

Reach Every Mother and Child Act (S. 1911)

Section-by-Section Summary

Bill Overview. The Reach Every Mother and Child Act (S. 1911) will combat preventable deaths of mothers, newborns and young children in developing countries by: (1) creating a multi-year strategy to end preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths; (2) establish a Maternal and Child Survival Coordinator at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and (3) develop a financing framework to leverage commitments from non-governmental actors and multinational organizations.

Sec. 1: Short Title. This Act may be cited as the “Reach Every Mother and Child Act of 2015.”

Sec. 2: Purpose. The purpose of this Act is to implement a strategic approach for providing foreign assistance in order to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally within a generation.

Sec. 3: Definitions. This section defines various technical terms such as target countries, coordinator and appropriate congressional committees.

Sec. 4: Policy Statement. This section makes it the policy of the United States to establish and implement a coordinated, integrated, and comprehensive strategy to combat the leading causes of maternal, newborn and child mortality globally and ensure healthy lives. This strategy will focus on evidence-based interventions, country ownership, monitoring and evaluating programs, transparency and accountability, sustainability and public-private financing mechanisms.

Sec. 5: Strategy. The President shall establish and implement a comprehensive ten-year, whole of government strategy to achieve the goal of ending preventable maternal, newborn and child deaths globally and ensure healthy and productive lives by 2035.

Sec. 6: Child and Maternal Survival Coordinator. The President, acting through the USAID Administrator, shall designate an individual at the Senior Executive Service or Deputy Assistant Administrator level or higher to serve concurrently as the Child and Maternal and Survival Coordinator. The coordinator will be responsible for: (1) overseeing the strategy and (2) all U.S. Government funds appropriated or used for international maternal and child health and nutrition programs.

Sec. 7: Reporting. The President will publicly report on the U.S. government’s progress implementing the strategy each year. The report will detail the progress made by programs carrying out maternal and child health and nutrition initiatives; descriptions of how the interventions or programs are designed; reporting on grants, contracts and cooperative agreements awarded; as well as comprehensive and disaggregated information to implement transparency measures.

Sec. 8: Establishment of Public-Private Financing Mechanisms. To carry out provisions of this Act, USAID is authorized to: (1) grant loans; (2) set aside funds for use in the implementation of financing tools; (3) establish and use a financial intermediary to implement new financing tools, as appropriate; (4) issue sovereign level guarantees and (5) make equity investments.

Sec. 9: Authorization of Funding. The bill authorizes such sums as may be necessary to carry out the maternal and child strategy, financing framework and the Development Impact Partnership.