country-led processes to allow for continuous assessment and improvement over time.
- **More equitable population coverage:** The Accelerator helps countries expand coverage of essential health services to all people. The program helps ensure that health services are responsive to community needs and able to reach all people, including the most vulnerable and marginalized.

Current Activities

The Accelerator is currently supporting Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Sri Lanka, and Togo to address near-term challenges, while helping accelerate their journeys to self-reliance. These near term challenges include HIV transition and sustainable financing, strengthening the role of civil society, strengthening health insurance and primary health care, improving the design and implementation of community health strategies to accelerate progress toward universal health coverage in West Africa, and integrating mental health and rehabilitation services into primary health care.

In Ghana, the Accelerator is supporting the coordination of the national COVID-19 response across sectors, levels and partners.

Additional activities are under development to strengthen the role of health systems and policy research institutions in the Asia region.

The Accelerator is also conducting research to generate new evidence on the effectiveness of different vaccination strategies and their ability to strengthen routine immunization delivery systems, as well as on linkages between social behavior change and social accountability.

The Accelerator has adapted its approaches to ensure that its work is responsive to country needs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Partner Consortium

The Accelerator is led by Results for Development (R4D) with the Health Strategy and Delivery Foundation (HSDF, headquartered in Nigeria) and ICF. The Accelerator works through local and regional partners with expertise in a wide range of areas. As the Accelerator's portfolio of support grows, additional local and regional technical institutions are added to the consortium such as Global Challenges Corporation and RIP+ in Cote d'Ivoire and Benin-based CERRHUD in Togo.

Contact Information

USAID Contact

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Accelerator Contact

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