

# THE REACH EVERY MOTHER AND CHILD ACT

## To End Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths

The Reach Every Mother and Child Act is a bold, bipartisan policy initiative supported by more than 50 diverse NGOs and faith-based organizations, which would dramatically accelerate the reduction of preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths worldwide—helping to achieve the global commitment of ending these deaths within a generation. Building upon the success of such global health initiatives as PEPFAR and the President’s Malaria Initiative, the Reach Act would enact key reforms that increase the effectiveness and impact of USAID maternal and child survival programs.

### The Issue.

The U.S. government has committed to a worldwide goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths within a generation, a demonstration of the strong moral leadership the U.S. provides. This goal is ambitious, but achievable, as long as the return on investment for U.S. programs is maximized.

An analysis by an independent advisory panel of business and development experts (known as a blue ribbon panel) identified areas for improvement to make USAID’s maternal and child survival programs more efficient and effective. USAID has already begun carrying out the panel’s recommendations, but legislation is needed to ensure that progress in implementing these reforms is not rolled-back and that USAID is held accountable for its stewardship of taxpayer dollars.

In addition, there exists a large financing gap for maternal and child survival worldwide, despite vital U.S. funding for these efforts, including traditional bilateral assistance (through Maternal/Child Health and Nutrition) and multilateral assistance (through Gavi—the Vaccine Alliance). To maintain America’s status as a truly exceptional nation and fulfil our moral imperative of bringing an end to preventable child and maternal deaths within a generation, USAID must also implement innovative financing tools that bring new resources to the table and support the transition to sustainable, domestically-financed health systems, complementing and responsibly leveraging future investments.

### The Solution.

The Reach Every Mother and Child Act (S.1730/H.R.4022) would enact key reforms necessary to maximize the impact of USAID maternal and child survival programs. In addition, the bill would help USAID explore and implement innovative financing tools to complement existing assistance and to help countries along the path to self-sustainability.

The Reach Act has been introduced by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Chris Coons (D-DE), Jerry Moran (R-KS), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Mike Enzi (R-WY), Johnny Isakson (R-GA), Dick Durbin (D-IL), and Chris Murphy (D-CT). It was introduced in the House by Congressmen Dave Reichert (R-WA), Betty McCollum (D-MN), Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Dan Donovan (R-NY). The Reach Act would:

- Require a coordinated U.S. government strategy for contributing to ending preventable child and maternal deaths;
- Establish rigorous reporting requirements to improve transparency, accountability, and oversight of maternal and child health programs;
- Ensure USAID focuses on the scale-up of highest impact, evidence-based interventions to maximize the return on existing U.S. investments;
- Establish the position of Child and Maternal Survival Coordinator at USAID to reduce duplication of efforts and ensure that resources are being used as efficiently as possible; and
- Help USAID explore and implement innovative financing tools, such as pay for success contracting, to leverage additional public and private resources, complementing existing U.S. assistance.