



PROPEL Health: Guatemala

Project Overview

Promoting Results and Outcomes through Policy and Economic Levers (PROPEL) Health 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 Guatemala, PROPEL Health's goal is to strengthen the health system and address health disparities by optimizing resources and improving equity in and the quality of primary healthcare. The project's high-priority tasks include the revitalization of the primary healthcare system, with a specific focus on reproductive health, family planning, and nutrition; improvement of health system leadership and governance at the national and subnational levels; supporting citizen accountability and participation; and advancing Guatemala's decentralization agenda to strengthen the health system. The project's work also includes supporting the recovery and strengthening of the integrated

primary healthcare system of Guatemala to be more resilient against emerging infectious disease threats under the One Health approach.

Our Work

Increase resource optimization in the public health sector

To better address health disparities, the management of budgetary resources within government organizations and the subsequent allocation of these resources at the subnational level in Guatemala needs to be strengthened. PROPEL Health activities include:

- Improving the capacity of the Ministry of Health to plan, budget, and manage funds, including by strengthening staff skills in public financial management and analysis of existing drug and commodity procurement practices and mechanisms
- Supporting subnational governments, nongovernmental organizations, and communities in providing decentralized and culturally and gender-responsive health

services through strengthening the capacity for financial and human resource management

- Evaluating financial protection mechanisms to reduce direct healthcare costs

Promote equitable access to health services

In Guatemala, equitable access to quality healthcare remains a challenge. PROPEL Health activities to address these challenges include:

- Strengthening national and subnational capacity to plan for and provide equitable healthcare services
- Creating an enabling environment that promotes sustained participation in policy formulation by underserved populations to increase equitable access to health services, with a specific focus on maternal and child health
- Supporting coordination mechanisms between the Ministry of Health, Guatemalan Social Security Institute, and other health providers
- Partnering with civil society organizations to promote dialogue between midwives and the Ministry of Health and to enhance coordination of services
- Developing and implementing methods and tools for national and subnational budget execution, monitoring, and accountability for reproductive health, family planning, and nutrition
- Identification of opportunities to strengthen Social Security Institute family planning interventions and coverage

Improve quality of care by strengthening the primary health system

The primary health system cannot be strengthened without strengthening the capacity and practices of

primary healthcare workers. Additionally, the usage of digital health is becoming vital to improve the accessibility and quality of healthcare. PROPEL Health is:

- Supporting health and social security institutions to develop and agree on a coordinated national primary healthcare model
- Strengthening pre- and in-service training for primary health workers, including the development of an action plan in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Social Security Institute to address training needs
- Using digital health tools and technologies for patients and healthcare providers to improve the accessibility and quality of healthcare

Global Health Security Focus

PROPEL Health is working to strengthen the integrated primary healthcare system to increase its resilience to emerging infectious disease threats by: organizing working sessions with stakeholders to disseminate evidence; providing recommendations to combat procurement challenges; promoting coordination and collaboration between ministries; fostering coordination between the Ministry of Health and the Guatemalan Social Security Institute; updating pre-service training programs for global health security-related roles; and applying the digital cartography tool to identify healthcare accessibility gaps.

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