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**Maternal and Child
Survival Program**



Photo: Kate Holt/Inplego



WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE

Handwashing is the single most cost-effective intervention to prevent pneumonia and diarrhea in children, and reduces infections in mothers and children during pregnancy and childbirth. Both A Promise Renewed and the Integrated Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control for Pneumonia and Diarrhea (GAPPD) list handwashing and other hygiene behaviors as core interventions for protecting children from these leading causes of death.

USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) supports countries to make water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) a normative part of maternal, newborn and child health. At all levels of care, the Program aims to prepare for a clean and healthy birthing and newborn experience, reduce infections to mothers and newborns during the peri- and postnatal periods, to limit health care associated infections contracted during the process of care, and to reduce stunting and diarrheal disease in children.

The WASH program works across a variety of MCSP teams and themes: Maternal, Newborn Health, Child Health, Health Systems Strengthening, and Quality. We develop and utilize nontraditional messaging models that reflect country-specific behaviors and social norms, and employ counseling, demonstration and practice at all stages of the maternal, newborn and child health continuum of care.

KEY FACTS

- Every year, there are nearly 1.7 billion cases of diarrheal disease, causing an estimated 760,000 child deaths (WHO)
- An estimated 10-15% of maternal deaths are due to infections linked to unhygienic conditions during labor and poor hygiene practices during the six week postpartum period (WHO/PMNCH)
- Use of clean cord care kits during umbilical cord cutting can result in a twofold reduction in the odds of cord site infections (WHO/PMNCH)

Examples of this include:

- Instructions on the construction of handwashing stations, such as tippy taps;
- Development of handwashing corners; and
- Household-level demonstrations of water treatment, safe water storage, and treatment methods.

In addition, MCSP is working to change behaviors and integrate WASH into facility-based care, addressing gender-related barriers and giving specific attention to the role of men in maternal, newborn and child health.



Photo: Preceptor, Enefa Anani is washing her hands before a procedure at the HoHoe Midwifery Training School in Ghana (Karen Kasmauski/MCSP)

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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