

CapacityPlus

A well-trained, well-distributed health workforce provides the conduit to vital health care information, services, and commodities. Yet there is a global shortage of 4.3 million health workers, and the World Health Organization has named 57 crisis countries that are facing an especially critical shortage.

CapacityPlus is a new five-year global project to strengthen the human resources for health (HRH) needed to help reach the Millennium Development Goals. Placing health workers at the center of every effort, the vision of CapacityPlus is to build powerful constituencies to shape the global HRH agenda while achieving demonstrable progress in the health workforce in a set of focus countries. The project expands the successful efforts of USAID's Capacity Project, which worked in 47 countries to strengthen workforce planning, development, and support.

The objectives of CapacityPlus are in alignment with the Global Health Initiative's integrated approach to public health and the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. As President Obama said in announcing the Global Health Initiative, "... we will not be successful in our efforts to end deaths from AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis unless we do more to improve health systems around the world...."

CapacityPlus uses global expertise and evidence to address both the number of health workers needed and the quality and performance of those workers. Through working to ensure that the right health workers are in the right place at the right time, the project will build capacity in service delivery, thereby increasing access to high quality family planning/reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, maternal and child health, and other services. Specific results areas include:

- Fostering global leadership and advocacy to address the HRH crisis
- Enhancing HRH policy and planning, including strengthening HR management and information systems
- Improving HRH workforce development, including preservice education, in-service training, and continuing professional development systems
- Strengthening HRH performance support systems to improve health worker retention and productivity
- Generating and disseminating knowledge to promote use of evidence-based HRH approaches.