

USAID Kenya Health

March 2017 to November 2018

USAID Lead and Partners: USAID Kenya Health Office staff

Background:

The USAID/Kenya Mission Health Office had made a commitment to fostering coordination and collaboration among its partners and within its own internal teams. Still, most of the portfolio was significantly siloed. There were many different partners working on similar issues and, ultimately, similar behaviors. Without logical pathways from desired outcomes to interventions to guide activities, it was difficult to identify the points along those pathways for meaningful collaboration amongst them.

Key Activities:

First, ACCELERATE conducted a landscape analysis with all the key partners in the Health Office's portfolio to better understand the priorities of each and the challenges to both collaboration and progress that each partner faced. Then, together with the USAID Kenya Health Office team, ACCELERATE identified a number of the most critical behaviors in different counties to focus on across the portfolio, using ACCELERATE's Prioritization Tool and locally available data. For each behavior, the teams then worked to collect and analyze local research to create Behavior Profiles, which were then validated with both county government stakeholders as well as all implementing partners working on the issues. Finally, ACCELERATE supported the Health Office team's analysis of the efforts of all the partners, across all critical behaviors, to identify opportunities for collaboration based on where there were similar efforts, work and outcomes.

Key Learning:

The work in Kenya demonstrated the immense value of summarizing across Behavior Profiles as a means to determine the specific areas for collaboration and coordination among partners or within a singular portfolio. It also demonstrated the difficulty in executing this task by hand, as the volume and complexity of information contained within multiple Behavior Profiles becomes significant. This led to the creation of the Behavioral Summary Tool, which harnessed the power of machine learning to group the information in selected profiles so it could be better analyzed and organized by stakeholders. In addition, the work in Kenya revealed the value of the entire process to local level government stakeholders, who understood the tool could allow them to both better strategize and plan their own investments as well as provide a platform from which to coordinate the many implementing partners and donors doing work on their behalf in their regions.

Key Outputs:

Key team outputs included eight Behavior Profiles for identified priority behaviors, validation of those Profiles at the county level with key stakeholders, and a Behavior Summary for all behaviors that recommended areas for coordination and collaboration among USAID partners working in Kenya.