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Implementing the emergency humanitarian assistance waiver for critical GH activities

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To: Joel Borkert <jborkert@usaid.gov>

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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

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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

