

THE SECTOR

Global health and good governance have always been closely linked. Yet this connection is deepening as stakeholders demand health projects that are scalable, sustainable, and inclusive. Counterpart's approach to health governance is informed by our Inclusive Social Accountability framework that equally emphasizes building accountable systems and ensuring broad social inclusion. We provide capacity building support and convene diverse stakeholders to foster accountable health solutions -- improving health outcomes as civil society and public health agencies grow their capabilities, fiscal position, and self-reliance.

Counterpart supports the transformation of global health programs from basic service delivery to institutional, human capacity, domestic financing, and network development among governments, civil society, and the private sector. We apply community mobilization approaches to bridge the gap between citizens and the public sector to improve service delivery, leverage CSO networks for advocating for improved health governance, and apply political economy tools to leverage stakeholders across the public, private, and social sectors. We adapt approaches for each local context, bringing broad experience in active and post-conflict situations.

We also provide wide-ranging management and grant support to emerging national CSOs that increasingly provide health service delivery with government and donor funding. This requires specialized personnel, honed methodologies, and the soft skills to build trust to achieve shared goals.

COUNTERPART'S GLOBAL HEALTH APPROACH

HEALTH IMPACT WITH INCLUSIVE SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY

Our approach that integrates good governance into global health is based on recognized best practices: engaging stakeholders, cultivating accountability, developing capacity, setting shared strategic direction, and stewarding resources. We partner with local CSOs, communities, civic leaders, and public officials at all levels, furthering their health priorities while also building capacity to advocate, evaluate, and deliver frontline health services. This enables citizen feedback regarding access to quality services to reach public officials who must be equipped to respond.

Trust and meaningful collaboration between communities and the public health sector is a critical component for sustainable change, which is why supporting the development of citizen-responsive, citizen-centered institutions is a core component to our approach. Counterpart's civil society development and social accountability projects contribute to improving the performance of health systems and the delivery of high-quality services in resource-limited settings. We also employ our Organizational Capacity & Performance framework and tools to enhance CSO technical, operational, and financial capabilities. We train, mentor, procure equipment, and provide access to larger CSO networks.

These cross-cutting strategies are designed to build resiliency and reach vulnerable populations. For example, our Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) approach focuses on multiple socio-ecological levels, beginning with the individual, then expanding to inter-personal, and ultimately engaging the broader community.

COUNTERPART-LED HEALTH PROGRAMS

- **Fostering Accountability and Transparency in Zambia** (USAID, \$6M, 2014-20) improves engagement between the government and communities by partnering with and building the capacities of local CSOs to monitor and advocate for improved public services, including general health needs and specifically on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and social support. In addition to advocacy training and strategic mentoring for CSO staff and leaders, the project organizes district, provincial, and national dialogue forums on many health issues.
- **Parceria Cívica para Boa Governação in Mozambique** (USAID, \$12M, 2016-20) partners with local CSOs to



improve accountable and effective democratic governance in the key sectors of health, education, and natural resource management. Activities include building CSOs' capacities to monitor the government's spending on education and health per fiscal commitments.

- **Community Action, Nutrition and Livelihoods in Mauritania** (USAID, \$39M, 2006-13) partnered closely with the national Ministry of Health and local partners in 160 communities. The project strengthened health, hygiene, and nutrition by improving community capacity to plan, implement, and monitor community development, while also training and mentoring on community health best practices for government and volunteer health extension agents. The program also procured in-kind pharmaceutical drugs for community health centers. We organized training-of-trainers for officials from ministries other than health, who returned to their respective regions. In addition, the program trained 67 head nurses on integrated management of childhood illness and over 500 community health workers on managing diarrhea, fever, and respiratory infections.

OUR HEALTH IMPACT IN OTHER SECTORS

In addition to integrating governance into health programming, it is also important to integrate health into programs whose primary focus is outside of global health's direct context. Counterpart has done this in the following illustrative sectors:

- **Peace & Security:** In **Niger**, where high poverty and violent extremism cause instability, the **Participatory Responsive Governance** project (USAID, \$18M, 2016-21) improves public-civic dialogue and increases government responsiveness to priority citizen needs in health and education. It encourages local solutions, including decentralized decision-making and increased accountability through monitoring. Activities include consultative health budgets formulation and priority setting.
- **Legislative strengthening:** In **Malawi**, health service delivery is a primary focus of **Supporting the Efforts of Partners** (USAID, \$16M, 2014-19), specifically building capacity and trust among civil society, local governments, and Parliament. By engaging directly with Parliamentarians and their staff on policy, budgets, and delivery monitoring, health outcomes and governance improve.
- **Education:** Counterpart implements the **Food for Education** project in **Senegal** (USDA 2018-22, \$20M) which, in addition to literacy and school feeding activities, builds the capacity of national and local governments to integrate children's nutrition and hygiene into the education sector.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To explore the approaches and tools of Counterpart's Inclusive Social Accountability framework and how it relates to global health, visit counterpart.org/inclusive-social-accountability.

IN THE NEWS

DRC'S RESPONSE TO EBOLA DEMONSTRATES INTERSECTION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND GLOBAL HEALTH

*USAID Administrator Green stresses the need for transparency in health delivery**

Eastern DRC is a region with high government distrust and social instability. The 2018/19 Ebola outbreak aggravated this, while also demonstrating how difficult it is to address health emergencies there. USAID Administrator Mark Green said: "We have to undo some of the damage and distrust that has been built up...We need to turn it into a community-based response...turning to everyone in the community -- turning to elders, turning to institutions that are trusted, and being completely open and transparent is a step not to be bypassed. [Considering HIV/AIDS and Malaria], progress was made, and success occurred, when it was completely transparent, and everybody was involved. And, that needs to be the case here."

*<https://usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/jun-18-2019-usaid-administrator-mark-green-remarks-press-roundtable-ebola>

