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Maternal and Child
Survival Program



Photo: Shafiqul Alam Kiron/MCHIP

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

Effective community-based approaches are critical to improving reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health. They require strengthening the capacity of health systems to engage communities, and building strong systems of service delivery and social and behavior change outside of health facilities to reach those not currently accessing key health services.

USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) promotes the institutionalization of community health as a central component of country health systems. We work to link community health and health systems strengthening efforts, taking an expanded view of what a health system is—including not only health services, but all actors involved in protecting and building health (health promotion). The Program takes into account the centrality of household and community production of health, underlying the health promotion agenda, as well as evidence for effective community-based strategies to end preventable child and maternal deaths.

In the full continuum of reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) care and services, MCSP supports health promotion, prevention and curative service delivery in communities and with communities, and participation through various groups. We also contribute to global learning on effective and sustainable practices in community health, giving close attention to the fit between program strategies and country realities.

MCSP has developed an approach — called Viable, Integrated Community Health

KEY FACTS

- Effective CHWs likely save one to two children's lives per year in low- and middle-income countries (MDG Health Alliance)
- At \$500 – \$2,000 per CHW per year, these programs are cost effective investments in community-based delivery (MDG Health Alliance)
- 6.3 million children die annually, many from treatable illnesses, and millions of adults lose their lives due to issues that can be managed with a skilled, equipped and supported frontline health worker (Frontlinehealthworkers.org/UNICEF)

Platforms — to strengthen national institutionalization of community health. The component “lenses” of this model are intended to illuminate essential elements that community health strategies need to systematically address to advance comprehensiveness of services, sustainability and high-quality care.

These elements include:

- Optimizing integrated packages of RMNCH interventions at the community level;
- Strengthening the community health worker workforce and its support through community infrastructure, including effective community engagement and participation;
- Supporting more effective government, civil society, and private partnerships to institutionalize and coordinate community health and to build capacity and shared ownership; and
- Placing emphasis on use of local information for equity, learning and adaptation.

Through the CORE Group, MCSP is able to tap into tools and a network of more than 70 organizations that foster learning, idea sharing, and capacity building. This work is facilitated through holding global and U.S.-based conferences, conducting national and regional meetings, and linking to the Community Health Network and Technical Working Groups.



Photo: Virginia Maria, who has eight children, is visited by Aiuba, a Community Health worker who received training under the Maternal and Child Integrated Health Program (MCHIP) in Nampula, Mozambique. (Kate Holt/MCSP and Jhpiego)

ABOUT MCSP

The Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) is a global, USAID Cooperative Agreement to introduce and support high-impact health interventions with a focus on 25 high-priority countries with the ultimate goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths within a generation. The Program is focused on ensuring that all women, newborns and children most in need have equitable access to quality health care services to save lives.

MCSP supports programming in maternal, newborn and child health, immunization, family planning and reproductive health, nutrition, health systems strengthening, water/sanitation/hygiene, malaria, prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, and pediatric HIV care and treatment.

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