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Maternal and Child
Survival Program



MATERNAL HEALTH

Over the last two decades, the global community has witnessed remarkable reductions in the number of maternal deaths worldwide. Yet, too many women - nearly 800 per day - still die in pregnancy and childbirth from treatable complications.

USAID's flagship Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) strategy for maternal health emphasizes an integrated, systems-oriented approach to reducing direct and indirect causes of maternal morbidity and mortality. MCSP continues the gains made globally in addressing the major direct causes of maternal mortality, while also focusing on the increasing proportion of maternal, perinatal and newborn morbidity and mortality due to indirect causes. New data published in *The Lancet* shows that the leading drivers of maternal mortality have shifted to indirect causes, thus MCSP is enhancing linkages with newborn health, nutrition and family planning, as well as infectious diseases—such as malaria, tuberculosis and HIV.

Building on the successes under USAID's predecessor Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP), MCSP is increasing coverage of key evidence-based, high-quality interventions to reduce maternal

KEY FACTS

- Globally, PPH is the leading direct cause of maternal mortality at 27%. In developing countries the risk of dying from PPH is approximately 275 times higher than that for a pregnant woman in a developed country (The Lancet)
- Severe pre-eclampsia/eclampsia is the second leading direct cause of maternal mortality at 14% (The Lancet)

mortality from postpartum hemorrhage, (PPH) pre-eclampsia/eclampsia, and maternal sepsis, as well as strengthening maternal interventions for improved newborn outcomes, including management of preterm birth. Quality improvement approaches in the intrapartum period focus on respectful, quality care for normal births as well as for obstetric complications, and are engaging the community for increased social accountability.

MCSP coordinates efforts with monitoring and evaluation to support global, regional, national and local learning and decision-making needs, and to advance reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health priorities. Moreover, MCSP's maternal health vision links closely with the Program's strategies to engage communities and increase demand for health services, working toward equity in access to quality and respectful care at both the community and facility levels.



Photo: Rahema, who is six months pregnant, is examined by a nurse while her husband Sadiq looks on, during an antenatal clinic being held at Sinza hospital in Tanzania (Kate Holt/MCHIP and Jhpiego)

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.

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