

Why Health Workers Matter

Who are Frontline Health Workers?

Frontline health workers are trained professionals who deliver essential prevention, treatment, and emergency services directly to individuals and communities, often serving as the first and most consistent point of contact within health systems for millions of people in low- and middle-income countries.



Global Overview



The world is facing a projected shortfall of **11 million** health workers by 2030, primarily in low- and middle-income countries



Since 2020, more than **14,000** attacks on healthcare facilities, transport, and personnel have been reported



Approximately **67%** of the global health and social workforce is female



Globally, more than **15,000** children die daily, primarily from preventable causes, and **810** women lose their lives due to pregnancy or childbirth-related complications



Up to 50% of health workers globally report symptoms of burnout following the COVID-19 pandemic



Nearly half of the world's population— approximately **4.5 billion** people—lacks access to critical health services.

Health Worker Impact



US leadership and investments in global health have driven remarkable progress, including a **60%** reduction in child mortality and a **38%** reduction in maternal mortality from 1990 to 2020, a **31%** decline in new HIV infections from 2010 to 2020, and a **38%** decrease in malaria-related deaths from 2000 to 2019



Every **\$1** invested in the health workforce yields up to **\$9** in economic return



Investing in frontline health workers strengthens global health security by enabling earlier detection and response to disease outbreaks — reducing the risk of pandemics that threaten U.S. safety and economic stability



Up to **90%** of essential health services can be delivered through strong primary health care systems