



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Maternal and Child  
Survival Program



## IMMUNIZATION

Globally, immunization prevents 2-3 million deaths each year. The World Health Organization estimates that approximately an additional 1.5 million deaths annually could be prevented with existing vaccines. Success in reducing vaccine-preventable mortality has been dramatic, but it cannot be taken for granted.

USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) works to operationalize USAID's longstanding commitment to strengthen routine immunization (RI). By increasing capacity to achieve and sustain high and equitable immunization coverage levels with all appropriate vaccines, MCSP is reaching the unreached and reducing child mortality.

MCSP's approach provides the foundation for timely vaccination; supports and sustains new vaccine introduction; contributes to the achievement of disease control initiatives; and advances other health interventions.

MCSP is a global leader in the arena of immunization, helping to shape policies and strategies in close partnership with WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, and ministries of health. MCSP's participation in selected global working groups and committees amplifies the Program's learning while infusing the strategic and operational plans of key partners with

### KEY FACTS

- Immunization currently averts up to 3 million deaths every year (WHO)
- 1.5 million children under five die each year due to diseases that can be prevented by vaccination (WHO)
- An estimated 21.8 million infants worldwide are still missing out on basic vaccines and routine immunization services (WHO)

pragmatic, operational considerations.

MCSP aims to ensure that resources are used effectively to strengthen country-level capability to manage the delivery of immunization services and promote their acceptance and utilization. By strengthening key neglected program components of the RI system—such as the supply chain and community partnerships— MCSP is helping to ensure timely childhood vaccination and improving the quality and local use of data.

MCSP applies a variety of strategies to build the capacity of immunization service providers and managers. These include in-service training, supportive supervision, on-the job training, and pre-service education. MCSP also partners with WHO to develop, review and adapt capacity-building materials to be used at the country level.

Fostering strong partnerships between the health system and communities is critical to achieving our global goals. These partnerships improve the shared planning, delivery, utilization and monitoring of immunization services, and give particular attention to reaching underserved populations and reducing drop-out rates.



**Photo:** In Bondo sub-county, Kenya, a service provider prepares to administer the measles vaccination to nine month old baby Noella while her mother Nancy looks on (Ronald Dangana/MCHIP)

## 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 24 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.

[www.mcsprogram.org](http://www.mcsprogram.org)

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