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**INFORMATION MEMO FOR ACTING ADMINISTRATOR**

**CC:** Agency Chief of Staff, Deputy Chief of Staff [cleared by email 2/6]

**Date:** February 4, 2025 *Nicholas Enrich*

**From:** Nicholas Enrich, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Global Health

**Subject:** Bureau for Global Health programming under the lifesaving humanitarian assistance waiver of the pause on foreign assistance

**KEY TAKEAWAYS:**

- Pursuant to Secretary Rubio's temporary waiver to the pause on foreign assistance, and subsequent USAID Agency Notice issued on January 28, 2025, in alignment with the President's Executive Order on Reevaluating and Realigning United States Foreign Aid (EO), USAID's Bureau for Global Health (GH), in coordination with the Office of Acquisition and Assistance, is taking steps to resume or continue activities deemed to be lifesaving humanitarian assistance in central GH mechanisms.

**BACKGROUND:**

GH deems a limited subset of Global Health activities constitute lifesaving humanitarian assistance as outlined in the Agency Notice, [Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Waiver - Foreign Assistance Pause](#). These lifesaving activities **must resume or continue in the next 30 days of the 90 day pause on foreign assistance to prevent imminent mortality among USAID beneficiaries. These lifesaving activities**, identified more specifically below, address tuberculosis, malaria, acute risks of maternal and child mortality, including severe acute malnutrition, and other life-threatening diseases and health conditions. Please note, for PEPFAR-funded activities, GHSD has issued separate guidance titled "Implementation of Limited Waiver to Pause of U.S. Foreign Assistance for Life-Saving HIV Service Provision."

For non-PEPFAR-funded **Bureau for Global Health programming**, only the following categories of activities will be resumed during the 90-day pause or until superseded by new guidance:

1. **Direct service delivery:** Provision of lifesaving essential services related to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of key diseases and conditions listed above required on an emergency basis to resume within 30 days. For purposes of this category, lifesaving humanitarian assistance applies only to:
  - a. As required to resume within 30 days, provision of the following lifesaving essential services related to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of severe illnesses and conditions which--if not addressed--lead to mortality in women, newborns, and children under five:

- i. Antenatal care and post-partum services for women to address acute complications before, during, and after delivery, which require lifesaving treatments such as safe Cesarean section, safe blood supplies, oxytocin for post-partum hemorrhage, antibiotics, and access to lifesaving commodities.
    - ii. For newborns and children, this includes essential newborn care, including for preterm, low-birthweight, small and/or sick newborns; essential immunizations to prevent imminent mortality; treatment of acute child illness with antibiotics, oxygen therapy for pneumonia, and oral rehydration solution and zinc for acute diarrhea; and management of severe acute malnutrition with Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) for children under five.
  - b. Essential screening, testing, and treatment for tuberculosis (TB) and drug resistant TB (DR-TB) including provision and monitoring of laboratory services, drug susceptibility testing, clinical visits, dispensing of essential medicines to avert near-term mortality and spread of infection.
  - c. Essential services that must resume within 30 days to ensure malaria diagnosis and treatment, as well as prevention through distribution of nets and indoor residual spraying targeting highest burden areas (where infected children are at risk of dying from malaria within 48 hours), and lifesaving malaria medicines for pregnant women and children.
2. **Emergency Response to Infectious Disease Outbreaks:** As required to resume within 30 days, rapid emergency response to immediate infectious disease outbreaks, focused on pathogens with high pandemic potential that pose a national security risk to U.S. citizens, such as viral hemorrhagic fevers (e.g. Ebola and Marburg), Mpox and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (e.g. H5N1). This includes detection, prevention, and containment efforts required to resume within the next 30 days such as the following activities: risk information for affected populations, active surveillance, infection prevention and control, support for testing, case management and treatment, and supply of medical countermeasures.
  3. **Essential Health Commodities & Supply Chain Management:** Corresponding to activities under #1 and 2 above, and as required to resume within 30 days, procurement, warehousing and distribution of essential life-saving medicines and health products; laboratory systems to support accurate diagnosis and treatment; and targeted supply chain management (e.g. focused data and systems maintenance) to ensure the availability of such essential health commodities.
  4. Reasonable implementing partner administrative costs strictly necessary to deliver and provide oversight of the assistance under #1-#3 above.

GH will maintain a pause of foreign assistance for all other activities not covered by this guidance until completion of the foreign assistance review or further guidance. As stated in the Agency Notice, this waiver **does not** allow for any global health activities related to abortion

services, family planning, conferences, administrative costs outside the scope outlined in the notice, or programs centered on gender; diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); transgender surgeries; or other forms of non-lifesaving assistance. USAID fully abides by U.S. law, including the Helms Amendment, which precludes the use of foreign assistance funds to pay for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning, or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions.

## **Certifications**

For resumption of work, consistent with the certification required in the USAID Foreign Assistance Pause Waiver Request template, GH intends have OAA include a requirement that implementing partners provide to the cognizant CO/AO and the COR/AOR a separate written certification that the implementing partner will not extend to activities related to abortion services, family planning, conferences, administrative costs outside the scope outlined in #4 above, or programs centered on gender; diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); transgender surgeries; or other forms of non-lifesaving assistance.

## **NEXT STEPS:**

- GH is applying the above criteria to identify GH centrally managed mechanisms that support lifesaving, humanitarian assistance and to specify which activities should resume. GH will maintain a comprehensive tracker of lifesaving, humanitarian activities that are resumed by implementing partners of GH central mechanisms, and will share updates regularly with the Agency Front Office. Mission bilateral activities will not be included in this tracker.
  - **NOTE:** Final approval for activities supported through centrally managed GH Bureau mechanisms, including field support, that are allowed to resume under this waiver rests with the GH Acting Assistant Administrator. For Mission bilateral awards, this authority remains with Regional Bureau and Mission leadership.
- GH will coordinate with OAA to communicate with implementing partners of GH central mechanisms that implement lifesaving humanitarian assistance activities within the scope of this guidance on global health activities to resume those activities, including the certification requirement discussed above.
- GH will share this memo with Regional Bureaus & Agency OUs for their awareness; however, regional bureaus and missions will make their own decisions regarding whether to adopt guidance similar to the GH Guidance or develop their own standards regarding Mission activities that fall within the Life-Saving Humanitarian Assistance Waiver. Regional Bureaus will also maintain responsibility for guiding and tracking activities that are permitted to restart in Mission bilateral awards and in providing visibility to the Agency front office regarding these activities.



**CLEARANCE PAGE FOR: A/AID Memo re: Global Health Programming**

**Drafter:** Nida Parks

**Approved:** GH/A/AA

<b><u>Bureau Level Clearances</u></b>	<b><u>Clearance Status</u></b>	<b><u>Date</u></b>
GH/MCHN: NLowenthal	Clear	02/03/25
GH/PRH: SdeSilva	clear with edits	02/03/25
GH/ID: MFotheringham	Clear w/ ID Edits	02/04/25
GH/PMI: MVenkatesan	clear with edits	02/03/25
GH/OHA: AFrost	INFO	02/03/25
GH/OHS: MHijazi	Clear	02/03/25
GH/P3: RGodbole	Clear with edits/comments	02/04/25
GH/OCS: WPressman	Clear	02/03/25
GH/CII: MSchaefer	Clear	02/03/25
GC/GH: DBui	Clear	02/04/25
AFR/A-AA: BFrantz	INFO	
LAC/A-AA: MMcLaughlin	INFO	
ASIA/A-AA: PYoung	INFO	
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