



PROPEL Health: El Salvador

Project Overview

The Promoting Results and Outcomes through Policy and Economic Levers (PROPEL) Health project is a five-year U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded project with the overarching objective of improving country environments to better facilitate access to equitable and sustainable health services. The broad project strategy is centered around policy, financing, governance, and the use of evidence-based approaches.

In El Salvador, PROPEL Health is working to strengthen the government's capacity to design and roll out health security policies and better prepare the government to prevent emerging infectious disease threats (including both human and zoonotic diseases), all within the country's Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) and a

One Health approach. PROPEL Health will focus on improving disease surveillance and early warning systems, laboratories, and human resources. To achieve these goals, the project will collaborate with government ministries, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, local academic institutions, the private sector, and local civil society organizations.

Our Work

Support the government of El Salvador to advance the national Global Health Security Agenda

The GHSA aims to improve the management of infectious disease threats. PROPEL Health will start with a baseline assessment to identify gaps

toward aligning with GHSA goals, followed by capacity strengthening in the areas identified. Project activities include:

- Coordinating a baseline assessment to evaluate the government's readiness to pursue GHSA goals
- Proposing a tailored multi-year roadmap to strengthen the Global Health Security Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of El Salvador
- Proposing mechanisms to finance essential and emergency health services
- Supporting research and a decision-making culture through the sharing of data and information

Strengthening capacity and systems for outbreaks

The One Health approach focuses on the interconnected nature of human, animal, and environmental health, and their shared impacts on the threat of infectious diseases. The government of El Salvador has been focusing on improving inter-group communication and collaboration, emphasized by the One Health approach, which will allow for the creation of a harmonized national surveillance system. Strengthening activities in this area involve:

- Defining a multisectoral governance scheme through the involvement of the ministries of health, environment, and agriculture for the establishment of a One Health national surveillance system

- Improving harmonization of the sub-systems that feed into the epidemiological information system
- Strengthening the capacity of the Directorate of Epidemiology and the Institute of Higher Education on human resource management and training under the One Health approach
- Developing a multisectoral roadmap for strengthening laboratory capacity

Strengthen capacity to respond to emerging infectious diseases and other health emergencies

The ability to respond to health emergencies at both the national and regional levels is vital. PROPEL Health aims to strengthen El Salvador's emergency response capacity with activities that include:

- Supporting a new model for a subregional emergency operations center, coordinating its integration with the national emergency operations center, and determining the benefits of such a model for implementation in other regions

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