



PROPEL Health

July 2024

Project Overview

The Promoting Results and Outcomes through Policy and Economic Levers (PROPEL) Health project improves the enabling environment for equitable and sustainable health services, supplies, and delivery systems.¹ We achieve results through:

1. Policy development and implementation
2. Adequate, predictable, and sustainable health financing
3. Enhanced government stewardship, transparency, and accountability
4. The use of evidence-based approaches at global, national, and subnational levels

The project focuses on family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH), primary healthcare, and the integration of services. Within this framework, the project works in the areas of HIV, maternal and child health, malaria, tuberculosis, health systems strengthening, and global health security.

Our strategy prioritizes localizing policy, advocacy, financing, and governance leadership, technical assistance, and capacity development to enhance resilience and sustainability. PROPEL Health collaborates with local partners and actors through grants and subawards that promote local implementation, foster local capacity, and support locally led innovations.

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

Our Approach

Advance Resilient and Equitable Policies and Systems

PROPEL Health develops, adopts, implements, and monitors 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:

- ▶ Strengthens local capacity to design, implement, and monitor resilient and responsive policies, strategies, laws, and regulations
- ▶ Elevates community voices to co-create and co-implement transformative policies

In **El Salvador**, PROPEL Health is strengthening 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, following a One Health approach.

In **Burkina Faso**, the project supports local organizations and religious and traditional leaders to organize community dialogues to improve access to family planning information and services based on the barriers seen in each region and in support of the country’s family planning strategy.

Advancing Primary Healthcare

In Guatemala, PROPEL Health coordinates 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 helps address fragmentation among government health service providers and reactivate inter-institutional coordination. At the municipal level, improved planning, spending, and optimization of resources will strengthen internal management systems. PROPEL Health collaborates with local experts to strengthen governance capacity using a digital ecosystem approach to improve transparency and accountability.



Maximize and Sustain Financing

PROPEL Health optimizes 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:

- ▶ Supports governments to advance public and private financing of primary healthcare services and integrate the provision of FP/RH, maternal and child health, and HIV
- ▶ Supports improved strategic purchasing to incentivize quality FP/RH care and leverage digital tools to increase enrollment and improve claims and reimbursement processes
- ▶ Partners 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 helps strengthen risk pooling and strategic purchasing to optimize

resources and expand access to healthcare, particularly among poor and vulnerable groups. It also supports primary healthcare performance measurement and a funding model for primary care networks. At the county level, the project supports strategies to mobilize resources for health in both the public and private sectors and to enhance efficiencies in resource allocation and application.

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:

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

Strengthening Local Capacity for Universal Health Coverage

To help attain universal health coverage goals in Malawi, PROPEL Health supports government and civil society as they identify and implement local policy priorities, focusing on quality, equitable, and affordable healthcare for all citizens. The project's capacity building approaches spark advocacy for transparent and accountable health systems and a recent increase in domestic funding for health. 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.



Botswana's Ministry of Health has prioritized the revitalization of primary healthcare as critical to universal health coverage and to improve access to and delivery of high-quality health services. With PROPEL Health support, the ministry established governance structures to guide the revitalization process. The primary healthcare technical working group and subcommittees—which consist of representatives from local government, the private sector, and civil society—are necessary structures for planning and achieving the country's primary healthcare goals.

Promote Data-Driven Advocacy and Policy Decisions

PROPEL Health uses 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 maternal and child health within national digital health plans and country data architectures

In **Honduras**, PROPEL Health supports the Ministry of Health to understand how clear leadership, shared objectives, and established communication channels can support the successful adoption of a One Health approach. Building upon recommendations from a situation analysis, government officials collaborated to establish a multisectoral steering committee for One Health consisting of representatives from health, animal, and environment sectors.

In **Ghana**, the project collaborates with the Ghana Health Service on the development of its new family planning costing implementation plan (CIP). This includes working with stakeholders to analyze the family planning program to determine areas of progress and drivers of success as well as areas of underperformance, gaps, and missed opportunities. Findings will determine focus areas for the next CIP.

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.



Contact Us

Veena Menon, Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR), U.S. Agency for International Development, Office of Population and Reproductive Health, vmenon@usaid.gov

Suneeta Sharma, Project Director, Palladium, suneeta.sharma@thepalladiumgroup.com



Photos by Souleymane Bathieno (p. 1) and Amaru Photography (p. 3).

Promoting Results and Outcomes through Policy and Economic Levers (PROPEL) Health is a five-year cooperative agreement funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development under Agreement No. 7200AA22CA00023, beginning September 23, 2022. PROPEL Health is implemented by Palladium in collaboration with African Economic Research Consortium, Avenir Health, Population Reference Bureau, RTI International, Samasha Medical Foundation, and the White Ribbon Alliance.

This document was produced for the U.S. Agency for International Development. It was prepared by Palladium. The information provided in this document is not official U.S. Government information and does not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the U.S. Agency for International Development or the U.S. Government.