The Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program

The Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) is the USAID Bureau for Global Health’s flagship maternal, neonatal and child health (MNCH) program. Awarded in September 2008, MCHIP focuses on reducing maternal, neonatal and child mortality in 30 priority countries, contributing to Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5.

Designed by USAID as a “Leader with Associate Cooperative Agreement” (LWA), MCHIP can be funded by USAID Missions and Regional Bureaus through traditional field support and other mechanisms. In addition, MCHIP can accept Associate Awards that Missions, Regional Bureaus or Global Offices develop with the Leader organization and oversee directly.

MCHIP takes “what works” to scale by working with USAID Missions, national and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, communities and partner agencies. Based on country context and identified gaps in providing services at the household, community and referral levels, MCHIP designs program strategies to ensure that services reach women and their families.

What MCHIP Is Doing To Address Unmet Need for Family Planning

Family planning saves lives. Up to one-third of maternal deaths could be prevented if all women had access to family planning; and child mortality could be reduced by 10% if all births were spaced at least 24 months from the previous pregnancy. A key focus of MCHIP is reducing maternal, neonatal and child mortality and accelerating progress towards achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5. Evidence clearly shows the crucial role of family planning (FP) in reducing newborn, infant and child as well as maternal morbidity and mortality.

MCHIP will continue to be a key contributor to the Global Health Initiative’s Family Planning and Reproductive Health goal of preventing 54 million unintended pregnancies. MCHIP applies successful approaches to strategically integrate family planning and build upon existing platforms across broad areas of maternal, newborn, and child health, nutrition and HIV prevention and care. MCHIP/FP interventions promote expansion of contraceptive choice, improvement in the quality of family planning services, increased access to these quality services, including innovative and underutilized technologies, and integration of services across a broad scope of critical interventions including: policy strengthening, capacity development, quality improvement, behavior change communication, and community involvement. MCHIP brings proven leadership and technical experience to help countries address and scale up high-impact interventions, working in close collaboration with Ministries of Health as well as local, national and international organizations and agencies, to “scale up for impact” proven family planning interventions.
MCHIP Directly Supports the Prevention of Unintended Pregnancies

While the benefits of FP are multi-dimensional, including individual, economic, social, human rights and environmental benefits, the focus of MCHIP/FP is on associated health benefits and interventions/activities are framed in that context.

MCHIP/FP:

- helps build national and local capacity to demand and provide quality FP services
- promotes innovative and systematic integration of FP services with maternal, newborn, and child health as well as postabortion care (PAC), and PMTCT services to help ensure “no missed opportunities” for FP
- develops and applies effective community based models for FP integration within the MNCH continuum of care – strengthening messages and services at the community level, and
- provides global leadership through promoting best practices in the global arena, through Communities of Practice, internet fora, participation in various technical working groups and committees, and through the development and dissemination of tools and documents that help translate research and lessons learned into practice.

MCHIP Provides Support to Country Programs and Beyond

MCHIP/FP is working in an ever-increasing number of countries to support the development and implementation of effective FP programs. MCHIP/FP supports to countries to integrate FP into:

- Maternal health (antenatal, intrapartum, postpartum) care
- Child health care (integrating immunization services)
- Postabortion care (PAC)
- Prevention of mother-to-child-transmission of HIV to infants as well as to the prevention of unintended pregnancies among HIV+ women
- Nutrition- maternal, infant and young child nutrition
- Pre-service education (basic education of midwives and nurses)

As MCHIP/FP develops programs in countries and builds upon programs and models that have already been developed and tested, the goal is to accelerate the expansion and scale up of best practices where ever appropriate.

Translation into Practice

MCHIP/FP is well-placed to build on lessons learned and innovative designs that are based on local context to influence countries as well as the global community to increase utilization of quality family planning services and to interface FP messages and services with MNCH services.