



MOMENTUM PROJECTS IN SOUTH ASIA

Regional Reference Brief



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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MOMENTUM works alongside governments, local and international private and civil society organizations, and other stakeholders to accelerate improvements in maternal, newborn, and child health. Building on existing evidence and experience implementing global health programs and interventions, we help foster new ideas, partnerships, and approaches and strengthen the resiliency of health systems.

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ACRONYMS LIST

BF-APEA	Behaviorally focused applied political economy analysis
CHWs	Community health workers
CS	Cesarean surgery
CSOs	Civil society organizations
DHMTs	District health management teams
EPMM	Ending preventable maternal mortality
FBOs	Faith-based organizations
FLHWs	Frontline health workers
FP	Voluntary family planning
GBV	Gender-based violence
HMIS	Health management information system
IPC	Infection prevention and control
ITOCA	Integrated technical organizational capacity assessment
IUD	Intrauterine device
LARC	Long-acting reversible contraceptives
MNCHN	Maternal, newborn, and child health
MNCH/FP/RH	Maternal, newborn, and child health/voluntary family planning/reproductive health
MNCHN/FP/RH	Maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition/voluntary family planning/reproductive health
MIP	Malaria in pregnancy
MOH	Ministry of health
MPDSR	Maternal and perinatal death surveillance and response
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
PHE	Population, health, and environment
PNC	Postnatal care
PPFP	Postpartum family planning
QI	Quality improvement
RED/REC	Reaching every district/reaching every child

RH	Reproductive health
RMC	Respectful maternity care
SBCC	Social and behavior change communication
SGBV	Sexual and gender-based violence
SNET	Social norms exploration tool
SSNB	Small and sick newborn
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
WASH	Water, sanitation, and hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION

MOMENTUM is a dynamic suite of six distinct yet related awards working with institutions in USAID partner countries to accelerate reductions in maternal, newborn, and child death and disability. The suite supports countries in their efforts to strengthen the capacity and resilience of community and health systems to introduce, deliver, scale up, and sustain the use of evidence-based, high-quality maternal, newborn, and child health, nutrition, voluntary family planning, and reproductive health (MNCHN/FP/RH) services and care.

This reference brief provides an overview of MOMENTUM projects and their completed or ongoing activities in the South Asia region. As of June 2023, MOMENTUM partner countries in this region include [Bangladesh](#), [India](#), [Nepal](#), and [Pakistan](#).

The six global awards working collectively to support partner country goals to improve MNCHN/FP/RH service delivery, access, and quality across diverse focus areas and settings are described below:








FIGURE 1. THE MOMENTUM SUITE OF AWARDS



MOMENTUM TOPICS, AREAS, AND THEMES, BY COUNTRY

The MOMENTUM suite supports partner countries to address a wide range of issues, tailoring project activities to each of their unique contexts and needs. The table below lists where each topic, focus area, or theme is being addressed with MOMENTUM support in the South Asia Region.

TOPIC / FOCUS AREA / THEME		COUNTRIES
HEALTH TOPICS	 CHILD HEALTH	Bangladesh
	 COVID-19	Bangladesh, India
	 IMMUNIZATION	India
	 MATERNAL HEALTH	India, Nepal, Pakistan
	 NEWBORN HEALTH	Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan
	 NUTRITION	Nepal
	 VOLUNTARY FAMILY PLANNING / REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH	India, Nepal, Pakistan
	 WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE/ INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL	Bangladesh, India
TOPIC / FOCUS AREA / THEME		COUNTRIES
FOCUS AREAS	 CAPACITY STRENGTHENING	Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan
	 COLLABORATING, LEARNING, AND ADAPTING	Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan
	 GLOBAL LEADERSHIP	India, Nepal
	 HEALTH RESILIENCE	Bangladesh
	 HEALTH SERVICES	Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan
	 LOCAL ENGAGEMENT	Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan
	 MEASUREMENT	India, Nepal
	 PARTNERSHIPS	Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan
	 QUALITY OF CARE	Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan
	 SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE	India, Pakistan

	FOCUS AREA / THEME	COUNTRIES
CROSS-CUTTING THEMES	 DIGITAL HEALTH	India, Pakistan
	 FRAGILE SETTINGS	Not applicable
	 GENDER	Bangladesh, India, Pakistan
	 POPULATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND DEVELOPMENT	Not applicable
	 URBAN HEALTH	Pakistan
	 MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS	India
	 YOUTH	Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan



COUNTRY PROJECTS

BANGLADESH

MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership

COMPLETED

MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership supported the Government of Bangladesh and local partners with targeted and catalytic interventions to improve health outcomes for adolescents and youth and ensure high-quality and safe health care at the facility level. The project achieved this by working with partners to improve practices and standards for water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and infection prevention and control (IPC).

COMPLETED FEATURED ACTIVITIES

At the district level:

- Strengthened the organizational and technical capacity of two faith-based organizations to design and implement gender-transformative health programs for very young adolescents, their families, and communities in Dinajpur and Satkhira districts.

At the facility level:

- Supported 15 public facilities to conduct quality of care assessments and identify the improvements needed, including WASH and IPC measures to provide safe, sanitary conditions for clients and employees. In addition to technical assistance, supplied critical IPC materials as well as limited rehabilitation of key water and sanitation infrastructure.

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IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, LAMB Hospital Integrated Rural Health and Development, and World Renew

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

April 2021 – May 2022 (*completed*)

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

For adolescent activities: Dinajpur (Mominpur and Habra unions) and Satkhira (Ishwaripur and Ramjannagar unions) districts

For Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene WASH/IPC activities: Agailjhara, Bakerganj, Banaripara, Hizla, Mehendiganj, and Muladi subdistricts of Barishal district

- Conducted in-person and virtual training on quality improvement approaches for health providers in targeted facilities.

HEALTH TOPICS



FOCUS AREAS



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT SPOTLIGHT

Reaching Very Young Adolescents and Their Families to Improve Gender Equality and Reproductive Health

MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership partnered with faith-based organizations in Bangladesh to improve the quality of age- and life-stage tailored activities for very young adolescents (VYA) 10 to 14 years old through the Choices, Voices, Promises package of interventions. The package aims to increase gender equality and improve reproductive health and wellbeing among VYAs through efforts to foster an enabling environment comprised of their families and communities.

The project's partners (World Renew and LAMB Hospital Integrated Rural Health and Development) implemented the Choices, Voices, Promises package of activities, continuously adapting it throughout implementation to meet the needs of their communities. They found that families and communities responded positively to the intervention, and that it could be sustained through community and government systems. From August 2021 to May 2022, World Renew and LAMB reached more than 50 adolescents through Choices sessions, nearly 400 parents and caregivers through the Voices activities, and more than 150 community influencers through the Promises activities. The project catalyzed discussions and reflection among and between VYAs, parents, and community members on social and gender norms related to puberty and youth development. These discussions positively contributed to changes in attitude and behaviors regarding child marriage, keeping girls in school, more gender-equitable sharing of household responsibilities, and helping girls and boys navigate puberty. Specifically, the implementation team noted that parents, community members, and leaders pledged their commitment to promote well-being of their children and ensure VYAs complete their education before marriage.



INDIA

MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership

Supporting young people to plan their families and meet their full potential

MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership: India – Yash contributes to achieving the Government of India’s national family planning goals, with a focus on improving voluntary family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) outcomes for adolescents and young people. The project supports sustainable development in India by assisting local institutions to strengthen their capacities to deliver quality health services. The project employs USAID India’s strategic approaches of promoting inclusive development, harnessing private sector engagement, and leveraging government commitments and leadership. It promotes the adaptation of evidence-based, high-impact interventions from previous investments and works with partners to implement innovative models to improve FP/RH outcomes. It also supports partners in applying a positive youth development approach to build youth skills, assets, and competencies; foster healthy relationships; and transform systems by engaging young people and their families, communities, and governments to help youth reach their full potential. The project takes a comprehensive approach to increase access to priority health products and FP/RH services.

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[The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India \(ASSOCHAM\)](#), [Centre for Catalyzing Change](#), [Child in Need Institute \(CINI\)](#), [Dhanush](#), [Ekjut—Final Mile](#), [Group M](#), [Imprint Associates](#), [Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population & Development](#), [International Center for Research on Women](#), [Purpose](#), [Restless Development](#), [Student Partnership WorldWide India Project Trust](#), [Sphere](#), [Tata Institute for Social Sciences](#), [Vihara](#), and [Villgro](#)

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

July 2021 – September 2024

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Tripura, and Sikkim states



FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Collaborating with partners to foster a sustained youth-led movement by building the agency of adolescents and young people in demanding high-quality FP/RH services.
- Convening India's largest provider network—the Udaan Collaborative—to support private and partner service providers in providing non-judgmental, high-quality FP/RH counseling and services to young people, especially those who are unmarried.
- Elevating voices from civil society organizations at national level, shifting the focus to youth-led advocacy for FP and sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Forging strategic partnerships with public and private-public sector organizations and youth networks to improve FP/RH outcomes, assist in the prevention of and response to gender-based violence for young people, and make health systems resilient to external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Introducing new methods, such as implants, to expand the basket of contraceptive choice in public-private health systems by supporting the development of national-level resources and guidelines, training providers, and mobilizing community and policy support.

Strengthening facility readiness through improved water, sanitation, and hygiene and infection prevention and control

COMPLETED

The COVID-19 pandemic made it harder for Indian women and children to access essential health services safely. To help the country's health system respond to the pandemic, MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership worked with state ministries of health to support facilities to improve their water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services and infection prevention and control (IPC) measures so essential health services could continue.

FEATURED COMPLETED ACTIVITIES

- Conducted in-person and virtual training for 2,735 health facility staff on quality improvement and mentoring to foster improvements in their WASH/IPC practices to ensure continuity of maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition (MNCHN)/FP/RH care during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supported 81 facilities to ensure that infrastructure repairs and critical IPC supplies were available to meet WASH and IPC standards. Through this

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State Ministries of Health (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh), and Datakalp

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

July 2020 – September 2021 (*completed*)

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Chhattisgarh (Baloda Bazar, Mahasamund, and Rajnandgaon districts), Jharkhand (Bokaro and East Singhbhum districts), and Madhya Pradesh (Betul, Hoshangabad, and Vidisha districts) states



support, infrastructural and logistics gaps in 70 (86%) health facilities were closed.

- Engaged with Datakalp SafeHands, an Artificial Intelligence (AI) powered hand washing solution to promote hand hygiene.
- Coached and galvanized facility-based IPC committees to create a sustainable environment for

WASH/IPC standards at intervention facilities and ensure adherence to recommended WASH/IPC practices for all WASH/IPC interventions. Through these efforts, 97% (79 of 81) of facilities formed IPC committees and 94% (74 of 79) conducted regular monthly meetings to discuss facility strategies for IPC/WASH.

HEALTH TOPICS



FOCUS AREAS



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



INDIA

MOMENTUM Private Healthcare Delivery

Evidence suggests that integrating voluntary family planning (FP) and immunization services can lead to increased FP uptake with no negative impact on immunization services, including through programming aimed at meeting the FP needs of postpartum women. In India, MOMENTUM Private Healthcare Delivery partners with Suvita, an organization that supports uptake of routine immunizations for children, to strengthen the integration of FP and immunization messages in digital tools to improve FP and immunization outcomes. The project uses Suvita's digital platform to support mothers' access to FP information and services, including for postpartum women, while they are seeking immunization services for their children.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Understanding the attitudes around and use of FP services among postpartum women in India by conducting surveys with FP and immunization clients and through use of referral data to better understand behaviors around FP use.
- Integrating FP messages in Suvita's digital platform, which already sends "nudges" to mothers about childhood immunization schedules.
- Including referral information for mothers reached through the digital platform, to private and public sector locations where FP methods can be obtained.

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[Suvita](#)

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

October 2022 – September 2023

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Bihar state



HEALTH TOPICS



FOCUS AREAS



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



INDIA

MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 resulted in a massive surge of cases and deaths in India, putting the public health system under tremendous strain. MOMENTUM Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity is providing technical assistance to the Government of India and select state governments to strengthen their COVID-19 response activities and address disruptions to immunization services impacted by the pandemic. The project focuses on supporting national and state partners' efforts to increase demand for, distribution of, and uptake of COVID-19 vaccination. These efforts include improving the vaccine supply chain, training and expanding the vaccine workforce, addressing gaps in last-mile delivery of COVID-19 vaccines, strengthening demand creation activities, and disseminating best practices in vaccine administration and monitoring to improve service delivery.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Strengthening the supply chain by providing technical support to partners to improve real-time information management at the national and state levels to enhance monitoring of and planning for vaccine supplies from manufacturing to distribution.

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PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

August 2021 – December 2023

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Tripura states



- Supporting the national Universal Immunization Programme (UIP) to enhance training and expand the vaccine workforce by identifying and addressing gaps and vacancies in the health workforce and assisting in expanding the cadres of health workers engaged in routine immunizations.
- Assisting state governments to address gaps in last-mile delivery by strengthening their microplanning processes, including mapping public and private sector facilities, to develop tailored approaches in each state that leverage all available service delivery points for COVID-19 vaccine administration.
- Helping NGO partners' efforts to strengthen community mobilization activities that address vaccine hesitancy, create COVID-19 vaccine demand, and increase uptake to improve COVID-19 vaccination coverage for everyone, especially marginalized populations.
- Collaborating with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, state governments, and NGO partners to develop a learning agenda prioritizing topics that will help improve project implementation and the UIP's impact.



INDIA

MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics

Improving equitable access to high-quality surgical obstetric and family planning care

MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics supports the Government of India to sustainably increase awareness of, equitable access to, and provision of high-quality, voluntary, indicated, and consented safe surgical maternal health and FP care. The project supports collaboration among public and private stakeholders to improve technical and clinical capacity; works with community organizations in human-centered design and implementation of social and behavior change strategies; and strengthens the ability of partner institutions to effectively use data to guide design, monitoring, and provision of high-quality surgical obstetric and FP care.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Partnering with select medical colleges and district hospitals to strengthen their capacity to serve as resource centers for surgical teams in other sub-district facilities so they can implement and model standards for safe surgical care for maternal health and FP.
- Strengthening the capacity of facility providers and health managers, in both public and private sectors, to provide and deliver high-quality, patient-centered surgical obstetric and FP care and services in select districts. Focus areas for strengthening include facility staff empathy, unbiased and nonjudgmental attitudes, gender sensitivity, and respect in interactions with clients.
- Using human-centered design—a collaborative problem-solving approach that involves the people affected by the problems—with partners to develop

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PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

April 2021 – September 2025

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

25 districts across Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha states



communication strategies that address behavioral factors among providers and within the community that affect facility-based service provision. The strategies will promote a variety of health services, including antenatal care, FP counseling, and FP services for women postpartum and postabortion, as well as FP services for youth.

- Improving referral mechanisms for cesarean deliveries and FP by developing a digital application for health care providers to improve efficiency of care.
- Identifying and collaborating with a local partner to develop and pilot a system to conduct a digital audit of cesarean delivery services. The digital audits use real-time collection and analysis of data from both public and private facilities to review cesarean surgery (CS) cases and improve the quality of care in supported facilities. They will improve understanding of the profile of clients who undergo CS, the circumstances under which the decision to conduct a CS were taken, and the outcomes of each surgery.
- Conducting formative qualitative research on counseling, consent, and debriefing procedures

in surgical obstetric care in facilities to assess the quality of respectful maternity care. Findings from the formative research will inform the development of counseling tools to help health care providers improve the quality of counseling and debriefing services.

- Working with community partners to support development of social behavior change materials and approaches for health care providers and train community workers to provide accurate information, promote preventive and care-seeking behaviors, and address social and gender norms related to use of health services. These activities seek to increase demand for and use of quality MNCH/FP/RH interventions and care related to family planning, childbirth, cesarean delivery, and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- Supporting community health workers to increase engagement of men as partners and FP users through community dialogues and other outreach activities that increase men's awareness of FP options and promote care for people experiencing maternity and childbirth and survivors of SGBV.



Building a supportive environment to address and reduce gender-based violence

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused tremendous social disruption, including an [increase in violence](#) and abuse perpetrated against women. Data from [India's National Commission for Women](#) suggest domestic violence and sexual assaults increased more than two-fold and reported police apathy toward crimes against women rose three-fold in the first weeks after lockdowns were put in place in 2020. MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics is collaborating with partners in India to:

- Strengthen individual, community, and health system capacity to prevent, identify, and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- Identify, adapt, and disseminate digital resources that connect community health workers with mental health services and support for survivors of SGBV.
- Build the resilience of the health care system by strengthening the capacity of providers in facilities offering in-patient services so they can better manage COVID-19-related emergency cases among newborns, adolescents, and women of reproductive age.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Training providers using a gender, youth, and social inclusion curriculum that addresses the unique context of COVID-19 and helps identify and overcome personal biases that influence the quality of care delivered to women and girls.
- Partnering with community youth and male champions who help promote gender equality, challenge negative norms around masculinity, and spread information on resources available for survivors of SGBV.
- Assisting partners to strengthen the psychosocial support services at SGBV referral centers by training and mentoring counselors.
- Developing content for existing digital apps for health workers, including community health workers, that emphasize self-care, link to available resources that promote resilience and well-being, and facilitate connections to specialist care when needed.
- Adapting training materials for emergency care of COVID-19 cases and establishing linkages between lower-level health facilities to higher-level health centers or resource centers at regional medical colleges and district hospitals.
- Providing supportive supervision and on-site monitoring for COVID-19 case management.
- Coordinating with district health facilities to ensure availability of essential supplies for COVID-19 management.



INDIA BILATERAL PROJECTS

In addition to the global projects supported primarily through USAID/Washington, select USAID country missions are also supporting MNCHN projects that function independently but are still affiliated with the MOMENTUM suite. The India Mission is supporting two such projects: Systems Approach for MNCH focusing on Vulnerable Geographies (SAMVEG) and Saksham partner with the Government of India and sub-national partners to improve access to quality MNCH services by providing technical assistance to scale up innovative and high-impact interventions in different states.

Scaling Up High Impact Interventions for MNCH—Saksham

Saksham is implemented by PATH with a consortium of partners including Piramal Swasthya, Jhpiego, and Deloitte and provides technical assistance to national and state-level partners. The project leverages and blends the consortium's expertise in capacity building, private sector engagement, and community participation to scale-up high impact interventions and innovations that improve access to and quality of MNCH services throughout the continuum of care.

Saksham implements activities across nine districts in three states: Assam (Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Jorhat, and Sivasagar districts), Chhattisgarh (Bastar, Kanker, and Surguja districts), and Odisha (Nabarangpur and Rayagada districts). The project works with state and district-level government partners in rural and under-served areas across prioritized districts to strengthen evidence-based decision making, planning, and monitoring and catalyzes private sector partnerships to improve the quality of care. The project is also demonstrating innovative interventions, including the

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[Deloitte](#), [Jhpiego](#), [PATH](#), and [Piramal Swasthya](#)

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

July 2021 – July 2025

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

9 districts across Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha states

introduction of point of care devices and technologies to support frontline health workers and improve MNCH service provision in communities.

More information on Saksham is available in the [Saksham Project Brief](#)

HEALTH TOPICS



FOCUS AREAS



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES





Systems Approach for MNCH Focused on Vulnerable Geographies—SAMVEG

The SAMVEG—Systems Approach for MNCH focusing on the Vulnerable Geographies—project is implemented by a consortium led by IPE Global with partners including DIMAGI Inc., World Health Partners, and John Snow India Private Limited. The project collaborates with national, state, and district-level governments in project states to fill critical gaps in health systems, encourage innovations, scale-up and sustain interventions, and accelerate progress to improve Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (MNCH) outcomes, particularly in identified vulnerable geographies of India.

The project works closely with governments at state level in Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttarakhand and provides district-level support, with a focus on the vulnerable and unreached populations, in underperforming “Aspirational Districts” in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, and Punjab states. Project activities encourage testing of innovative models to improve the health outcomes across the continuum of life cycle for women and children to impact a population of 143 million, with a focus on more than 3 million pregnant women and 3 million newborns.

More information on SAMVEG is available in the [SAMVEG Project Brief](#).

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PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

July 2021 – July 2025

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

25 Aspirational Districts (AD) across Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab, and Uttarakhand states and state-level support in Madhya Pradesh state

HEALTH TOPICS



FOCUS AREAS



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



NEPAL

MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership

MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership supports the Government of Nepal and country partners with targeted and catalytic interventions to improve maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition/voluntary family planning/reproductive health (MNCHN/ FP/RH) outcomes for women and their families. The project seeks to improve the availability of high-quality care for small and sick newborns (SSNB), strengthen implementation of the maternal and perinatal death and surveillance response (MPDSR) system at sub-national level, and generate and share learning about intrapartum nutrition practices.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Partnering with the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) to co-design a contextualized model of SSNB care that adapts global recommendations to Nepal's priorities and context. The project will also work with country partners to pilot the SSNB care model and its Infant and Family-centered Developmental Care approach at subnational level in four hospitals with special newborn care units in Bagmati province.
- Conducting a formative assessment of SSNB feeding practices to inform the design of the SSNB care model.



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IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

Nepal Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), Family Welfare Division (FWD), Provincial Health Directorate of Province 1 and 3 (Bagmati Province), USAID Strengthening Systems for Better Health (SSBH) project, USAID Suaahara II project, UNICEF, and WHO

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

For small and sick newborn care (SSNC)

activities: December 2021 – September 2023

For maternal and perinatal death and surveillance response (MPDSR) activities: November

2021 – September 2023

For nutrition assessments (small and sick newborn feeding and intrapartum feeding):

February 2022 – September 2023

(Note: Continuation of the SSNC and MPDSR activities is subject to the continued availability of funding beyond FY 2023.)

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

For SSNC activities: Piloting in Bagmati Province (Province 3). Potential pilot districts are Dhading, Makwanpur, Nuwakot, and Sindhuli.

For MPDSR activities: Ilam, Jhapa, Morang, Okhaldhunga, Panchthar, Solukhumbu, and Sunsari districts

For nutrition assessments: Conducted in 8 hospitals—one central in Kathmandu and 7 provincial (one from each of the 7 provinces)

- Supporting the MOHP to strengthen MPDSR systems in Province 1, including capacity building and strategies for strengthening the response step of the MPDSR cycle to ensure recommended actions link to district/facility improvement aims. The project will also apply the Behaviorally Focused Applied Political Economy Analysis approach to identify systemic factors that contribute to and inhibit effective application of MPDSR at a sub-national level.
- Conducting a formative assessment to understand current practices and gaps in oral fluid and food intake for Nepalese women at low risk for cesarean section during the first stage of labor. Findings will inform recommendations to support facility-level adherence to World Health Organization recommendations in Nepal and strengthen global understanding of intrapartum nutrition practices in low- and middle-income countries.



NEPAL

MOMENTUM Private Healthcare Delivery

In support of the Government of Nepal's Health Sector Strategy, MOMENTUM Private Healthcare Delivery seeks to initiate a successful private sector model to deliver high-quality voluntary family planning (FP) services to adolescents and young adults in Nepal. The project focuses on improving the technical capacity of private health care providers to deliver high-quality, client-centered FP services, focusing on adolescents and young adults ages 15 to 29 years. The project also supports private facilities to improve their overall managerial and institutional capacity, understand and elevate private providers' motivations, and find ways to promote equitable access to services that make business sense for private providers.

KEY ACTIVITIES

- Engaging private sector facility owners and providers to co-create solutions and scale up approaches to improve FP service delivery and quality in the private sector, especially for adolescents and young people.
- Establishing feedback systems and using human-centered design approaches to elevate client perspectives of care and recommend adaptations to ensure services can better respond to clients' needs.
- Training and supporting private providers on quality assurance and improvement, business acumen, and meeting the needs of supported populations.

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IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

[Nepal CRS Company](#)

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

May 2021 – September 2023

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Karnali and Madhesh provinces

- Facilitating engagement between private facility owners and providers and national and sub-national health authorities to jointly identify and prioritize public-private engagement areas, with a focus on meeting the FP needs of young people in Nepal.
- Engaging local actors, including local organizations and private sector platforms, to spotlight challenges and opportunities for private-sector engagement at the national and subnational levels.

HEALTH TOPICS



FOCUS AREAS



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



PAKISTAN

MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership

In Pakistan, MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership works closely with the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (GOKP) province to enhance coordination and partnership between the Department of Health (DOH) and the Population Welfare Department (PWD). The project is collaborating with the DOH and PWD to co-create and design plans to better integrate postpartum family planning (PPFP) into maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) services and improve service quality in two districts to be selected with the GOKP. Project activities focus on strengthening the technical rigor of PPFP programming, including improving data quality, use, and management, as well as addressing gaps in young people's access to FP information and counseling. The project works closely with provincial partners to improve the implementation of the government's MNCH/voluntary family planning (FP) and PPFP policies and strategies by helping to overcome challenges in select health facilities in the two target districts.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Applying the [Behaviorally Focused Applied Political Economy Analysis \(BF-APEA\)](#) methodology with partners to assess the implementation context for PPFP in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and address implementation and coordination challenges between the DOH and PWD. The project will use assessment findings in a co-collaborative design approach with the two departments to:
 - Identify sustainable solutions for functional integration between the DOH and PWD at multiple levels of the health system.
 - Develop a detailed implementation plan focused on GOKP priorities, including quality

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IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (Department of Health and Population Welfare Department) and local partners (Khyber Medical University, Peshawar and Ayub Medical College, Abbottabad)

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

January 2022 – March 2024

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province (Hangu and Kohat districts)



service delivery, supportive supervision, and supply chain management.

- Conducting review meetings with stakeholders in the two target districts to develop the first-ever district-level FP/PPFP action plans, in keeping with the government's strategy, and to support select basic health units and rural health centers to serve as 24/7 service delivery points.
- Supporting the GOKP to conduct a series of orientations for district and health facility management teams in intervention districts on quality improvement standards. These orientations focus

on improving services for adolescent girls, young women, people with disabilities, clients at high risk of closely spaced pregnancies, and individuals with underlying health issues who face challenges in accessing care.

- Using the [Social Norms Exploration Tool](#) to identify opportunities within the local context to address harmful gender and social norms and establish positive dynamics early in a couple's life course. The project will explore opportunities to improve couples' communication, FP, and contraceptive choice and decision-making.



PAKISTAN

MOMENTUM Private Healthcare Delivery

MOMENTUM Private Healthcare Delivery collaborates with partners in Pakistan to implement gender transformative approaches to empower both men and women to make informed voluntary family planning/reproductive health (FP/RH) health decisions. The project focuses on engaging men and key decision-makers to address harmful myths and norms around FP use and RH behaviors. The project is working alongside the government of Sindh to develop and roll out a comprehensive male engagement strategy as part of its efforts to improve FP programming in the province.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Strengthening and supporting community outreach strategies to reach men and other influencers of FP decision-making among couples with key messages and information related to FP, including dispelling myths and misconceptions. The project provides training and capacity strengthening to male social mobilizers to form partnerships with community groups to reach men, such as factory workers and police officers, and engage them in conversations about FP. Other outreach strategies include developing and disseminating videos, developing awareness-raising messages for radio broadcasts, and launching digital campaigns with FP information designed to reach and influence men.

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IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

Population Welfare Department of Sindh

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

September 2021 – June 2023

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Karachi Malir and Karachi South districts and city of Larkana in Sindh province

- Designing and managing VIYA, the first chatbot in Pakistan that focuses on male engagement and men as supportive partners in FP decision-making. The project developed gender-transformative messages for the chatbot that include linkages to e-commerce services for sexual and reproductive health products and services.
- Partnering with the Sindh government to disseminate messages through customized communications materials to young couples and

HEALTH TOPICS



FOCUS AREAS



CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



newlyweds on policies that support FP counseling and provision of services.

- Strengthening the quality of FP/RH care delivered by private sector health providers by providing them with training and materials on

male engagement and gender transformative approaches to service delivery. The training and materials will help address provider biases that impede men's and women's access to quality FP/RH care and improve providers' use of gender-inclusive counseling approaches.





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