



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Maternal and Child  
Survival Program



## CHILD HEALTH

Tremendous achievements have been made in decreasing the number of deaths of children under the age of five. However, the rate of these improvements varies greatly from region to region. In sub-Saharan Africa, for example, 1 in 9 children dies before the fifth birthday—more than 15 times the average for developed regions. For Southern Asia, about 1 in 16 children dies before age five. The good news is that the primary killers of children—pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria—are preventable and treatable.

USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) is a vital contributor to the global movement to end preventable child deaths. MCSP works to protect children from diseases and to improve their access to lifesaving treatments globally and in 24 priority countries. In those countries and regions with greatest need, the Program is building capacity to plan, leverage resources, and scale up proven child health interventions.

MCSP's work to assist countries in setting achievable child survival targets while establishing mechanisms for regular review and joint accountability for results. The Program does this by extending child health services to hard-to-reach populations with difficult access to child health services; encouraging partner coordination and supporting joint workplanning that is led by host governments (inclusive of civil society organizations and private sector partners); and promoting child health interventions

### KEY FACTS

- 6.3 million children under the age of five died in 2013 (WHO)
- More than 1/2 of child deaths could be prevented or treated with simple, affordable interventions (WHO)
- Pneumonia, diarrhea and malaria are the leading killers of children under five (WHO)
- About 45% of all child deaths are linked to malnutrition (WHO)
- Children in sub-Saharan Africa are more than 15 times more likely to die before age five than children in developed regions (WHO)

based on local epidemiology and developing context-specific programs responding to local needs.

MCSP is building on work begun under USAID's predecessor Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) to continue expanding integrated Community Case Management (iCCM). This strategy extends the management and care of childhood illness beyond health facility services, with focus on the leading causes of child deaths—diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria, and malnutrition.

As Secretariat of the iCCM Task Force, MCSP collaborates with UNICEF, WHO, USAID, NGO representatives, and other iCCM partner organizations to improve iCCM implementation and scale-up. MCSP benefits from the extensive child and community health expertise of our partnership and lessons learned from the Child Survival and Health Grants Program. In strengthening access to management of childhood illness services, MCSP steers attention to developing strong links between facility- and community-based services and the health system.

The three primary killers of children under five years of age are both preventable and treatable with simple and cost-effective interventions. MCSP is working to end preventable child deaths by making treatment and services available to those most at risk.



**Photo:** A child in Nigeria whose mother is a member of the Mada Saving Club for women (Karen Kasmauski/MCSP)

## ABOUT MCSP

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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.

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