OUR APPROACHES IN ACTION

Our competencies and approaches include:

- **Improving the performance of health workers** in high-impact practices. These include integrated management of newborn and childhood illnesses (including malaria, acute respiratory infections, diarrheal disease, and malnutrition), 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 to improve MNCH client and community interactions and referrals.

- **Strengthening health systems.** We work to ensure health workers have adequate equipment, medications, and supplies, and that decision-makers have high-quality data on their health workforces and services.

- ** Helping schools of nursing and midwifery** produce more qualified health workers fit to serve local needs.

- **Advocating for and helping countries develop policies** that enable frontline health workers to offer promotive, preventive, curative, and palliative primary health care.

For 40 years, IntraHealth International has been a leader in improving the health and wellbeing of women and children and reducing preventable deaths related to pregnancy and childbirth. We partner 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.

In 2019 alone, our programs provided 1,533,132 years of protection from unplanned pregnancies to couples through contraceptives, including for 658,229 new users of family planning. We averted 9,755 child deaths and 600,423 unplanned pregnancies by expanding access to contraceptives.
HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR CURRENT WORK

- **Senegal:** Through the IntraHealth-led Neema project, we partner with the Government of Senegal to improve integrated service delivery and healthy behaviors to 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 1,200+ facilities across the country by 3,243 health workers. The approach is helping improve the country’s health indicators for MNCH, family planning, and malaria.

- **Mali:** Our innovative approaches in Mali are making high-quality, comprehensive fistula care more widely available and building health workers’ capacity to prevent, diagnosis, and repair the condition. The IntraHealth-led Fistula Mali project has trained 100+ local surgeons and other health workers, and 1,400+ women have received this life-changing surgery. IntraHealth also helps targeted hospitals and health facilities prepare for and prevent COVID-19 infection, including triaging clients who arrive at MNCH, nutrition, or family planning service centers with COVID-19 symptoms and referring them to appropriate COVID-19 case management and treatment services.

- **Uganda:** Our Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services in Eastern Uganda (RHITES-E) increases availability, quality, and utilization of integrated health services in 25 districts, and helps districts assess and plan their needs for human resources for health and commodities in response to COVID-19. In the activity’s first year, IntraHealth trained 61 district-based MNCH coaches and mentored 800+ staff on high-impact MNCH interventions, such as partograph use, active management of the third stage of labor, kangaroo mother care, and a complete essential newborn care package. Through mentoring 256 midwives and community engagement in Q2 2020, IntraHealth improved antenatal and perinatal care, labor and delivery, and maternal and perinatal death surveillance reviews.

- **Tajikistan:** Through the Tajikistan Health and Nutrition Activity (THNA), IntraHealth strengthens the country’s health system and community approaches by providing health and nutrition services to women and children under five. Our quality-improvement interventions in 24 hospitals and primary health care facilities—such as improving the use of clinical standards, providing supportive supervision, and improving data-driven clinical action planning—led to increases of: 37% in effective perinatal care indicators; 21% in integrated management of neonatal and childhood illnesses indicators; and 34% in antenatal care indicators.

- **Rwanda:** The IntraHealth-led Ingobyi, a five-year project in collaboration with the Rwanda Ministry of Health, reduced preventable infant and maternal deaths and malaria, and brings high-quality, integrated health services to more Rwandan mothers, children, and adolescents.

- **Ethiopia:** Through the TRANSFORM project, IntraHealth reduces child and maternal deaths by strengthening the health systems in Afar, Benishangul-Gumuz, Gambella, and Somali regions. We developed and are implementing a comprehensive strategy for MNCH/family planning, social behavior change, and gender in partnership with the government, supporting quality-improvement approaches in 52 woredas. TRANSFORM has significantly increased the percentage of skilled birth attendance, early perinatal care, and use of modern family planning methods.

- **Indonesia:** IntraHealth is a core partner on Jalin—a five-year project led by our strategic affiliate DAI to reduce 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.

- **Francophone West Africa:** IntraHealth works in 9 francophone West African countries to improve MNCH through the INSPIRE project. We help countries 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. 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 above comes from the US Agency for International Development and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.