The objective of the USAID Applying Science to Strengthen and Improve Systems (ASSIST) Project is to improve the quality and outcomes of health care and other services by enabling host country providers and managers to apply the science of improvement. The project seeks to build the capacity of host country service delivery organizations in USAID-assisted countries to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, client-centeredness, safety, accessibility, and equity of the health and family services they provide. ASSIST builds on the work of the USAID Health Care Improvement Project, which provided technical assistance in 38 countries from 2007-2014.

From October 2012 to September 2017, ASSIST operated in 38 countries, supporting quality improvement efforts for HIV, maternal and child health, malaria, tuberculosis, orphans and vulnerable children, and non-communicable disease services at both facility and community levels. During the current extension period (2017-2019), ASSIST is applying quality improvement methods to health systems strengthening efforts in Zika-affected countries, including the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Paraguay, and Peru. The extension also includes Zika-affected Caribbean countries, including Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua, and Dominica.

Learning is a fundamental part of improvement. In addition to supporting the implementation of improvement strategies, the project seeks to generate new knowledge to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of applications of improvement science in low- and middle-income countries. The project’s research activities are answering specific questions related to the scale-up and sustainability of results; helping to build the body of evidence of what works and what does not in terms of improvement methods. The project is also testing and evaluating ways to improve the rigor of data and the cost-effectiveness of interventions.

Knowledge management activities are built into each ASSIST country program to effectively and efficiently capture and disseminate learning about what improves outcomes. As a global project, ASSIST’s learning agenda also seeks to contribute to U.S. Government global initiatives and inform the larger field of health care improvement.

More information on current ASSIST activities may be found in Country Descriptions or downloaded at right.
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