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JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc.

USAID Maternal and Child Health Program in Pakistan

Health Systems Strengthening Component

The goal of the Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) Component is to develop and support innovative, cost-effective, integrated, quality programs and services to strengthen systems around reproductive, maternal, and child health (RMNCH) services for improved health outcomes.

HSS Component activities fall under intermediate result three (strengthened health system) of USAID's results framework.

The three intermediate results (IR) are:

- **IR 3.1:** Increased accountability and transparency of health system
- **IR 3.2:** Improved management capacity at provincial and district levels within the health department
- **IR 3.3:** Strengthened public private partnerships

The HSS Component supports the Government of Sindh's Department of Health (DOH), developing its management capacity and systems for an improved health service package. Special attention is paid to the quality and equity of services.

The aim is for the DOH to be able to effectively manage the equitable provision of health services to a rapidly growing population. The HSS Component advocates for health, RMNCH in particular, at all levels of the government so that resources are available and clear roles and responsibilities delineated for federal, provincial, and district levels.



ABOUT THE HEALTH SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING COMPONENT

Implementers: JSI Research & Training Institute, Inc. (JSI), Contech International, Rural Support Programs Network (RSPN), and Heartfile

Length of project: Five years, 2013 - 2018

Geographic focus: Federal and Sindh Province

Objectives:

1. Strengthen systems to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH) service delivery and outcomes, including accountability and transparency.
2. Strengthen management capacity at provincial and district levels.
3. Strengthen private sector service delivery for the poor.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Built the capacity of 23 district health departments, including Karachi, to prepare district action plans (DAP) and budget estimations for the 2015-16 fiscal year. DAPs created in line with the DOH's budgetary framework have enabled districts to develop realistic budgets and thus implement their plans successfully. DAPs also provide a way to measure progress towards achieving district-specific RMNCH priorities.
- After advocating successfully with the government of Sindh to establish District Health and Population Management Teams (DHPMTs) in 23 districts, the HSS Component provided technical support to the DHPMTs to hold quarterly performance review meetings. The meetings have helped teams better monitor key performance indicators, use information, generate evidence for decision-making, and improve coordination among stakeholders.
- Published a capacity assessment of the DOH, Population Welfare Department (PWD), and People's Primary Healthcare Initiative (PPHI). Based on the WHO six building blocks of health systems, the assessment will inform capacity building strategies for the DOH, PWD, and PPHI (HSS Component will lead the development) as well as the work of the other four components of USAID's Maternal and Child Health Program.
- Supported the DOH to establish a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) cell within the office of the director general of health services to improve monitoring, supervision, and accountability. The M&E cell is a crucial step in integrating the district health information systems (DHIS) and the management information systems (MIS) of various vertical programs.
- To strengthen routine immunization, the HSS Component built the M&E capacity of health teams in four districts (Jacobabad, Kashmore, Thatta, and Tharparkar) to register children under age two and pregnant women for vaccinations and to support immunization teams to provide vaccinations. As a result, 281,453 children and 84,090 pregnant women were registered. Of these, 73% of children and 64% of women were immunized. The project also distributed 550 motorcycles in 15 districts to strengthen immunization outreach. The project also partners with local community organizations to create awareness about the importance of routine immunization and retaining immunization cards.
- Under the HSS Component's supply side health equity model, project partner Heartfile supported 590 poor patients to receive life-saving medical treatment at six hospitals (Liaquat University Hospital, Hyderabad; National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases, Karachi; Jinnah Post-graduate Medical Institute, Karachi; National Institute of Child Health, Karachi; Benazir Bhutto Hospital, Rawalpindi; and Children's Hospital at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences, Islamabad).
- Published a report tracking the health-related manifesto commitments of Pakistan's main political parties before the 2013 general elections. The report, which was the first study of its kind in Pakistan, found that although manifesto formulation has become more professionalized over the years, it remains centralized, donor-oriented, and is not a factor in the electoral success of political parties. The HSS Component also advocated with Members of Provincial Assembly Sindh, including members of standing committees on health and public accounts, to improve governance and accountability.
- Started production of a documentary film based on the book Choked Pipes. The purpose of the documentary is to generate public demand for better quality health care and coverage in Pakistan by highlighting the need for reform measures to improve health governance, financing, and service delivery. The documentary will launch in November 2015.
- Established a partnership with the Health Services Academy in Islamabad to support 49 mid-level and senior level district health officials from the Sindh DOH Population Welfare Department to complete a two-year master of public health degree. Thirty participants enrolled in October 2014 and 19 enrolled in October 2015. Participants have committed to return to their civil service positions after graduation with new skills in health administration and management.
- Established a partnership with Aga Khan University to support 85 provincial and district level managers from the DOH Population Welfare Department and the PPHI to complete short public health management-related courses and seven provincial managers from the DOH to complete a master of public health degree.
- Provided technical assistance to the DOH in health care financing, assessing the Provincial Health Development Center, developing rules and regulations, developing a human resource strategy, creating an operational plan for the Jacobabad Institute of Management Sciences, and creating a management cadre.

Islamabad Office
H. No. 6, St. 5
F-8/3, Islamabad

Karachi Office
Mezzanine Floor
Clifton Diamond Building Plot
No. BC-10, Block 04, Karachi

For more information, contact Dr. Nabeela Ali, Chief of Party
nabeela@jsi.org.pk | In Islamabad: (92-51) 111-000-025

