



Ramona Godbole <rgodbole@usaid.gov>

Implementing the emergency humanitarian assistance waiver for critical GH activities

Joel Borkert <jborkert@usaid.gov>

Thu, Feb 6, 2025 at 2:53 AM

To: Nicholas Enrich <nenrich@usaid.gov>

Cc: Matthew Hopson <mhopson@usaid.gov>, Kenneth Jackson <kennjackson@usaid.gov>, Ramona Godbole <rgodbole@usaid.gov>, Nida Parks <nparks@usaid.gov>, "Aiyong (Paul) Seong" <aseong@usaid.gov>

This is good. I clear!

Respectfully,

Joel M. Borkert

Acting Chief of Staff

U.S. Agency for International Development

Office: (202) 712-4573

Cell: (202) 975-3203

On Wed, Feb 5, 2025 at 5:09 PM Nicholas Enrich <nenrich@usaid.gov> wrote:

Hi Joel and Team,

It was great meeting you today in person.

Reupping the info memo below. As discussed, this reflects a carefully considered, very conservative interpretation of lifesaving humanitarian assistance for global health programming.

I request your urgent agreement to share this guidance so that missions will be able to turn back on lifesaving programming, like the TB example I mentioned today.

Thanks for your urgent action.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Nick

Nicholas Z. Enrich

Acting Assistant Administrator

Bureau for Global Health

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On Tue, Feb 4, 2025 at 5:38 PM Nicholas Enrich <nenrich@usaid.gov> wrote:

Hi Joel,

As requested, please see the proposed [guidance](#) to be shared on parameters for lifesaving humanitarian assistance. This is the guidance we are using for GH centrally-managed mechanisms to determine which activities must be prioritized under the waiver, and intend to share this with other Agency B/IOs, but first sharing with you for review.

Our aim is to share this with regional bureaus by no later than tomorrow (Wednesday), to ensure that critical, time sensitive lifesaving activities are not delayed at the mission level.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thanks,
Nick

Nicholas Z. Enrich

Acting Assistant Administrator

Bureau for Global Health

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On Tue, Feb 4, 2025 at 12:38 PM Nicholas Enrich <nenrich@usaid.gov> wrote:
Copy that, and will do. Thanks.

Best,
Nick

Nicholas Z. Enrich

Acting Assistant Administrator

Bureau for Global Health

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

On Tue, Feb 4, 2025 at 12:36 PM Joel Borkert <jborkert@usaid.gov> wrote:
Hi Nick,

Before sending anything out to the field, we are getting specific guidance from State on what falls in the PEPFAR waiver (which may be different than how we would define it). Also, if you could send us your guidance you plan to send out on other programs before you send it out to the field, I'd like to see it. Also, I want to make sure implementers are only spending funds to get them through 30 days at a time. In other words, if we lift a stop work order on a life saving program, they are NOT purchasing anymore than 30 days worth.

Appreciate it!

Thanks,
Joel

On Fri, Jan 31, 2025 at 11:09 AM Nicholas Enrich <nenrich@usaid.gov> wrote:
Hi Joel,

I am looking forward to meeting you in-person next week.

We are seeking Agency Front Office agreement with the Bureau for Global Health's (GH/Washington) planned initial steps to implement the waiver for [Emergency Humanitarian Assistance Waiver](#) that was issued by Secretary Rubio, and in alignment with the [Agency Notice](#) that you sent, on January 28.

As you discussed with my deputy at Wednesday's SMM, GH/Washington assesses that a limited subset of global health activities constitute lifesaving humanitarian assistance as outlined in the Agency Notice, including but not limited to the following categories of activities to save lives from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, acute risks to maternal and child health, including acute malnutrition, and other life-threatening diseases and health conditions:

- emergency response to infectious disease (including, for example, the ongoing Mpox outbreaks and new Ebola outbreak in central and east Africa),
- essential health commodities,
- supply chain management, and
- direct health service delivery that will avert the loss of life in the next 90 days.

Given that all GH/Washington programming is currently under a stop-work order, we want to move swiftly but thoughtfully in resuming these critical, lifesaving humanitarian assistance activities in alignment with the instructions in your Agency Notice. As such, we are seeking Agency Front Office agreement with the following course of action:

- GH/Washington plans to develop specific guidance on what types of global health activities we assess to constitute lifesaving humanitarian assistance pursuant to the waiver, as well as the clearly noted exceptions to the waiver ("GH Lifesaving Humanitarian Assistance Guidance");
- GH/Washington plans to request that OAA communicate to specific implementing partners that implement lifesaving humanitarian assistance activities within the scope of the guidance on global health activities to resume those activities.
- GH/Washington plans to share the GH Lifesaving Humanitarian Assistance Guidance with Agency OUs so that they can make relevant decisions regarding Mission bilateral awards.
- GH/Washington plans to document and monitor activities which will resume under the waiver.
- GH/Washington plans to send the Agency FO an info memo within the next week outlining what work is continuing/resuming pursuant to the waiver, and the corresponding justification.

Please advise if you are in agreement with this approach, and/or if you have any questions/concerns.

Many thanks,
Nick

Nicholas Z. Enrich

Acting Assistant Administrator

Bureau for Global Health

U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

--

Respectfully,

Joel M. Borkert

Acting Chief of Staff

U.S. Agency for International Development

Office: (202) 712-4573

Cell: (202) 975-3203