MOMENTUM PROGRAMS IN ASIA
Regional Reference Brief

Updated December 2021
(Update anticipated in 2022)
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.

MOMENTUM Knowledge Accelerator is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) as part of the MOMENTUM suite of awards and implemented by Population Reference Bureau (PRB) with partners JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc. and Ariadne Labs under USAID cooperative agreement #7200AA20CA00003. For more about MOMENTUM, visit www.usaidmomentum.org. The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of PRB and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.

Cover photo: Mubeen Siddiqui/MCSP

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INTRODUCTION

MOMENTUM is a dynamic suite of six distinct yet related awards working with governments and institutions in USAID partner countries to accelerate reductions in maternal, newborn, and child death and disability. The six global awards work collectively across diverse focus areas and settings to support partner country goals to improve maternal, newborn, and child health, nutrition, voluntary family planning, and reproductive health (MNCHN/FP/RH) outcomes, as described in Figure 1 below.

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 MNCHN/FP/RH services and care. This reference brief provides an overview of MOMENTUM programs and their completed or ongoing activities in the Asia region. As of September 2021, MOMENTUM partner countries in this region include India, Indonesia, and Nepal.

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FIGURE 1. THE MOMENTUM SUITE OF AWARDS

- **Integrated Health Resilience**
  - Improving MNCHN/FP/RH in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

- **Country and Global Leadership**
  - Strengthening country capacity and contributing to global technical leadership and policy dialogue in MNCHN/FP/RH.

- **Private Healthcare Delivery**
  - Strengthening private provider contributions to MNCHN/FP/RH.

- **Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics**
  - Improving access to and use of safe surgery for maternal health and voluntary family planning.

- **Routine Immunization Transformation and Equity**
  - Strengthening immunization programs to reach all who are eligible with high-quality vaccination services.

- **Knowledge Accelerator**
  - Facilitating learning, adaptation, innovation, knowledge sharing, and strategic communication for MOMENTUM.

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Photos (left-right): IMA World Health, Kate Holt/MCSP, Karen Kasmauski/MCSP, Kate Holt/MCSP, Kate Holt/MCSP, Kate Holt/MCSP, Karen Kasmauski/MCSP
MOMENTUM TOPICS, AREAS, AND THEMES, BY COUNTRY

The MOMENTUM suite supports partner countries to address a wide range of issues, tailoring program 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 Asia Region.

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ACTIVE COUNTRY PROGRAMS

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 program supports sustainable development in India by assisting local institutions to strengthen their capacities to deliver quality health services. The program 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 program will take a total market approach to increase access to priority health products and FP/RH services.

MOMENTUM COUNTRY AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP:
INDIA – YASH PROGRAM CONTACTS

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IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

Private and public sectors, various civil society organizations, youth-led organizations, youth alliances, and youth entrepreneurs

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

July 2021 – September 2022

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha states
FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Collaborating with partners to establish the Family Planning and Reproductive Health and Rights Lab, which will foster a sustained youth-led movement by building the agency of adolescents and young people in demanding high-quality family planning and reproductive health services.

- Aiding private and public service providers to provide non-judgmental, high-quality FP/RH counseling and services to young people, especially those who are unmarried.

- Supporting the expansion of the Advocacy and Accountability Collaborative in India to elevate voices from civil society organizations, 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 family planning and reproductive health 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.

- Cultivating an enabling environment for the introduction of newer family planning methods in public-private health systems and the mobilization of community and policy support for young people’s health and well-being.
Strengthening facility readiness through improved water, sanitation, and hygiene and infection prevention and control

The COVID-19 pandemic has 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 supports facilities working to improve their water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services and infection prevention and control (IPC) measures so essential health services can continue.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

• Conducting in-person and virtual training for health facility staff on quality improvement and mentoring to foster improvements in their WASH/IPC practices to ensure continuity of MNCHN/FP/RH care during the COVID-19 pandemic.
• Supporting facilities to ensure that infrastructure repairs and critical IPC supplies are available to meet WASH and IPC standards.
• Engaging with technology partners to use artificial intelligence technology to promote hand hygiene and implement innovative solutions to sterilize and reuse personal protective equipment in health facilities.
• Coaching and galvanizing 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.

MOMENTUM COUNTRY AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP
WASH/IPC PROGRAM CONTACTS

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IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS
State Ministries of Health (Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Madhya Pradesh), Chakr DeCoV, and Datakalp

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE
July 2020 – September 2021

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
Chhattisgarh (Baloda Bazar, Mahasamund, and Rajnandgaon districts), Jharkhand (Bokaro and East Singhbhum districts), and Madhya Pradesh (Betul, Hoshangabad, and Vidisha districts) states
Increasing coverage of care by nurses and midwives

MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership works with partners to foster policy dialogue with federal and state governments to implement the recommendations from State of the World Nursing (SoWN), State of the World Midwifery (SoWMY), and WHO Strategic Directions for Nursing and Midwifery (SDNM) 2021-2025 reports for India. This partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Indian Nursing Council, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) identifies gaps in national policies and current policies’ implementation. It also makes recommendations in line with global standards to increase the coverage of care delivered by nurses and midwives in target geographies.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Hosting orientation meetings for nursing and midwifery leaders on SoWN, SoWMY, and SDNM reports and recommendations and discussing and prioritizing the critical policy dialogues needed to address health coverage at national and state levels.

- Reviewing SoWN, SoWMY, and SDNM report materials and country-specific data with core nursing leaders from state governments, regulatory bodies, and professional associations to develop an action plan to strengthen nursing and midwifery in India.

- Engaging with parliamentarians in meetings to discuss critical issues and challenges in nursing and midwifery and the recommendations of SoWN, SoWMY, and SDNM reports to gather the highest levels of political support for policy dialogue.
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 program 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.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

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IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

John Snow India Private Limited, HelpAge India, Indian Social Responsibility Network (ISRN), Karuna Trust, Lords Education and Health Society (LEHS), and MAMTA Health Institute for Mother and Child. Additional local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will be identified in 2022.

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

August 2021 - July 2022

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 program implementation and the UIP’s impact.
MOMENTUM PROGRAMS IN A
SIA

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 family planning (FP) care. The project supports collaboration among public and private stakeholders to improve technical and clinical capacity; partners with community organizations in human-centered design and implementation of social and behavior change strategies; and strengthens the ability of institutions to efficiently and effectively use data to guide design, monitoring, and provision of high-quality surgical obstetric and FP care.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

The project is employing a co-creation approach with national and state-level stakeholders in 2021 to finalize project activities. Activities could contribute to:

PROGRAM CONTACTS

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IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

Government of India Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; State Ministries of Health in Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Orissa states; Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI)

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

April 2021 – September 2025

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Orissa states
• Facilitating development of updates to and use of evidence-based technical guidelines for safe and appropriate cesarean delivery.

• Establishing and supporting in-person and digital supportive supervision systems to strengthen the counseling and clinical labor management skills of midwives and other health providers.

• Introducing innovative capacity-building approaches for providers such as the Self-Learning Instructional Module and Practicum (SLIM-P): An Innovative Strategy for Intrauterine Contraceptive Device (IUCD) Training.

• Supporting partner organizations to employ human-centered design approaches to increase awareness of and address misperceptions related to long-acting reversible contraceptives and permanent methods.

• Partnering with health care facilities to design and implement youth-friendly FP services and providing training and mentoring to providers to explore and overcome biases in providing FP services to youth.

• Assessing and strengthening existing health management information system platforms and indicators to improve data collection, quality improvement, and continuous monitoring of cesarean section surgeries and outcomes.
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 suggested a more than two-fold increase in domestic violence and sexual assaults as well as a three-fold rise in police apathy towards crimes against women in the first weeks after lockdowns were put in place. MOMENTUM Safe Surgery in Family Planning and Obstetrics is collaborating with partners in India to strengthen individual, community, and system capacity to mitigate COVID-19-exacerbated gender-based violence in under-served communities.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

- Providing training to health care providers using a gender, youth, and social inclusion curriculum that 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 gender-based violence.
- Assisting partners to strengthen the psychosocial support services at gender-based violence referral centers through training and mentoring of counselors.
MOMENTUM COUNTRY AND GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

MOMENTUM Country and Global Leadership partners with Indonesia’s Ministry of Health to scale up proven approaches to improving maternal and newborn health outcomes and strengthening Indonesia’s health system. The program contributes to reducing preventable deaths among mothers and babies at public and private health care facilities by improving the access and quality of health services across all districts in East Nusa Tenggara and select districts in four additional provinces where mortality rates are high: North Sumatra, Banten, East Java, and South Sulawesi.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

• Supporting government efforts to strengthen provider capacity and team readiness to deliver and continually improve routine and emergency maternal and newborn care services.

• Assisting facilities and sub-national health offices to improve the quality of health data and its use in decision-making and adaptive management.

• Collaborating with partners and the government to develop a sustainable, replicable, and scalable model for reducing preventable maternal and newborn deaths nationally through improved quality of care.

• Engaging partners to increase the coverage, quality, and equity of effective maternal and newborn care by improving referral systems and upgrading the capacity building activities for healthcare providers to focus on day-of-birth and antenatal care interventions most capable of reducing maternal and infant mortality.

• Working with Indonesian civil society organizations to improve referral networks and client-centered care by soliciting and responding to feedback on maternal and newborn health service quality from communities.

PROGRAM CONTACT

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IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

Indonesia Ministry of Health (various directorates); medical professional organizations; Banten, East Java, East Nusa Tenggara (NTT), North Sumatra, and South Sulawesi Provincial Health Offices and District Health Offices; and Cendana University

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

October 2020 – September 2024

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Banten, Jawa Timur, Nusa Tenggara Timur (NTT), Sumatera Utara, and Sulawesi Selatan provinces
MOMENTUM PRIVATE HEALTH CARE DELIVERY

MOMENTUM Private Healthcare Delivery supports the Government of Indonesia’s goals of enhancing the engagement and effectiveness of the private health care sector as a sustainable partner for providing quality maternal and newborn health services, thereby contributing to reduced rates of maternal and newborn deaths. The program works with the Ministry of Health (MOH) to strengthen and develop national policy and regulatory frameworks for engagement with the private sector. It also supports private service providers to improve the quality of private sector health services. Finally the program works with MOH to strengthen coordination between the public and private sectors, focusing on referrals, data collection and reporting, training, and accreditation.

KEY ACTIVITIES

• Assessing the motivators and drivers of quality assurance and improvement among private providers and leveraging findings to co-create alignment with MOH quality standards.
• Adapting existing quality of care toolkits to integrate client-centered approaches for use in the private sector.
• Supporting the establishment and expansion of hospital- and team-based mentoring approaches in the private sector, including through leveraging existing supportive supervision models.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

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IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

Private Sector Midwives Association/Bidan Delima

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

January 2021 – June 2025

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Banten, DKI Jakarta, East Java, North Sumatra, and South Sulawesi provinces
• Strengthening the capacity of private midwife practices, professional associations, and networked facilities, particularly on aspects of quality of care, referral mechanisms, and data collection and sharing.

• Supporting primary, secondary, and tertiary health facilities to meet accreditation standards while also supporting the MOH and other entities to enhance and improve accreditation approaches for private facilities.
MOMENTUM PRIVATE HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

In support of the Government of Nepal’s Health Sector Strategy, MOMENTUM Private Healthcare Delivery seeks to initiate a successful model for the private sector to deliver high-quality voluntary FP services to adolescents and young adults in Nepal. The program 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 program 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

- Conducting a rapid review of regulatory and operational frameworks impacting Nepal’s private health care sector to identify challenges faced by private providers and opportunities to address them.
- Engaging private sector facility owners and providers to understand and advance their motivations and co-create solutions, in alignment with principles for private sector engagement, to improve access to services and quality of care.
- 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.

PROGRAM CONTACTS

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IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS

Nepal CRS Company

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

May 2021 – May 2022

GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

Province 2 and Karnali Province
• 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.