MATERNAL, NEWBORN, & CHILD HEALTH

For almost 40 years, IntraHealth International has been a leader in innovative, effective strategies to improve the health and wellbeing of women and children and reduce preventable deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth. IntraHealth partners with governments, civil society, and the private sector to strengthen the health workforce and health systems to deliver high-quality maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) services.

KEY APPROACHES

- **Improving the performance of health workers** in high-impact practices such as integrated management of newborn and childhood illnesses, active management of the third stage of labor, postpartum family planning, and emergency obstetric and neonatal care protocols

- **Integrating key services** into MNCH care such as family planning and elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV

- **Building partnerships** between health workers and communities to improve quality of care and address issues such as obstetric fistula and female genital mutilation

- **Using mobile phones, eLearning, and other technologies** to provide health workers with training, performance support, job aids, and access to critical information for improved MNCH client and community interactions and referrals

- **Training health workers** in the treatment of major causes of illness and death of children under five, including malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrheal disease, and malnutrition

- **Strengthening health systems** to ensure adequate equipment, medications, supplies, and quality health workforce and service data collection and use for MNCH decision-making

- **Supporting the ability of schools of nursing and midwifery** to produce greater numbers of qualified health workers fit to serve local needs

- **Advocating for and supporting countries to develop policies** that enable frontline health workers to offer promotive, preventive, curative, and palliative primary health care.
HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT WORK

• Through the Neema Project, IntraHealth is partnering with the Government of Senegal to improve integrated service delivery and healthy behaviors and reduce child, neonatal, and maternal mortality. The project implements Tutorat, a "whole facility, whole system" performance improvement approach that combines facility-based training and problem-solving using supportive coaching. Tutorat is being used in more than 1,200 facilities across the country, contributing to improved MNCH, family planning, and malaria indicators.

• In Mali, IntraHealth is using innovative approaches to increase the availability of high-quality, comprehensive fistula care and build health workers’ capacity in fistula prevention, diagnosis, and repair. The Fistula Mali project has trained more than 100 local surgeons and other health workers, with over 1,400 women receiving life-changing surgery.

• IntraHealth developed the smartphone-based mSakhi application to help community health workers in India deliver MNCH services and recognize when pregnant women and newborns need referrals. After training frontline health workers to use mSakhi, the percentage of pregnant women who delivered birth without having had any antenatal care visits dropped from almost 70% to just over 3% in the project’s target area.

• IntraHealth leads the Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services in Eastern Uganda (RHITES-E) Activity, which is increasing availability, quality, and utilization of integrated health services in 25 districts. In the activity’s first year, IntraHealth trained 61 district-based MNCH coaches and mentored more than 800 staff on high-impact MNCH interventions such as partograph use, active management of the third stage of labor, kangaroo mother care, and provision of a complete essential newborn care package.

• Through the Feed the Future Tajikistan Health and Nutrition Activity, IntraHealth is building the capacity of health workers to provide health and nutrition services to women of reproductive age, pregnant women, and children under five. The activity conducts mentoring and monitoring visits to hospitals and primary health care facilities to track progress in antenatal care and integrated management of newborn and childhood illnesses.

• IntraHealth is leading Ingobyi, a new five-year project in collaboration with the Rwanda Ministry of Health to reduce preventable infant and maternal deaths, reduce the incidence of malaria, and bring high-quality, integrated health services to more Rwandan mothers, children, and adolescents.

• In Indonesia, IntraHealth is a core partner on Jalin—a five-year project led by our strategic affiliate DAI to contribute to the reduction of preventable maternal and newborn deaths, particularly among the poorest and most vulnerable. Jalin weaves together government, private sector, civil society, and other stakeholders to use evidence to co-define, co-create, and co-finance sustainable and scalable local solutions to improve MNCH outcomes.

• IntraHealth is working in 9 countries of Francophone West Africa to improve MNCH through the INSPIRE project. IntraHealth supports countries to achieve their national goals to stop preventable maternal and child deaths, improve maternal nutrition and feeding practices for infants and young children, and increase modern contraceptive prevalence rates by 2020. To do this, the project is developing country-owned, evidence-based costed action plans to ensure integration of high-impact interventions and hold governments and stakeholders accountable for their commitments.

Funding for the work referenced above came from USAID, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.

CONTACT
intrahealth@intrahealth.org

IntraHealth International
Because Health Workers Save Lives.