

Project Name: A2Z Micronutrient Program
Agreement Type: Cooperative Agreement - Field Support
Duration: January 2006-September 2011
Geographic Scope: Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand
Technical Assistance Agencies: -
Implementing Agency: AED

DESCRIPTION:

The USAID Micronutrient Program is a five year technical assistance program. The main purpose of the program is to ensure Vitamin A supplementation among children nine months to five years and anemia reduction packages for pregnant women, adolescent girls and young children 6-24 months of age. The project is also aimed at the introduction of zinc supplementation as part of comprehensive diarrhea treatment in children, through the public sector.

The program is state-wide in Jharkhand, whereas in UP, it covers the six districts in the eastern region. The model will be expanded to other regions through state level bodies and organizations such as VISTAAR, UNICEF, SIFPSA, and the World Bank.

The A2Z project focuses on scaling-up a comprehensive package of micronutrient interventions through district level activities under the national NRHM, 11th 5-yr. Plan and 'universalization of ICDS' frameworks. Partnerships developed with ICMR, NIPCCD, MI, UNICEF, the World Bank and others will enable project experiences to be scaled up even beyond the 2 states. Over five years, it will produce documented results in improving micronutrient coverage in UP & Jharkhand.

KEY ACTIVITIES :

- Design scale-up plans for improving supplies and compliance in prenatal iron supplementation.
- Expand adolescent girls' (up to 19 years) anemia reduction interventions
- Develop implementation and evaluation plans of anemia reduction packages for children 6-24 months.
- Provide support for selected BCC and monitoring activities for biannual Vitamin A distributions in selected districts of UP and Jharkhand.
- Incorporate micronutrient interventions into NRHM, ICDS universalization plans and 11th 5-year Plan activities.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS :

- Consistent advocacy in partnership with UNICEF and WHO resulted in GOI enlarging the age group of children to be supplemented with Vitamin A from 9-36 months to 9-59 months, bringing the policy inline with existing WHO/UNICEF recommendations.
- Provided technical assistance to the Govt. of U.P, which issued population based district wise targets for Vit. A supplementation of children for the first time.
- Government of Uttar Pradesh ordered a supplemental week of Vitamin A supplementation as an innovation suggested by A2Z for targeting left out children.
- A2Z developed a poster on the new age group for Vitamin A supplementation which secured the approval of all relevant development partners and the Govt. of U.P.
- A coverage survey to assess the delivery of Vitamin A supplementation was carried out. The survey introduced the state-of-the-art technology of using Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) to record survey data.
- A2Z in partnership with MI, UNICEF, Immunization Basics and CARE, was able to re-institute the Vitamin A supplementation (VAS) round in Jharkhand after Govt. of Jharkhand abandoned the scheduled VAS round in June 2007.
- A2Z worked together with MI and UNICEF to estimate the demand for Vitamin A syrup in Jharkhand ensuring timely and full supplies for the delayed twice annual round in September/October 2007.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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