

GLOBAL HEALTH EVALUATION AND LEARNING SUPPORT (GH EVALS) ACTIVITY

What We Offer USAID Worldwide

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Global Health Evaluation and Learning Support Activity (GH EvalS) is a five-year USAID Bureau for Global Health Task Order contract. GH EvalS provides evaluation, assessment, and learning support for health-related projects and activities at USAID/Washington and USAID Missions. Projects within the USAID Bureau for Global Health's portfolio support the U.S. Government's goals to improve global health through preventing child and maternal deaths; controlling the HIV/AIDS epidemic; and combating infectious diseases, such as COVID-19.

GH EvalS provides assessments, performance and impact evaluations, and learning and adaptive management services that are transparent, based on the best methods, and oriented toward reinforcing local ownership. This includes four types of evaluations of President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) programs: process, outcome, economic, and impact. PEPFAR is a U.S. governmental initiative to address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic.

The contract also involves coordinating and collaborating, as appropriate, with USAID partners to build synergies and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of project activities. These include the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria (GFATM); and USAID Bureau for Global Health cooperating agency implementing partners, such as U.S. and international nongovernmental organizations and private corporations and foundations.

WHAT GH EVALS CAN DO FOR YOU

GH EvalS staff and consultants can support USAID operating units working on health-related activities in headquarters and the field with short- and medium-term technical services of consultants with expertise pertaining to the following components:

- **Program, activity, and project evaluation:** High quality, transparent, independent, and collaborative evaluations (including formative, process, summative, ex-post, meta-evaluations and evaluation synthesis) and assessments
- **Technical assistance:** Support for strategic planning, project design, CLA (Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting), learning agendas, as well as assessments and reviews.
- **Global health program and research management:** Augmentation of USAID capacity in specialized fields to design, manage, and implement research and policy analysis (including meta-analysis).



Credit: MCSP and Jhpiego / Karen Kasmauski

COVID-19 SPECIFIC METHODOLOGIES

As the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic impacts USAID partner countries worldwide, GH EvalS will adapt digital best practices to help USAID continue its life-saving mission while protecting the health and safety of our workforce and the communities we serve. We are committed to combining agility with safe digital innovations for conducting monitoring, evaluation, and learning (ME&L) programming to help USAID ensure accountability in complex environments often under challenging circumstances.

- **Conducting remote data collection:** We use Zoom, Teams, Skype, Survey Monkey, WhatsApp and telephone interviews with limited field work following strict social distancing and safety guidelines. Three broad types of cell phone data collection are applicable:
 - Monitoring through key informant interviews
 - Mobile phone-based surveys of beneficiaries or populations
 - Mobile phone-based applications accessible through data bundles and/or the Internet
- **Using digital survey tools:** We conduct web-based surveys using a cloud-based survey platform, such as Survey Monkey, or a computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) survey.
- **Transitioning a larger share of responsibility for evaluation data collection to local consultants:** Local consultants can conduct mobile phone interviews with designated stakeholders.
- **Leveraging big data:** Organizations that specialize in the collection and analysis of large data sources can provide analysis for reporting and decision-making.
- **Accessing data from institutional-monitoring systems:** A rapid analysis provides information on which previously existing institutional-monitoring systems are continuing to operate in-country (e.g., government price/trade-monitoring systems or reporting from health posts). We can access data from these systems for reporting on key indicators or can leverage these systems to collect additional information. Data-sharing agreements with local

institutions (e.g., universities and ministries) can reduce the need for duplicate systems and can aid Missions' situational awareness of sectoral needs. Where data-sharing agreements are not in place, data can often be accessible through sector-coordination meetings. We also can request implementing partners to feed into a rapid inventory of relevant institutional-monitoring systems.

- **Harnessing satellite data and geospatial information:** Remotely sensed geospatial data provide direct monitoring of physical features, changes in the use of land and economic activity, and situational awareness of human interaction with the built environment. Existing Agency programs, including FEWSNET, SERVIR, the GeoCenter's remote sensing service, and the Agency's Geospatial Information Systems Community of Practice, can provide technical guidance on the suitability of using satellite and other geospatial data for monitoring projects as well as available data sources and platforms. Many implementing partners and USAID currently use satellite imagery provided through the Remote Sensing Service (implementing partners are eligible for high-resolution imagery through the U.S. Government's license) and might be able to adjust their monitoring processes to integrate remote sensing.

Finally, the activity can also suggest the implementation of an incrementalistic approach that either explicitly or implicitly assumes a return to "normalcy" within a reasonable period of time, at which point operations can resume as normal (i.e., send full evaluation team to the field).

GH EVALS CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on the GH EvalS Project, please visit <https://ghevals.meandahq.com/> or contact Virginia Lamprecht, COR, at vlamprecht@usaid.gov and/or Andrea Camoens, Chief of Party at acamoens@engl.com.