

Project Name: Safe Motherhood and Child Survival (SMCS)
Agreement Type: *Field Support (Cooperative Agreement)*
Duration: *October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2009*
Geographic Scope: *Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal*
Technical Assistance Agencies: *FANTA*
Implementing Agency: *Catholic Relief Services/India*

DESCRIPTION:

The Safe Motherhood and Child Survival Program (SMCS) is in its last phase of Title II support. The program began in 1997 and has completed two phases of five years each; the current program cycle, the phase-out period, began in October 2006 and will conclude by September 2009. The SMCS program aims to ensure safe and healthy pregnancies and improve the nutritional status of children under three years of age. It targets women and children in remote areas of the country, pre-dominantly from the scheduled caste/scheduled tribe/other backward class populations.

CRS’s SMCS program is implemented by 34 Coordinating Partners (CPs) through over 200 grassroots level Operating Partners (OPs) covering 6-8 revenue villages each. The key grassroots functionary of the program is the Village Health Worker (VHW) who is trained by the program and supported by an OP. A Traditional Birth Attendant (TBA) has been identified in almost all the program villages and trained in conducting safe deliveries. TBAs work with their respective VHW to identify pregnant women, lactating mothers and under-three children. A VHW coordinates delivery of maternal and child health services with the Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) and the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) functionary, the Anganwadi Worker (AWW), of the village. During the phase-out period, the program will focus specifically on strengthening linkages with government service providers, particularly within the framework of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).

Final evaluation of the second five-year phase of the SMCS program, conducted during 2006, indicated that the program has had significant impact amongst the targeted women in improving knowledge about key maternal and child health issues. The program has also achieved strong results in reducing malnutrition among children enrolled, improving immunization coverage, increasing the number of women receiving ante- and post-natal care, and increasing institutional deliveries.

KEY ACTIVITIES:

- CRS and partners conduct need-based trainings for TBAs and VHWs;
- VHWs train mothers in healthy pregnancy and child wellness practices;
- VHWs carry out growth monitoring and counseling;
- Capacity of community-based groups (Village Health Committees, Self-Help Groups, Village Development Committees) is built to play an active role in promoting positive health practices and ensuring service delivery by government health functionaries;
- VHWs and partners (CP and OPs) follow up with the government’s maternal and child health services facilities for strengthening linkages between service delivery systems and communities;
- Monitor program progress and assess status, vis-à-vis, the established exit criteria for withdrawal of program resources.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS (FY 2007):

- 85% of the approved participant level were reached with Title II assistance;
- 81% of SMCS villages conducted monthly health and nutrition education sessions;
- 76% of the children enrolled in the program were growth monitored every month;
- 193 SMCS villages were phased-over to the Government of India’s ICDS program;
- 762 SMCS villages achieved the exit criteria.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

USAID/New Delhi: Ms. Mamta Varma, Project Management Specialist, Office of Social Development, USAID, American Embassy, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021; Tel: 91-11- 24198721, e-mail:mvarma@usaid.gov , Web-site: <http://www.usaid.gov/india>

Agency Contact: Ms. Jennifer George Poidatz, Country Representative, Catholic Relief Services, 5, Community Centre, Zamrudpur, Kailash Colony Extn., New Delhi 110 048; Tel: 91-11- 29234211 <mailto:jpoidatz@crsindia.org>