Helping to Strengthen Equitable Coverage of Routine Immunization

Now more than ever barriers exist that prevent children and other eligible people from getting vaccinated. In 2021, 25 million children missed out on essential vaccines (WHO, UNICEF). USAID created the MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity project (the project) to build countries’ capacity to identify and overcome barriers to reaching zero-dose and under-immunized children and older populations with lifesaving vaccines.

The JSI-led project is a consortium of global leaders that offers technical assistance and applies innovative and best practices to increase equitable immunization coverage in 18 USAID-supported countries around the world. Working with countries at both national and sub-national levels, the project supports countries to reach underserved populations with services that reduce vaccine-preventable diseases. Recognizing that the causes of the most challenging barriers to high and equitable vaccination coverage are complex, inter-related, and context-specific, the project uses a mix of proven and innovative approaches to reduce the number of zero-dose and under-immunized children and other priority populations.

Working to Improve Immunization Outcomes and Close Equity Gaps

Building on proven approaches, the project works with countries to explore innovations, foster adaptive leadership, and integrate social and behavior change at all levels.
APPROACHES

The project draws on expertise in key areas such as microplanning for service delivery, training and capacity-building of health care staff, increasing demand for vaccinations, building community partnerships to reach underserved populations, and strengthening the supply chain and broader health systems.

By working through both the health system and the individual, community, and societal pathways, the project is able to help increase the caregivers' access to high quality, people-centered services. The project strengthens the capacity of host-country institutions to use data and evidence to identify their challenges, design solutions to address them, and apply adaptive learning to refine and improve solutions. The project brings together a broad mix of expertise, from human-centered design (HCD) and behavioral integration to supply chain, immunization financing, data systems and data use, and more to support delivery and use of quality, reliable immunization services.

Through a people centered approach and ensuring alignment between critical program functions supporting immunization, the project is also contributing to country, regional, and global efforts to reduce the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project has successfully supported COVID-19 vaccination programs as well as the strengthening and recovery of routine immunization. We are increasing the focus on lifecourse vaccination and integration, recognizing that new service delivery platforms and innovative partners are vital to extending the reach of vaccination to all populations.

KEY RESULTS TO-DATE

The project takes the lead and collaborates with other MOMENTUM awards to:

- Directly supported the vaccination of 19.3 million people with COVID-19 vaccines.
- Supported the vaccination of 548,422 zero-dose children who had not previously received DTP1 (October 2021–September 2022).
- Worked with 74 partners around the world.