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USAID ASSIST Project Annual Performance Monitoring Report FY18

University Research Co., LLC (URC) and its partners have completed six years of implementation of the USAID Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) Project. This report is the sixth Annual Performance Monitoring Report for ASSIST, summarizing the project's accomplishments and results during Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18). In late September 2017, the project was awarded a two-year costed extension with additional funding for Zika-related activities. No further funding was provided for non-Zika work. The project's FY18 work plan thus focused mainly on Zika-related support in 13 Latin American and Caribbean countries and completion of previously funded work in other countries.

Overall goals

The USAID ASSIST Project fosters improvements in a range of health care processes through the application of modern improvement methods by host country providers and managers in USAID-assisted countries. The project's central purpose is to build the capacity of host country health and social service systems to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, client-centeredness, safety, accessibility, and equity of the services they provide. In addition to supporting the implementation of improvement strategies, the project seeks to generate new knowledge to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of applying improvement methods in low- and middle-income countries.

USAID ASSIST country programs align with the goals of United States Government's global initiatives and policies, including preventing child and maternal deaths, achieving HIV epidemic control, combatting other public health threats, protecting life, and addressing gender inequalities.

Where we worked

During FY18, USAID ASSIST provided technical support in 30 countries through field and core funding. USAID Mission funds supported work in nine countries: Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Indonesia, Lesotho, Mali, Swaziland, Tanzania, and Uganda. Middle East Regional Bureau funds supported a desk review of service delivery and health system challenges in 10 Middle East focus countries. Core-directed funds from the Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) Element Group supported activities in Ethiopia, Uganda, and Ghana. USAID cross-bureau-funded activities, through the Office of Health Systems, supported malaria prevention activities in Malawi, leadership workshops in Côte d'Ivoire and Tanzania, and quality of care assessments in Uganda and Kenya. Core funds from the Office of HIV/AIDS supported activities in eight countries: Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. Funds for Neglected Tropical Diseases supported improvement work to combat the Zika virus in 13 countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

FY18 accomplishments and results:

- Improvement in key indicators: As discussed in this report, ASSIST-supported programs demonstrated improved care and outcomes for a range of services, including antenatal and postnatal care, essential obstetric and newborn care, malaria diagnosis and treatment, screening of pregnant women and newborns for Zika-related signs and symptoms, Zika care and support, PMTCT, and HIV prevention.
- The project started up new Zika activities in five Caribbean countries. Support to the Ministry of Health of Jamaica started in January 2018 with a comprehensive assessment of facility readiness to address Zika. Following presentation of the findings, the project negotiated a work plan for technical assistance with the Ministry of Health and USAID and hired local staff. Start-up in the four Eastern and Southern Caribbean countries was initiated in July, a work

plan negotiated by August, and the first short-term technical assistance and training activities completed in all four countries in September.



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