PROPEL Health

Project Overview

The Promoting Results and Outcomes through Policy and Economic Levers (PROPEL) Health project aims to improve the enabling environment for equitable and sustainable health services, supplies, and delivery systems.[1] Results will be achieved through (1) policy development and implementation, (2) adequate, predictable, and sustainable health financing, (3) enhanced government stewardship, transparency, and accountability, and (4) the use of evidence-based approaches at global, national, and subnational levels. Areas of focus are family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH), primary healthcare, and the integration of FP/RH with HIV and maternal and child health (MCH).

The project's strategy prioritizes localizing policy, advocacy, financing, and governance leadership, technical assistance, and capacity development to enhance resilience and sustainability. At least 25 percent of PROPEL Health funds will be distributed to local partners and actors through grants and subawards to (1) promote local implementation, (2) foster local capacity, and (3) surface, test, and scale locally led innovations. Managed out of USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health, PROPEL Health accepts funding from all USAID sources and operating units, including PEPFAR, health systems strengthening, maternal health, malaria, tuberculosis, and global health security.

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[1] PROPEL Health is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and implemented by a consortium of partners led by Palladium.

What PROPEL Health Can Do for Country Programs

Advance Resilient and Equitable Policies and Systems

PROPEL Health will develop, adopt, implement, and monitor sustainable, resilient, and context-responsive policies to improve accessibility, accountability, affordability, and reliability of integrated high-quality FP/RH and health services, supplies, and information for all people. For example, the project will:

▶ Strengthen local capacity to design, implement, and monitor resilient and responsive policies, strategies, laws, and regulations

▶ Elevate community voices to co-create and co-implement transformative policies

Family Planning and Primary Healthcare Integration

PROPEL Health's core-funded global activities use a health systems approach to integrate family planning and primary healthcare with an aim to expand and sustain financial and human resources. These context-based activities draw upon policy, advocacy, financing, and governance expertise, delivering approaches to strengthen the health system by integrating family planning into existing primary healthcare insurance programs. The project also works to build the capacity of stakeholders to sustainably finance health delivery, including approaches to formalize and fund community health workers, who are at the forefront of service delivery. The project provides an understanding of the impact of rights-based voluntary family planning and how to incorporate it into strategies for poverty reduction and climate change, among other interlinked sectors.

Maximize and Sustain Financing

PROPEL Health aims to optimize adequate, predictable, and sustainable financing for health services, supplies, and information to meet program needs at all levels and promote equity and quality throughout the health system. For example, the project will:

▶ Support governments to advance public and private financing of primary healthcare services and integrate the provision of FP/RH, MCH, and HIV

▶ Support improved strategic purchasing to incentivize quality FP/RH care and leverage digital tools to increase enrollment and improve claims and reimbursement processes

▶ Partner with ministries of health and finance to design financial management solutions that balance flexibility and control and better link budgets with outcomes

In **Kenya**, PROPEL Health is supporting the government to mobilize and optimize domestic resources to advance its universal health coverage agenda and primary healthcare strategy. At the national level, the project will help strengthen risk pooling and strategic purchasing to optimize resources and expand access to healthcare, particularly among poor and vulnerable groups. With local actors, the project will create integrated primary healthcare and decentralized drug distribution models to inform health financing reforms. At the county level, the project will strengthen capacity to improve strategic planning and budget efficiency.

Strengthen Accountable and Transparent Stewardship

PROPEL Health aims to improve the environment for adaptable and resilient government stewardship, accountability, and transparency. For example, the project will:

- ▶ Provide technical assistance to embed stewardship functions, transparent management, and accountability mechanisms
- ▶ Galvanize regional- or district-led platforms as mechanisms to review health performance metrics, elevate underrepresented voices, and facilitate multisectoral responses to challenges
- ▶ Strengthen local actors' capacity to conduct assessments of governance rules and norms for priorities such as digital health, gender, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility

Botswana's Ministry of Health & Wellness has prioritized strengthening the capacity of its health policy and planning department to better steward human resources for health. PROPEL Health will conduct an assessment of the department to determine capacity strengthening needs of local actors, teams, and institutions to sustain the structures, skills, and competencies required. The project will also facilitate "local-global-local" sharing via ministry engagement at the Fifth Global Forum on Human Resources for Health in Geneva.

Strengthening Local Capacity for Universal Health Coverage

To help attain universal health coverage goals in Malawi, PROPEL Health supports government, civil society, nongovernmental organizations, academia, youth, and communities as they identify and implement local policy priorities, focusing on quality, equitable, and affordable healthcare for all citizens. The project's capacity building approaches aim to strengthen local ecosystems by sparking advocacy action for domestic funding, increased transparency and accountability, and positive youth development to effectively engage decisionmakers. To advance the decentralization of health service delivery to the district level, PROPEL Health provides tools, frameworks, and mentorship to support local teams to gain efficiencies in resource allocation, expand public-private partnerships, maximize use of digital platforms, and provide real-time data for decision making.

Promote Data-Driven Advocacy and Policy Decisions

PROPEL Health will use evidence-based advocacy approaches at the global, national, and subnational level to promote and implement best practices in health policy, financing, and governance. Examples include activities to:

- ▶ Strengthen decisionmaker and advocate capacity to use evidence-based advocacy approaches to elevate, advance, and integrate FP/RH and primary healthcare policy priorities
- ▶ Support local partners to develop user-friendly integrated analytics and integrate FP/RH, HIV, and MCH within national digital health plans and country data architectures

To support the government of **Malawi's** goal for a sustainable, harmonized, and country-led digital health system covering all health service provision areas, PROPEL Health is supporting the finalization of a digital health policy and a monitoring and evaluation framework. This

includes support to develop indicators for the second integrated community health supervision strategy. This effort will increase the system's interoperability with DHIS2 and data quality and transparency for all stakeholders.

In **Ghana**, where a gap in family planning commodities and funding is projected due to increased contraceptive use and changes in method mix, PROPEL Health is supporting modeling to generate information for planning. As a start, the team convened stakeholders to review models and scenarios, as well as underlying assumptions of each model, to generate consensus on tools and how they can be used to advocate for family planning programs.

Advancing Primary Healthcare

In Guatemala, PROPEL Health will coordinate with key partners in the Ministry of Public Health and government institutions at central and local levels to revitalize primary healthcare using approaches that optimize resource use, improve equity, and ensure quality. To strengthen stewardship of the health system, the project will help address fragmentation and segmentation among government health service providers and assist in reactivating inter-institutional coordination. At the municipal level, improved planning, spending, and optimization of resources will strengthen internal management systems. PROPEL Health will collaborate with local experts to strengthen governance capacity using a digital ecosystem approach to improve transparency and accountability.

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