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Committee on Trade and Development

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RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND SUPPORTING RESILIENCY

COMMUNICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES

The following communication, dated 15 September 2022, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of the United States.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1. The United States is providing the following update for Members to respond to the interest expressed in sharing experiences and capturing lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. This submission focuses on the United States' global initiatives to support our development partners in their efforts to respond to the ongoing public health crisis as well as build resiliency to mitigate the impacts of future crises. The information below focuses on initiatives and activities primarily carried out by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is intended to be a snapshot of U.S. initiatives and not an exhaustive list. The United States encourages other Members, both donors and development partners, to share their experiences with the Committee. The collective experiences may assist the Committee in identifying any further work Members may wish to undertake.

2 USAID'S COVID-19 RESPONSE: CONTROLLING THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC AND BUILDING BACK BETTER

2.1. The United States is committed to ending the acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, both at home and abroad, and has been instrumental in the global fight against the virus. To date, the U.S. government has responded in more than 120 countries.

2.2. The United States' principal assistance agency, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) works to fight COVID-19 in more than 120 countries and is committed to building back a better world, one that is prepared to prevent, detect, and respond to future biological threats, and where all people can live safe, prosperous, and healthy lives.

2.3. Four COVID-19 legislative packages support the U.S. government's global response to the pandemic, including:

1. the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020 (COVID-19 Supplemental, P.L. 116-123);
2. the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act, P.L. 116-136);
3. the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (FY21 Appropriations Act, P.L. 116-260); and
4. the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

2.4. As of 31 March 2022, USAID has provided more than USD 9.9 billion¹ in COVID-19 supplemental funding toward the fight against the pandemic, including efforts to address the social and economic effects of COVID-19. USAID works with partner governments and civil society to deliver and distribute vaccines, protect and train health workers, disseminate key public health information, deliver emergency food and critical humanitarian services and supplies, provide support in risk communication and community engagement, support infection, prevention, and control, strengthen continuity of basic services, provide social and economic support, and sustain education for millions of students.

3 HOW USAID IS FIGHTING THE PANDEMIC

3.1. USAID is leading the U.S. government's efforts to vaccinate the world and is supporting implementation of the Administration's U.S. COVID-19 Global Response and Recovery Framework (Framework), which was released on 1 July 2021. The Framework includes five objectives:

- **Objective 1:** Accelerate widespread and equitable access to and delivery of safe and effective COVID-19 vaccinations
- **Objective 2:** Reduce morbidity and mortality from COVID-19, mitigate transmission and strengthen health systems, including to prevent, detect, and respond to pandemic threats
- **Objective 3:** Address acute needs driven by COVID-19, mitigate household shocks and build resilience
- **Objective 4:** Bolster economies and other critical systems under stress due to COVID-19 to prevent backsliding and enable recovery
- **Objective 5:** Prevent, detect, and respond to pandemic threats

USAID Investments in Fighting the Pandemic

3.2. Below is a summary of activities and obligated investments made possible through funding from the four COVID-19 legislative packages listed above. All figures below represent USAID-obligated funding as of 31 March 2022, and include illustrative examples of funded activities.

Support Vaccine Access and Delivery and Public Health Responses to the Pandemic

3.3. Objective 1 of the Framework focuses on helping vaccinate the world by procuring and donating COVID-19 vaccines to the world's most under-vaccinated populations and helping to accelerate and expand countries' campaigns to get more shots in arms. As of April 2022, the U.S. government has already supported the donation of more than 533 million COVID-19 vaccine doses to 115 countries.

3.4. To help countries overcome vaccine access barriers as vaccine donations continue to increase, the U.S. government announced in December 2021 the Initiative for Global Vaccine Access (Global-VAX). Global-VAX builds on existing U.S. government efforts with total cumulative interagency commitments of more than USD 1.7 billion, helping more than 100 countries prepare to receive and administer COVID-19 vaccines. This initiative expands assistance and enhances international coordination to identify and rapidly overcome vaccine access barriers, with a specific emphasis on scaling up vaccination support in sub-Saharan Africa. USAID is leading this whole-of-government effort in close collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other interagency partners.

3.5. Under Objective 2, USAID is working to save lives now through diagnostic, oxygen, and therapeutics support, and health system strengthening. Funding in this category focuses on a wide range of interventions to treat those ill with COVID-19 and to prevent further transmission among and across communities.

Illustrative examples of activities supporting these objectives include:

- Procuring COVID-19 vaccines and diagnostic test kits;

¹ The total USD 9.9 billion in obligated, USAID-managed funds includes: USD 4.62 billion in ARP funds (including USD 800 million in ARP Title II); USD 4 billion from the FY21 Appropriations Act (for the contribution to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance); and USD 1.28 billion combined from the COVID-19 Supplemental and CARES Act. The total does not include prior-year or repurposed funds, nor does it include ARP/HIV/AIDS funds or ARP/HIV/Global Fund resources, which were appropriated to the U.S. Department of State.

- Increasing oxygen supply and capacity;
- Preventing and controlling infection in communities and health facilities, including by improving continuity of water, sanitation, and hygiene services;
- Training the health workforce to efficiently and effectively prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19;
- Strengthening laboratory and diagnostic capabilities;
- Supporting sample transport networks and genomic sequencing and surveillance activities;
- GlobalVAX activities including but not limited to:
 - Helping to execute and expand national COVID-19 vaccination campaigns;
 - Launching mobile COVID-19 vaccination capacity for hard-to-reach and rural populations;
 - Assisting countries in COVID-19 vaccine policy-making and planning for strategic health care worker and resource deployment;
 - Investing in cold chain and supply logistics to safely store and deliver COVID-19 vaccines;
 - Fighting mis- and disinformation about COVID-19 vaccines; and
 - Partnering to develop health information systems to better evaluate COVID-19 vaccine distribution equity and monitor vaccine safety.

USAID'S Obligated Investments Under Objectives 1 and 2, as of 31 March 2022, include:

- **USD 848.2 million** in ARP, COVID-19 Supplemental, and FY 2021 Appropriations Act funds for Global VAX, including to surge support to 11 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, helping countries with under-vaccinated populations maximize vaccine access, distribution, and administration.
- **USD 1.5 billion** in ARP funds, in addition to USD 2 billion from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to support the U.S.' (June 2021) procurement of 500 million Pfizer doses for distribution through COVAX to up to 100 eligible countries, including African Union Member States.
- **USD 421.7 million** in ARP funds to provide COVID-19 rapid responses for urgent healthcare needs and critical commodities and technical assistance in COVID-19 hotspots, including support to India, Afghanistan, and other countries in South Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Sub-Saharan Africa.
- **USD 215.7 million** in ARP funds to support low-and-middle income countries in their continued efforts to mitigate COVID-19 transmission and reduce related morbidity and mortality.
- **USD 50 million** in ARP funds as a contribution to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) through the World Bank, as trustee of the CEPI multi-donor trust fund. These funds will support CEPI's further research and development to boost COVID-19 vaccine efficacy and optimize vaccination strategies to respond to new variants.
- **USD 3.5 billion**—out of a total USD 4 billion contribution—in FY 2021 Appropriations Act funds² to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to support the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines for donation through COVAX. The other USD 500 million provided to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, supports vaccine readiness and delivery and is included above.
- **USD 420.8 million** from the COVID-19 Supplemental to support critical health activities in more than 120 countries, including but not limited to: risk communication and community engagement, infection prevention and control, case management, surveillance, oxygen capacity, and laboratory and diagnostics strengthening.

Address Humanitarian Responses and Emergency Impacts Created by the Pandemic

3.6. In support of the emergency components of Objectives 2 and 3 of the Framework, funding in this category assists vulnerable populations in humanitarian and other fragile settings and supports

² The FY21 Appropriations Act mandated that USAID make a USD 4 billion contribution to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

interventions to mitigate COVID-19 related impacts. Examples of activities under these objectives include:

- Emergency food and nutrition assistance;
- Improved disease surveillance and digital tools;
- Dignity and hygiene kits;
- Cash assistance;
- Gender-based violence, child protection, and mental health services;
- Continuity of basic services, such as primary and reproductive health, water and hygiene supplies, and shelter; and
- Continuity of critical information management, coordination, and logistics support to assist first responder access to hard-to-reach populations.

USAID'S Obligated Investments Under Objectives 2 and 3, as of 31 March 2022, include:

- **Nearly USD 2.1 billion** in ARP funds to prevent famine and mitigate food insecurity, support protection and gender-based violence programs, and strengthen critical public health initiatives to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in humanitarian settings; and
- **USD 558 million** from the COVID-19 Supplemental and the CARES Act to respond to acute COVID-19 related humanitarian impacts and mitigate transmission of COVID-19 in humanitarian settings.

Stem and Recover from Development, Economic, Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Impacts of COVID-19

3.7. To stem and recover from the secondary impacts of the pandemic, which have disproportionately affected women and girls, funding under Objectives 3 and 4 of the Framework bolsters economies and critical systems world-wide. Activities under these objectives include:

- Cash grants to support agriculture, livelihoods, and service sectors;
- Business development assistance to small and medium enterprises, including those owned by people in vulnerable situations, such as Indigenous Peoples, and provision of micro-credit;
- Support to civil society in conducting risk communication activities in their communities;
- Adaptation of trade and investment tools to help businesses protect their investments;
- Provision of personal protective equipment and hygiene supplies to enable those providing critical services to continue operating safely; and
- Support to learning institutions to adapt to digital learning environments.

USAID'S Related Net Investments, as of 31 March 2022, include:

- **USD 231 million** in COVID-19 Supplemental resources in every region and a variety of sectors. For example:
 - More than **USD 76 million** to help micro-, small-, and medium-enterprises (MSME) recover from the significant economic impacts of the pandemic through job-skills and resilience training and MSME innovation. Funds have also assisted MSME in navigating trade barriers and regulations.

- More than **USD 26 million** to support democracy, rights, and governance and to prevent further democratic backsliding due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- More than **USD 21.6 million** to help mitigate the impacts of the pandemic on education and critical social services.
- Almost **USD 11 million** to support migrants and other vulnerable populations in recovering from some of the secondary impacts of the pandemic, such as access to livelihoods, social services, and shelter.
- More than **USD 8.7 million** to expand programs to counter trafficking in persons and build resilient individuals and households within vulnerable communities, including returning migrants, people with disabilities, marginalized groups, and indigenous communities.

USAID's COVID-19 Response factsheet can be found here:

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USAID-COVID-19-Response-Fact-Sheet-April2022.pdf>

ANNEX 1**TABLE 1: USAID COVID-19 SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING SUMMARY BY ACCOUNT
AS OF 31 MARCH 2022**

Table 1 provides a summary of funding provided by the COVID-19 Supplemental (P.L. 116-123), the CARES Act (P.L.116-136), the FY 2021 Appropriations Act (P.L.116-260), and ARP (P.L.117-2).

USAID COVID Funding as of 31 March 2022 (in USD)				
	Appropriated	USAID Managed	Approved/Notified*	Obligated
All Accounts**	11,097,000,000	10,541,650,000	10,541,650,000	9,907,515,026
American Rescue Plan Act	5,766,000,000	5,215,650,000	5,215,650,000	4,624,692,830
Economic Support Funds (ESF)***	4,925,000,000	4,374,650,000	4,374,650,000	3,804,897,068
USAID Operating Expenses	41,000,000	41,000,000	41,000,000	19,795,762
Title II	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000
FY 2021 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act	4,000,000,000	4,000,000,000	4,000,000,000	4,000,000,000
USAID Global Health Programs (GHP-USAID)	4,000,000,000	4,000,000,000	4,000,000,000	4,000,000,000
COVID-19 Supplemental 1 and CARES Act	1,338,000,000	1,326,000,000	1,326,000,000	1,282,822,196
USAID Global Health Programs (GHP-USAID)	235,000,000	235,000,000	235,000,000	235,000,000
Emergency Reserve Fund	200,000,000	200,000,000	200,000,000	185,862,877
USAID Operating Expenses	95,000,000	95,000,000 7,000,000	95,000,000 7,000,000	65,970,477 6,988,842
International Disaster Assistance (IDA)	300,000,000	300,000,000	300,000,000	300,000,000
Economic Support Funds (ESF)****	258,000,000	258,000,000	258,000,000	258,000,000
	250,000,000	231,000,000	231,000,000	231,000,000

* Funds are congressionally notified to the extent notification is required.

** The USD 3.75 billion in ARP/GHP/Global Fund/HIV/AIDS funds appropriated to the Department of State are not included in this table. USAID obligates these funds, but the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator (S/GAC) at the U.S. Department of State programs and manages these funds.

*** Of the ARPA ESF/Economic and Stabilization, Congress appropriated USD 930 million. Of these funds, USAID is managing USD 380 million, and the Department of State is managing USD 550 million. The Department of State-managed funds are not reported here.

**** The FY2021 COVID-19 Supplemental appropriated USD 250 million in ESF. Of these funds, USAID transferred USD 7 million to USAID Operating Expenses (OE). The Department of State is managing USD 11.9 million. The Department of State-managed funds are not reported here.