



## PROPEL Health: West Africa

### Project Overview

Promoting Results and Outcomes through Policy and Economic Levers (PROPEL) Health is a five-year U.S. Agency for International Development-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 the West Africa region, through funding from USAID West Africa, PROPEL Health aims to create an enabling environment for policy and strengthen health systems to improve outcomes by implementing HIV, maternal and child health, and family planning service delivery activities. The project is working in Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, and Togo and is also supporting the West African Health Organization (WAHO) and the Ouagadougou Partnership more broadly. PROPEL Health's focus responds to a growing population in the

region, which is expected to increase the number of people seeking healthcare, specifically sexual and reproductive health services. While the modern contraceptive prevalence rate has increased among some segments of society, there are still unmet needs for family planning, and gaps in gender equality outcomes. The project aims to help improve health, economic, and gender outcomes by addressing limited capacity to mobilize funding for health, inefficient coordination, weak governance and accountability, and inconsistent implementation of frameworks and policies.

### Our Work

#### Policy implementation

Although costed implementation plans exist in many West African countries, implementation and accountability remains inconsistent and ineffective. PROPEL Health aims to improve policy development and implementation by working with local actors through a "learn-by-doing" approach with activities that include:

- Supporting costed implementation plan development, execution, monitoring, and stewardship capacity
- Strengthening local capacity for data analysis to monitor policy progress and assess equity gaps
- Fostering public-private sector engagement for health sector collaboration

## Sustainable health financing

The domestic health expenditure and social health protection context in countries in the West Africa region is variable. PROPEL Health is engaging key local actors to pursue opportunities to strengthen their capacity, assess existing mechanisms, and support modeling for family planning services. Related activities include:

- Strengthening capacity for domestic resource mobilization and budget advocacy
- Assessing social health insurance with a focus on coverage of and disparities around family planning services
- Cost analysis and insurance coverage modeling to inform resource needs

## Systems approach to community health and primary healthcare

Many countries in West Africa have policies in place to scale and integrate various areas of health into primary healthcare. To support implementation of these policies, PROPEL Health is reviewing progress and strengthening local actors' capacity through activities that include:

- Supporting the Accelerating Primary Healthcare Initiative in Côte d'Ivoire
- Strengthening multisectoral committees to support the integration of family planning, HIV, maternal and child health, and malaria into primary healthcare

- Engaging community leaders to champion family planning and women's rights

## Governance and accountability

Regional governmental bodies have committed to several ambitious health-related goals, but action and accountability need strengthening. PROPEL Health is working with WAHO to monitor the implementation of goal-related family planning and HIV policies more closely at the individual country level. Related activities include:

- Strengthening WAHO and national capacity for oversight of family planning and HIV policies and best practices
- Strengthening mutual accountability for policy action

### Côte d'Ivoire

Through funding from USAID Côte d'Ivoire, PROPEL Health is conducting a family planning and child health rapid market assessment, which aims to identify opportunities to expand the range of sustainable commodities and services. PROPEL Health also has two core-funded activities in the country focused on achieving sufficient and sustainable financing for family planning and for community health workers.

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