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Success Story: “RAPID” Implementation in Jharkhand

The immunization program in Jharkhand state in India has achieved tremendous improvements in service quality and coverage. There have been reductions in left outs and drop outs, leading to increased numbers of fully immunized children.

USAID/MCHIP (Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program) has supported Govt. of India in strengthening the Universal Immunization Program (UIP) through technical assistance that includes implementation of a supportive supervision and review approach, known as RAPID (Regular Appraisal of Program Implementation in a District), in Jharkhand state. The RAPID model, developed by MCHIP, helps program managers improve the quality of the immunization program and service delivery, focusing on: program management; cold chain, vaccine and logistics management; immunization safety and waste disposal; recording, reporting and use of data for action.



Figure: Dr. Gunjan, MCHIP Technical Officer, providing on-site orientation during RAPID activity

MCHIP developed standard tools and protocols for RAPID, which it compiled in a toolkit to introduce, plan, carry out, and maintain the activity over time.

The health officials trained as supervisors use this supportive supervision approach for periodically assessing the practices and infrastructure, suggest corrective actions, and support functionaries to effectively perform their duties according to program benchmarks.

This process has contributed to improved quality in immunization services after subsequent RAPID rounds. In Jharkhand, facilities graduated from 36% poor, 55% average and only 9% good (during round 1) to 27% average and 73% good (during round 6). In addition, the approach has contributed to improved planning, leading to improved coverage as per the findings from the Coverage Evaluation Survey (CES) done by MCHIP in the respective districts.

The RAPID approach empowers the health managers to handle issues in an effective way to achieve improvement in coverage with quality.

Successful scale-up...

In an effort to achieve scale-up of RAPID, MCHIP shared the benefits of this approach with decision makers, donors and program managers. Since 2010, RAPID is implemented in all 24 districts of Jharkhand through government funds. In Uttar Pradesh, RAPID is implemented in 32 districts by UNICEF with the participation of Government Medical Colleges. Government of Haryana also implemented RAPID across all its districts with their own funds. It is also shared across the borders in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Madagascar, DRC and Nigeria.