



MATERNAL, NEWBORN, & CHILD HEALTH

Although global maternal mortality has dropped by 50% since 1990, every day close to 800 women die because of complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. Each year there are three million newborn deaths and 2.6 million stillbirths. Up to two-thirds of these deaths are preventable with proficient care—yet only half of all women in the world have a skilled birth attendant present at delivery. Over the past 35 years, IntraHealth has been a leader in innovative, effective strategies to improve the health and well-being of women and children.

IntraHealth
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Because Health Workers Save Lives.



KEY APPROACHES

IntraHealth partners with governments, civil society, and the private sector to strengthen health systems and deliver high-quality maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) services. Key MNCH approaches include:

- **Improving the performance of health workers** to care for women and newborns through promoting skilled attendance at every birth; improving the quality and availability of antenatal care; integrating services; training health workers in key interventions such as active management of the third stage of labor (AMTSL) to prevent postpartum hemorrhage; strengthening emergency obstetric and newborn care at facilities and through links with communities; and improving referral systems between health workers at different levels of care
- **Strengthening health systems** to ensure adequate and appropriate equipment, medications, supplies, and quality health workforce and service data collection and use
- **Building quality improvement partnerships** between health workers and communities and educating communities to support women and newborns through the pregnancy, birth, and postpartum periods, including women living with HIV/AIDS
- **Utilizing mobile phones, eLearning, and other technologies** to provide health workers with training, performance support, job aids, and access to critical information for improved client and community interactions
- **Enhancing health workers' ability to recognize obstructed labor** and prevent obstetric fistulas; increasing access to surgical repair for women with obstetric fistula; and helping to reintegrate women into their communities after their fistulas have been repaired
- **Improving health workers' proficiency** in recognizing neonatal signs of distress and increasing referrals for immediate care and treatment



KEY APPROACHES (CONTINUED)

- **Integrating prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV into all aspects of MNCH care**, from family planning and postpartum care to ongoing care of HIV-exposed infants.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT WORK

- In **India**, IntraHealth assisted the state governments in Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh to rapidly scale up proven practices for MNCH and nutrition. This work achieved demonstrable improvements in MNCH practices at scale, affecting over 18 million people and benefiting more than 35,000 frontline health workers. Achievements included dramatically increasing newborn care visits within seven days of birth in Uttar Pradesh (from less than 1% to 38%), tripling the number of nurse/midwife-attended deliveries at lower-level facilities in Jharkhand, and improving coverage and increasing the number and quality of services offered during Village Health and Nutrition Days.
- IntraHealth collaborated with the Ministry of Health in **Senegal** to train over 3,300 health workers from 1,300 service delivery points to provide integrated MNCH, family planning, and reproductive health services in 11 regions and to develop an innovative training strategy called *Tutorat* that employs on-the-job mentoring and skills reinforcement to strengthen quality of care and integrated service delivery for MNCH, family planning, and malaria. *Tutorat* has been implemented in 1,200 facilities throughout 14 regions.
- In **Ethiopia** and **Mali**, IntraHealth launched a comprehensive approach for prevention and early recognition of obstetric fistula. In Ethiopia, from 2008-2013, this effort referred 861 young women for fistula repair surgery; trained 8,738 health workers and community volunteers on fistula prevention and referral; and reached over 2.6 million people with awareness messages. In Mali, more than 890 health workers received training and surgeons performed 647 repair operations during the initial five-year project. IntraHealth continues to work with local NGOs reaching about 30 new women each month. Through the Clinton Global Initiative, IntraHealth and partners have made a commitment to expand fistula care and treatment in Mali, develop a phone support network through which women suffering from fistula can connect with peers, and better prepare the health workforce to provide holistic fistula care.
- In **Tajikistan**, IntraHealth is integrating high-quality maternal, newborn, and child health services at the family, community, clinical, and national levels, with an emphasis on nutrition, sanitation, and hygiene.
- To support community-based social health activists in **India**, IntraHealth tested a multimedia mobile phone application. *mSakhi* uses illustrations, sound, text, and animation to provide easily accessible on-the-go information, refresh health workers' knowledge of key health messages, and facilitate better counseling of clients in areas including antenatal care, postpartum and newborn care, family planning, and complementary feeding. Based on positive results, the government of Uttar Pradesh is scaling up *mSakhi*, expanding its use geographically and to additional types of health workers.
- In **Ethiopia**, IntraHealth helped the Ministry of Health to form 230 mothers' support groups—health center- and community-based peer support groups for pregnant women living with HIV. A study of 521 participants in these groups found that 96% delivered their babies in health facilities, 96% of their children were put on prophylaxis, and 88% were tested for HIV within 12 months.
- In **Madagascar**, IntraHealth trained over 11,000 community health workers to provide treatment for malaria, pneumonia, and diarrhea; essential nutrition to young children; and antenatal and family planning services.

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CONTACT

Martha Carlough
Senior Clinical Advisor for Safe
Motherhood and Newborn Care
mcarlough@intrahealth.org

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