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Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program: MCHIP

MCHIP is the USAID Bureau for Global Health’s flagship maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) program, which focuses on reducing maternal, neonatal and child mortality and accelerating progress toward achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5. Awarded to Jhpiego and partners in September 2008, MCHIP works with USAID missions, governments, nongovernmental organizations, local communities and partner agencies in developing countries to implement programs at scale for sustainable improvements in MNCH.

USAID’s strategic approach for advancing maternal and child health¹ identifies 30 “priority countries”—which account for more than 70% of the world’s maternal, newborn and child deaths—with documented magnitude and severity of need; established presence of USAID in health; and ability to implement expanded MNCH programming and achieve mortality reductions. MCHIP supports this approach by addressing the barriers to accessing and using focused, evidence-based interventions along the MNCH continuum of care from pre-pregnancy to age five, and by linking communities, first-level facilities and hospitals. MCHIP will promote and support the integration of family planning, malaria, and HIV/AIDS activities within MNCH programs as appropriate.

Building on program experience and lessons learned (from ACCESS, BASICS, IMMUNIZATIONbasics, POPPHI, ACCESS-FP and Child Survival Technical Support Plus [CSTS+]), MCHIP addresses major causes of mortality, including malnutrition, by:

- Implementing high-impact, effective interventions at scale, based on the country context and using global and local data;
- Using innovative program approaches to achieve country MNCH goals including performance-based financing, community insurance schemes and public-private partnerships;
- Building global consensus and sustained government commitment to support results-oriented, high-impact, effective MNCH interventions;
- Influencing country programs to incorporate effective, feasible, high-impact interventions and approaches based on global evidence;
- Maximizing the use of local programs supported by MCHIP³ to advance field-based learning and innovation; and

¹ See “Working Toward the Goal of Reducing Maternal and Child Mortality: USAID Programming and Response to FY08 Appropriations,” July 2008, available at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/mch/publications/mch_report.html

² These currently include Benin, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Guatemala, Haiti.

³ Local programs include, among others, NGO/PVO grantees of the Child Survival and Health Grants Program (CSHGP) and Malaria Communities Program (MCP).

- Strategically integrating critical interventions into existing services and wrap-around programs.

MCHIP Partnership

MCHIP brings together a partnership of organizations with demonstrated success in reducing maternal, newborn and child mortality rates and malnutrition. Each partner will take the lead in developing programs around specific technical areas: Jhpiego, as the Prime, will lead maternal health, family planning/reproductive health and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT); JSI—child health, immunization, and pediatric AIDS; Save the Children—newborn health, community interventions for MNCH and community mobilization; PATH—nutrition and health technology; JHU/IIP—research and evaluation; Broad Branch—health financing; and PSI—social marketing. Macro International continues support for the Child Survival and Health Grants Program (CSHGP) and the Malaria Communities Program (MCP).

MCHIP Approach

This MCHIP partnership works together with countries to determine the most effective strategies for reducing maternal, neonatal and child deaths and malnutrition based on their individual needs and circumstances. Using data-driven, priority-setting approaches (such as the Lives Saved Tool [LiST], which is being refined as its use increases), MCHIP helps countries determine which innovations will yield the most impact in reaching the MDGs and support capacity building and health systems development to take those interventions to scale. Parallel to strengthening central and district level health teams, MCHIP considers communities, households and individuals not only as recipients of health services, but as an integral part of health services implementation.

In addition to a focus on achieving impact at scale by working with bilateral programs, UN and multilateral agencies, nongovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, MCHIP focuses on identifying, testing, documenting and disseminating effective innovations, and provides the field-based evidence to influence global policy. Programs will catalyze a systemic change along the household-to-hospital continuum to improve MNCH and assure that services reach poor and marginalized populations.

Under this Leader with Associate Award, USAID Missions and Regional Bureaus can access the Program through traditional field support and MAARD mechanisms to the Leader award, or through stand-alone Associate Awards. In addition to the MNCH priority countries, MCHIP can work in any country with Mission or regional Bureau funds.

For more information about the MCHIP Program, please contact:

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