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# policy



## HEALTH POLICY PROJECT

Photo by: Health Policy Project

## Advocacy

### Overview

Advocacy plays a key role in building strong health systems. It gives people a voice in the decisions that affect their lives and health and helps hold governments accountable for meeting the health needs of all people, including marginalized groups. Health policies developed with broad participation help governments and institutions provide better healthcare.

In the fields of HIV, family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH), and maternal health, advocacy occurs throughout the policy process. Advocates detect problems and raise awareness of those problems. They participate in policy dialogue and contribute to designing policy solutions, then marshal support to adopt those solutions. Their work does not end with the passage of policy measures. Instead, they help ensure equitable and effective implementation of health policies, monitor the impact of those policies, and identify gaps and challenges. To do all this successfully requires a specialized set of skills and knowledge.

### What We Do

The Health Policy Project (HPP) is a catalyst. We help ensure that those most affected by policy decisions have a voice throughout the policy process. We help bring disadvantaged groups to the table and work from the bottom up to bring in new groups and actors. We bring people together and promote policy dialogue. Most of all, we work to ensure that local government, civil society, and other partners in host countries have the capacity to do all this themselves as they advocate for supportive policy environments. Focused on sustainability, we are also preparing local partners to take on this capacity development role in the future.

We strengthen advocacy partners around the world, from Russia to Jamaica. Our partners include government officials, religious leaders, local nongovernmental organizations and faith-based organizations, parliamentarians, universities, networks of people living with HIV, key populations, indigenous women, and other marginalized populations. We help organizations

develop advocacy strategies and provide them with the tools and skills they need to put those plans into practice, placing particular emphasis on the use of data in advocacy. We provide financial and technical support, strengthen country-level and international advocacy networks, and generate information that supports advocacy efforts, including translating the latest research for use in policies and programs.

Our advocacy efforts include

- Helping women leaders enhance the role of women in FP/RH policymaking
- Helping advocates address maternal mortality and promote respectful labor and delivery services
- Working with indigenous women's networks to address inequities
- Supporting advocacy efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination and address harmful gender norms within HIV programs

## How to Work with Us

For over 40 years, Futures Group has managed large and complex international health and development projects for a range of major development players, achieving significant results on the ground in more than 100 countries. Host-country partners with interest in receiving project assistance should contact their USAID Mission. All Missions may participate through field support. For information on how to work with the Health Policy Project please contact:

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