



High-Level Ministerial Meeting on Health Employment and Economic Growth
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U.S. Agency for International Development Statement on Commitment to Action
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USAID recognizes human resources for health (HRH) as being an integral component to achieving goals in global health and advancing Universal Health Coverage. The agency has been a key supporter of the development of the WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030 as well as the development of the new WHO National Health Workforce Accounts.

USAID commends the UN Commission on Health Employment for Economic Growth's work in catalyzing further advancement of HRH across the globe. The report further supports the objectives of the WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030, implementation of the National Health Workforce Accounts, while emphasizing the importance of intersectoral collaboration for HRH.

Over the past two years, the agency has worked to build upon its 30-year history of investment and technical leadership in workforce development, aligning its HRH approaches and investments with emerging global priorities and recommendations.

USAID's new 5-year \$141M flagship project, HRH2030, has just finished its first year of implementation. The project was designed to be aligned with the objectives of the WHO Global Strategy on HRH and to leverage cross-sector expertise to advance HRH evidence and impact. Already working to respond to recommendations from the Commission report, the project is consulting with a technical advisory group on the development of a methodology to better estimate impact of HRH on health and social outcomes that can be utilized by health system decision-makers to prioritize and engage in intersectoral advocacy for HRH investments.

USAID also provides countries with technical assistance on HRH through its bilateral programs. Across the globe, the agency has comprehensive HRH portfolios in over 25 countries. For example, the agency has been working with the Ugandan government and health NGOs since 2007 to improve the availability, recruitment, and deployment of health workers for driving progress towards Ending Preventable Maternal and Child Deaths and Achieving an AIDS Free Generation.

Moreover, it is critical to place HRH within the context that many countries are experiencing an economic shift that calls for a transition from donor assistance for health. USAID has been at the forefront of advancing domestic resource mobilization to ensure that progress on global health priorities and universal health coverage is both sustainable and country owned.

Data suggests that health workforce related costs make up a large proportion of government health expenditure across countries. This places priority on ensuring efficiencies and optimized

utilization of health workers across facilities and communities, alignment of supply side investments with needed skill mix and available fiscal space, and better understanding of private sector employment to maximize availability of country resources.

USAID has been a key supporter of the WHO National Health Workforce Accounts (NHWAs) recognizing that comprehensive health workforce planning has been severely impacted by the limited and incomplete data on HRH labor markets across countries.

The comprehensive data provided by the NHTWA indicators will allow policymakers to answer critical questions for informing the most strategic investments and use of resources to address HRH constraints. The NHTWA data set can also support stronger intersectoral engagement and alignment for HRH data, ultimately resulting in stronger health systems.

USAID is working with WHO in co-chairing the Health Data Collaborative HRH Working Group to further guide country NHTWA implementation.

The Commissioner's report findings that suggest the triple return of HRH investment on health, economic growth, and global health security strongly resonates with USAID, as the agency is well-positioned to leverage its cross-sectoral focus in education and economic growth.

The agency is equipped to seek unique partnerships to identify innovations that target HRH and address multiple development priorities. An example from the USAID India program demonstrates how healthcare has been identified as a high-growth sector for targeting youth unemployment. Working with McKinsey Social Initiative, USAID has supported the Generation India program to work with employers and develop the skills of unemployed youth for entry-level careers as patient care assistants in the health sector.

In summary, the agency is well positioned to further support implementation of the objectives of the WHO Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health and recommendations from the UN Commission Report on Health Employment and Economic Growth.

USAID values its strong working relationships with WHO, WB and other donors and multilaterals, while working with countries to advance country specific HRH goals. USAID is pleased to see WHO's announcement of the Global Health Workforce Network (GHWN) after submitting a request for consideration as a representative of the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA) Board. The agency recognizes the critical role that the network will have in continuing engagement and strengthening intersectoral collaboration for implementation of the global strategy and commission's recommendations and advancing HRH across the globe.