



The Health Systems Strengthening Accelerator (Accelerator) is a global initiative funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), with co-funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Its goal is to partner with countries to build resilient high-performing health systems that respond to persistent and emerging health challenges that disproportionately impact vulnerable populations.

The Accelerator contributes to USAID's strategy for achieving improved health equity, quality, and resource optimization, by helping countries apply a whole-of-systems lens to intractable health systems issues, connecting local innovation and global knowledge, strengthening local ownership and processes, and building the institutional architecture needed to ensure lasting change.

Technical Approach

The Accelerator's flexible approach is responsive to country needs and more effective in strengthening country capacity to achieve health systems change. In addition to traditional technical assistance, the program mobilizes a mix of techniques to ensure that interventions are rooted in the reality of the country context, tailored to promote institutionalization, and owned by relevant local stakeholders. These techniques include:

- **Process facilitation of co-creation activities**
- **Building connections across countries for collaborative learning**
- **Primary research and analysis**
- **Knowledge translation to support evidence-based decision making**
- **Continuous learning and improvement to sustain impact**

Core Areas of Technical Expertise

- **Health policy and governance**
- **Equity and social accountability**
- **Sustainable health financing**
- **Vertical program integration**
- **Community health systems**
- **Mixed health systems**
- **Market-shaping for essential commodities**
- **Implementation research and adaptive learning**



Advancing Evidence and Cross-Country Learning

The Accelerator is generating new knowledge, and facilitating cross-country learning, on the following topics to strengthen global evidence and help countries apply this learning to complex systems challenges:

- Strengthening the role of health systems and policy research institutions in Asia to help countries within the region achieve systems change
- Applying a systems approach to strengthen the delivery of immunization
- Integrating rehabilitation and mental health and psychosocial support services into primary health care systems in post-conflict settings, including Georgia, Ethiopia, and Liberia
- Bringing together insights and approaches from the fields of social and behavior change, and social accountability to help countries advance their health systems change goals
- Using implementation research to provide evidence on the design coherence, effectiveness, and scalability of the National Community Health Policy in Guinea and improve equity in service delivery reforms in Ghana

A Growing Consortium of Global, Regional, and Local Partners

The Accelerator is led by Results for Development (R4D) with support from core partners Health Strategy and Delivery Foundation (HSDF, headquartered in Nigeria), and ICF. Additional global, regional, and local partners, including CERRHUD (Benin), Global Challenges Corporation, RIP+ (Cote d'Ivoire), and a network of consultants have also supported the program's activities. Emphasizing regional and local leadership, the Accelerator seeks new regional and local partners in response to new activities.

Interested in learning more?

USAID Office: USAID missions and country representatives interested in buying into the project should contact Jodi Charles, USAID Agreement Officer's Representative, at jcharles@usaid.gov

The Accelerator: Other interested parties should contact Nathan Blanchet, Project Director, at nblanchet@r4d.org

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Applying a Systems Lens

The Accelerator has facilitated systems strengthening efforts with significant progress toward prioritized change goals in several countries:

Guinea: Analyzed underlying issues hindering delivery of the National Community Health Policy and facilitated a participatory, multisectoral co-creation series, which led to the development of a new community health financing plan, new strategies for effective decentralization of community health roles and responsibilities, and a strengthened civil society advocacy platform for community health

Togo: Partnered with the Ministry of Health to rechart its journey to universal health coverage (UHC) by developing an integrated national UHC action plan and increased civil society engagement in UHC advocacy and policy decision-making

Liberia: Introduced and applied best practices to improve financial sustainability, supply chain management, and quality of care at the country's largest tertiary care center

Ghana: Collaborated with the Ghana Health Service to expand their innovative Primary Care Provider Networks to six districts across two regions of the country drawing on lessons learned from the success of early pilots

Cote d'Ivoire: Advised the government on establishing a foundation for a more sustainable and equitable HIV financing strategy and creating an action plan to address barriers to HIV service delivery