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MCHIP Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program

MCHIP Immunization Support - India

Background

MCHIP is one of the lead technical agencies for immunization working towards achieving and sustaining full immunization coverage by 12 months of age for at least 80% of India's children through reduction of left-outs and drop outs.

The strategic priorities include building capacities of Indian institutions and stakeholders, working in partnerships and leveraging resources, and being catalytic and innovative to accelerate the scale up of proven, evidence based interventions.

Objectives

- Influence national immunization policies and strategies to mobilize new resources for routine immunization at all levels
- Improve the planning, management and monitoring of immunization services in the USAID focus states and at the national level
- Improve skills and practices of health workers, managers and partners
- Demonstrate successful approaches for improving RI coverage in selected districts of focus states, in collaboration with government and partner agencies
- Demonstrate successful lessons from polio eradication for improving RI systems in selected blocks of focus districts.

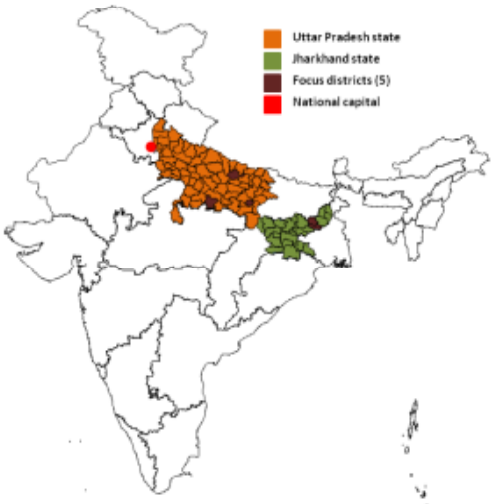
Geographical area of work:

In addition to providing national level immunization technical assistance, MCHIP team is also working in two poorest performing states of Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh marred by inequitable coverage and large cohorts of unreached and under-reached population.

MCHIP technical team in collaboration with national and state governments and partner organizations is also creating models of immunization best practices in five selected poor performing districts (Deoghar and Jamtara in Jharkhand; Banda, Gonda and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh) for addressing issues of quality, coverage and equity.

On the request of other state governments like Haryana, Uttarakhand, Odisha and MP, MCHIP is also providing technical support for strengthening RI in their states.

MCHIP Immunization – Geographical presence



Projected number of un-immunized children in MCHIP focus states are Jharkhand - 0.1 and UP - 1.3 million respectively.

MEMBERSHIP OF IMMUNIZATION TECHNICAL FORUMS

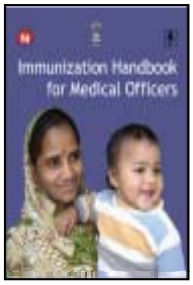
- National Technical Advisory Group on Immunization (NTAGI)
- Indian Expert Advisory Group on Polio
- Polio Partners Forum
- Sub groups on cold chain and measles catch-up campaigns
- Immunization Action Group for year of Intensification of RI
- State MNCHN Partners Forum

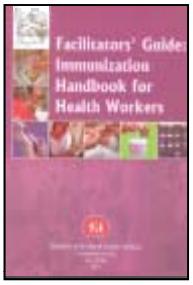
OPERATIONAL PLANS AND GUIDELINES DEVELOPED WITH INPUTS FROM MCHIP

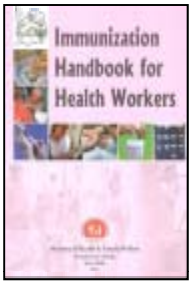
- Multi Year Plan (cMYP)
- Revised AEFI guidelines
- Measles SIA guidelines
- Guidelines for introduction of second dose of Measles in UIP
- Guidelines for introduction Hepatitis-B in UIP
- Guidelines for Japanese Encephalitis vaccination
- Guide for health workers on Pentavalent vaccine

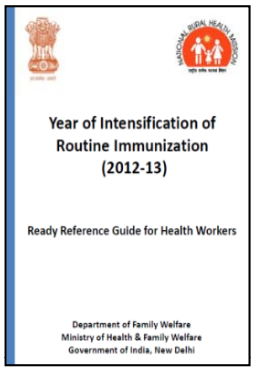
Technical Assistance to Government Health Departments':

- Development of operational plans, policies and guidelines for implementation and monitoring of immunization program; introduction of new and under-utilized vaccines; effective vaccines and logistics management and strengthening surveillance of VPD and adverse events following immunization (AEFI).
- Revision and utilization of guidelines for state immunization program implementation plans (PIP), as envisaged in National Rural Health Mission. These revised guidelines facilitated leveraging of additional funds for improved service delivery and enabled improvements in training, implementation, recording and reporting etc.
- Planning, implementation and review of activities for Intensification of Routine Immunization during 2012-13. Ready Reference Guide for Health Worker has been developed which is duly endorsed by national government for use in the whole country.
- Development of training packages including modules, guidelines and facilitator's guides for program managers and front line functionaries (i.e. Medical Officers, Vaccine and Cold Chain Handlers and Health Workers). The team members of MCHIP are recognized as national, state and district level facilitators for immunization trainings.
- The MCHIP immunization team trained a total of 4300 staff members of Government and partner agencies from October'09 till date.
- Facilitated capacity building activities at national and state levels for government and staff of partner agencies (CORE Polio Group, UNICEF, WHO-NPSP and Micronutrient Initiative) on different aspects of immunization program.









JOB-AIDS DEVELOPED BY MCHIP TEAM

- Cold chain management
- Vaccine storage practices
- Temperature monitoring
- Contingency plan
- Immunization safety
- Using hub cutters
- Waste disposal at session
- Sharp disposal pit
- Positioning for vaccination
- Inter personal communication

COMPUTER BASED TOOLS DEVELOPED BY MCHIP TEAM FOR PROGRAM MANAGERS

- PHC level Microplanning Tool
- District level Microplan Compilation Tool
- Measles Catch-up Micro-planning Tool
- Measles Catch-up report compilation Tool
- JE Campaign report compilation tool
- Coverage Monitoring Chart Tool

Development of tools and job-aids for program managers and functionaries:

Immunization team with its in-house capacity is involved in development of need-based user-friendly job-aides for program managers and functionaries. The job-aides developed have been endorsed by national government and incorporated into various documents and training modules.

Development of computer based tools for program managers to facilitate planning, implementation and monitoring of the program.

- The RI microplanning tool for estimation of beneficiaries and logistics, and preparing health workers activity plan. This has been adopted and is being used across many states of the country.
- Measles Catch Up campaign microplanning and report compilation tool was developed for the specific states.
- JE campaign report compilation tool had been used during the JE campaigns in the country

Funds for printing and dissemination of the job- aids developed by MCHIP are being leveraged from government funds.

RAPID approach has been instrumental in bringing a long lasting change by increasing the technical knowledge of the health workers and bringing a positive change in regular practice for routine immunization

RAPID (Regular Appraisal of Program Implementation in District)

Scale-up of RAPID to improve quality of immunization processes and service delivery: RAPID is a supportive supervision package for improving quality of immunization services at district and sub-district levels. The process includes periodic (6 monthly) assessment at all cold chain points of a district and a sample of immunization session sites.

Objective: On-site corrections and orientation of staff members, identifying critical gaps in the immunization service delivery followed by action planning and interventions (capacity building, on job orientation, supportive supervision) during the intervening period.

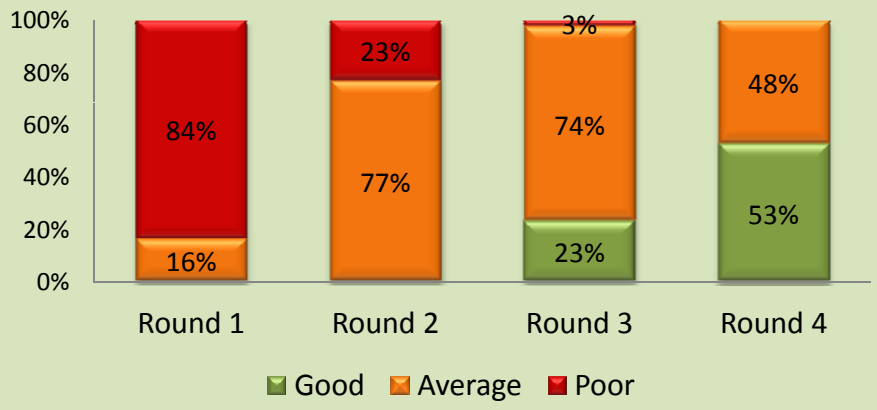
- MCHIP has championed this approach and the same has been scaled up with the government, UNICEF and other partner agencies in the focus as well as other states of the country.
- Grading of the health facilities is done based on the observations from the checklist. On the basis of results from successive RAPID rounds, marked improvement has been observed in selected districts of both the focus states.

Improvements observed:

Jharkhand (Scoring of individual health facilities)

District	CHC	Round 1 (Feb 2010)		Round 2 (Nov 2010)		Round 3 (April 2011)		Round 4 (Nov 2011)		Round 5 (Apr 2012)	
		Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade	Points	Grade
Deoghar	Sarath	47	Avg	41	Avg	53	Good	55	Good	51	Good
	Madhupur	36	Avg	41	Avg	50	Avg	55	Good	56	Good
	Jasidih	54	Avg	52	Good	52	Good	58	Good	56	Good
	Sarwan	47	Good	53	Good	53	Good	58	Good	56	Good
	Palojori	37	Avg	50	Avg	50	Avg	53	Good	46	Avg
	Mohanpur	33	Avg	43	Avg	55	Good	59	Good	51	Good
	Karron	25	Poor	35	Avg	53	Good	58	Good	57	Good
Jamtara	Kundhit	24	Poor	41	Avg	50	Avg	60	Good	54	Good
	Narayanpur	26	Poor	39	Avg	48	Avg	55	Good	43	Avg
	Nala	27	Poor	40	Avg	56	Good	50	Avg	55	Good
	Jamtara	30	Avg	56	Good	58	Good	58	Good	53	Good

UP (Grading of health facilities based on quality indicators)



Establishing Demonstration Centers for immunization:

Establishment of demonstration sites on different thematic areas of immunization (cold chain management, program management, recording reporting practices and waste disposal practices) is a key initiative of MCHIP.

Objective: To serve as cross learning centres of best practices for staff from other health facilities of the same district and also adjoining districts to provide interactive learning of correct practices.

- In addition to the focus districts, demonstration sites have also been developed at the state capitals of Jharkhand (Ranchi) and Uttar Pradesh (Lucknow) to train the Medical Officers for routine immunization in field.
- Government counterparts and partners have appreciated the initiative and are planning to adopt the same.

- **Demonstration sites provide an excellent opportunity for peer learning among the health workers .**
- **Demo-sites are developed and sustained by the ownership of Govt. with technical support from MCHIP**

Demonstration centre for cold chain management

Cross learning visit of cold chain handlers

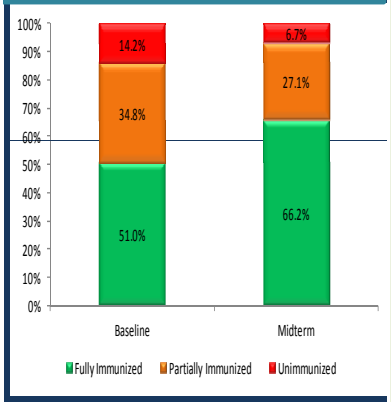
Implementation of learning's from polio eradication program:

- Provided technical support in focus districts for review of implementation plans through triangulation with other available plans and discussion with stakeholders. Objective of this intervention is to identify under reached and left out areas/habitations and rationalization of session planning as per injection load.
- Initiative to use automatically generated name based due lists for tracking and vaccinating beneficiaries is being piloted in focus districts with encouraging results.
- MCHIP is working for institutionalization of newborn vaccination for ensuring OPV '0', BCG and Hepatitis B administration. This intervention has now been rolled out in all health facilities of the focus districts with increasing number of newborns vaccinated soon after delivery.

Total 4295 missed out villages comprising of 0.85 million population have been identified and incorporated into RI microplans in the MCHIP focus districts

IMPACT:

Increased proportion of Fully Immunized



"Tracking Every Newborn" and "My Village My Home" (MVMH) initiative

These are community level innovations for improved reach, tracking and coverage with all vaccines.

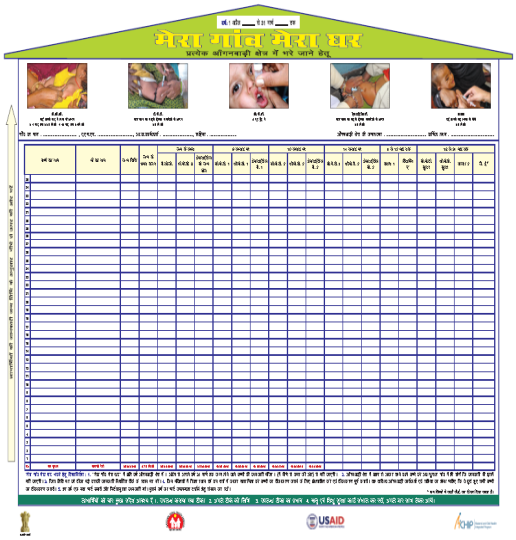
- "Tracking Every Newborn" entails generation of computer database of beneficiaries and name based due lists for tracking at outreach sessions.

- "My Village My Home" is a community level monitoring tool where community can itself monitor immunization status of their children and undertake necessary steps for improving coverage.

MVMH approach received high appreciation from national level program managers.

MVMH is showing a positive impact on immunization coverage in Jharkhand and has been adopted for use across all immunization sites in the State.

Haryana Govt. has also initiated for the scale up of the same in their districts.



Progress so far:

- **Seven** demonstration sites developed in the focus districts and cross learning completed.
- **Five** rounds of RAPID in Jharkhand and **four** rounds of RAPID in UP completed.
- RAPID activity **scaled-up** in UP, Jharkhand and other states.
- **Quality improvement**: All the health facilities in the focus districts have shown improvement in immunization related processes.
- **Improved Immunization coverage**: In focus districts of Jharkhand, as per the coverage evaluation surveys conducted in years 2010 and 2011, there has been an increase in proportion of fully immunized children (from 51% to 66.2%) and reduction in unimmunized cohort (from 14.2% to 6.7%). The increase reflects full immunization of additional 8000 infants as per the annual target
- **Birth doses** of Hep B, Zero dose of OPV and BCG have improved significantly in all the facilities of the focus districts.

Immunization practices of heath workers in the focused areas has improved significantly by MCHIP 's technical support.

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