

## ***Office of Health - Country Profiles***

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**Bolivia:** The Saving Newborn Lives Initiative in La Paz, Oruro, Cochabamba and Potosi supports essential maternal and neonatal care at the family/household and community levels, training of Ministry of Health personnel in essential newborn care, and creation of neonatal care services and community networks. The Child Survival program in rural Oruro trains volunteer health promoters to provide child survival services and supports Ministry of Health initiatives of integrated case management of childhood illness (IMCI) care at health facilities. Through a Community Epidemiological Surveillance System (SECI), Save the Children is also facilitating the joint collection, analysis, and use of health information by health providers and communities to address local health needs. The Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Program seeks to improve adolescents' reproductive health and HIV/AIDS knowledge, attitudes and behaviors, increase their utilization of reproductive health services, and to promote communication between parents and adolescents on reproductive health topics.

**Bhutan:** The Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health Program is working to improve adolescents' access to the information, skills, services, and support they need to make well-informed, safe and responsible decisions regarding their reproductive and sexual health. Key strategies include: establishing a Youth Information Center; providing telephone counseling services; facilitating reproductive health-focused education sessions for school-going adolescents and members of Boy and Girl Scouts; implementing a parents' training program to foster greater understanding of adolescents' needs; developing intergenerational communication; and advocating for increased governmental allocations for adolescent programming.

**Egypt:** The Child Survival Project in Minia governorate aims to improve the health status of mothers and their children by improving maternal and newborn care, immunization services, nutrition, and integrated case management of childhood illness. To address the prevalence of malnutrition in Minia, Save the Children is also implementing an infant nutrition project targeting children up to 2 years of age. Through the School Health and Nutrition Program, Save the Children is facilitating the provision of health care to school-aged children, including dermatology, ophthalmology, anemia, and parasite screenings. Through ISHRAQ, the "Safe Spaces to Learn, Play and Grow" Project, Save the Children is training out-of-school adolescent girls in literacy, reproductive health, and team sports as a way to delay age of marriage and create greater options for this marginalized population.

**Sudan:** Save the Children partners with the Government of Sudan and a number of national NGO and United Nations partners to address the major causes of high maternal and child mortality. The majority of the 210,749 program beneficiaries are internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other war-affected persons in the Nuba Mountains of South Kordofan State, and drought-affected communities in Um Ruwaba province of North Kordofan State. Save the Children supports an expanded program of immunization (EPI) for children and pregnant mothers and distributes essential drugs and provides water and sanitation services in the targeted areas. Save the Children also provides reproductive health services (RH), including family planning and prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections.

**Uganda:** Save the Children and Care International's community-based reproductive health (RH) project is currently operating in Nakasongola District, Central Uganda. The project targets women of reproductive age and youth in this underserved district with a total population of

approximately 150,000 people. The program extends FP/RH information and services to communities through an extensive network of trained community reproductive health workers who provide informed choice counseling, modern contraceptive methods including pills and condoms and referral services and follow up for clinical methods. In addition, community defined quality (CDQ) is being used to ensure improved quality and utilization of health services through greater community involvement. Links between community and facility-based services have been strengthened and SC is working with the District Health Officer to integrate community-based services into the overall health system, as well as solve problems of stock-outs of contraceptives. The behavior-change strategy seeks to reduce social barriers to better sexual and reproductive health, including enhancing access to accurate information through adult and youth literacy classes.

**Guinea:** Save the Children partners with two District Health Offices and two local NGOs to address the primary causes of child and maternal mortality in two underserved, poor, and remote districts in Upper Guinea: Mandiana and Kouroussa. The two districts encompass 213 villages with a population of 419,873, including 88,173 children under 5 years old and 83,975 women of reproductive age. Save the Children works to implement four child survival interventions: immunization, nutrition and micronutrients, maternal and newborn care, and HIV/AIDS. Two innovative approaches used are the "positive deviance" approach for sustainable community-based rehabilitation and the prevention of malnutrition, and the "child-to-child" approach to educate about, and promote the use of immunization services.

**Mozambique:** The "Bridges" and "Strength" health projects enhance the ability of the Ministry of Health in Gaza and Nampula provinces to provide high-quality maternal and child health services and build stronger links between the government health system and local communities. Ministry of Health partners are trained in approaches to more effectively involve communities, such as the provision of bicycle ambulances used for obstetrical emergencies, which are managed and maintained by the community. Due to the limited outreach and coverage of health facilities, Save the Children and the Ministry are training traditional birth attendants and other community volunteers, such as traditional healers, who can provide appropriate counsel, services, and if required, referral to the health facilities. Save the Children trains community volunteers to conduct health talks and distribute condoms to confront the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in Mozambique.

**Haiti:** Unique community partnerships based upon performance-based contracts are ensuring more effective participation of communities in their management and provision of health services. About 56,000 residents of the rural commune of Maissade receive high-quality and comprehensive preventive and curative services through partnerships with local associations. The "positive deviance" approach of learning through discovery of local solutions to address high malnutrition is being scaled up in two other regions of Haiti through a partnership with two NGOs: Management Resources for Community Health and Albert Schweitzer Hospital.

**Afghanistan:** Save the Children established its Pakistan/Afghanistan Field Office in 1985 to respond to the needs of 3.5 million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan as a result of war. Following the withdrawal of Soviet troops, Save the Children began cross-border rural rehabilitation programs in Afghanistan in 1989 to facilitate the repatriation of refugees. Today, Save the Children operates health programs in Kabul, and in Balkh, Saripul, Jawzjan, and Faryab provinces in northern Afghanistan. In Kabul, Save the Children has provided training, technical

support, and essential medical supplies to the city's four hospitals with pediatric wards since 1996 to improve the treatment of children with pneumonia and diarrhea. This program has also focused on health education for mothers visiting the hospitals, and education in nearby communities through volunteers, and has more recently been expanded to the capital cities of Balkh, Faryab, and Jawzjan provinces in the north. In the Andkhoy cluster of four districts in the west of Jawzjan, Save the Children and the Afghan Ministry of Public Health have implemented a Primary Health Care program through Basic Health Centers and female health volunteers since 1995, and following the recent change in the country's governance, is supporting efforts to expand access to immunization and vitamin A supplementation.

**Ethiopia:** The Saving Newborn Lives Initiative is organizing social mobilization in support of the national maternal and neonatal tetanus immunization campaign. The maternal and child health program in Liben District of Oromiya Regional State in the south of Ethiopia seeks to reduce maternal and child mortality through joint action by local government health facilities and village Bridge-to-Health Teams and Health Action Committees, which include village leaders and traditional birth attendants and healers. The Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health program aims to reduce the incidence of reproductive health problems and empower adolescents in Addis Ababa and Oromiya. HIV/AIDS programming includes the High Risk Corridor Initiative to reduce HIV transmission along the two major transportation routes between Addis Ababa and the port in Djibouti.

**Nepal:** Save the Children supports national polio eradication efforts in Kailali and Siraha districts to improve protective health practices at the household level, increase access to maternal and child health services at a community level, and improve the quality of government health services in Siraha, Sunsari, and Kailali, through the Nepal Family Health Program. The district-wide program, in partnership with the Nepal Red Cross and the District Health Office in Nuwakot, seeks to reduce maternal and child mortality through government health facilities and Female Community Health Volunteers trained to treat childhood diarrhea and pneumonia. Saving Newborn Lives has supported the Ministry of Health to prepare Nepal's newborn-health strategy, and is supporting the integration of essential newborn health-care services into health services in Siraha and Kailali. School Health and Nutrition activities include deworming, promotion of iodized salt, first aid, water and sanitation, and interactive health education. In Kailali, Kanchanpur and Siraha, the Adolescent Reproductive and Sexual Health program aims to improve access to quality, youth-friendly reproductive health services and knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to reproductive health, through peer education, youth-friendly services, counseling, and life-skills training. HIV/AIDS activities include the HIV/AIDS Highway Initiative in Kanchanpur, Kailali, Bardiya, Banke, Dang, and Kapilvastu districts, and the HIV/AIDS Impact Mitigation Project in Kanchanpur to increase NGO capacity to work with households affected by HIV/AIDS.

**Tajikistan:** Maternal and child health programs in Panjikent and Aini districts of Sugdh Region in the northwest, and in several districts of Khatlon Region in the southwest, aim to reduce maternal and child mortality among 283,000 women of childbearing age and 177,000 children under 5 years old. Both programs involve innovative approaches to improving the capacity of rural government health facilities to provide sustainable MCH services and the capacity of communities to address priority health needs. Village Pharmacies with Revolving Drug Funds are making essential drugs available in a sustainable way to communities and health facilities for the first time in recent years. Food-for-work brigades farm food crops on Health Facility Farms,

which are then sold for profit to raise funds to rehabilitate, re-equip, and resupply the facilities. Midwives trained in Life Saving Skills provide maternal and newborn care.

**Pakistan:** Save the Children has been working in Haripur District of Pakistan to improve the health of mothers and their children, both among the local population and the Afghan refugees residing there for more than five years. In Haripur, Save the Children works with the public sector and private health-care providers to increase the quality and availability of contraception for birth spacing, and has worked to improve the use of prenatal care and delivery services available through skilled providers. Beyond Haripur District's population of 500,000, Save the Children is now improving tetanus toxoid immunization in a number of low performing districts – more than 4 million women were reached last year. Through our Saving Newborn Lives project, Save the Children will be supporting efforts to improve pregnancy, delivery and essential newborn care in 20 districts in cooperation with a series of partners in the Women's Health Project.

**Myanmar:** In this complex landscape, Save the Children is improving community access to birth spacing methods, safe pregnancy services, and HIV prevention messages and services to protect the health of some 50,000 rural women, adolescents, and their families. This model program brought to communities services and products that could protect and promote the health of families through a highly participatory process with hundreds of community members volunteering to assist the establishment of the program. The success of the project (with contraceptive prevalence rates increasing from 4 to 24 percent in less than two years, and improved protective birthing practices in the home) is being replicated now in two new regions of the country with added attention to the needs of adolescents, particularly those likely to migrate for employment opportunities.

**West Bank and Gaza:** Save the Children staff are supporting local efforts to deliver basic health care to Palestinian women and children. With a recently awarded humanitarian assistance grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Save the Children will work with local clinics to ensure that they are able to provide prenatal and delivery care and treat some of the complications of pregnancy and childbirth when access to hospitals is difficult or impossible due to travel restrictions and local hostilities. The impact on newborn and maternal survival is likely to demonstrate that community clinics can help reduce preventable deaths due to pregnancy and childbirth complications.

**Mali:** Save the Children works in three districts in Sikasso Region to improve child-health services, newborn-care practices, and safer motherhood by improving access and quality of community-level health care, hospital-based emergency obstetric care and prevention and treatment of malaria in pregnant women and young children.

**Indonesia:** Save the Children is helping to address the health needs of urban street children and communities living in the conflict-ridden Aceh province as part of an integrated approach to community development and psychosocial support. The Urban Street Children program has successfully facilitated MOUs with local governments in three cities that assure street children access to government health services. The program also supports behavior change initiatives through NGO partners related to hygiene, nutrition, first aid, smoking, drug and alcohol use, and sexual health. The Coming Home Program (CHP) is operating in the province of Aceh and currently reaches 40,000 women and 6,000 children under 5 years old. Through transferring skills to health staff and cadres, the program promotes behavior change that improves and

protects the health of women and their children. In cooperation with the Indonesian government and NGOs, the project assists vulnerable women through income-generating activities and community networks.

**Philippines:** Save the Children's health programs focus on urban squatter communities covering a population of about 30,000 and rural agricultural communities reaching a population of 225,000. In 50 schools in these regions, the School Health and Nutrition program alleviates the specific health and nutrition problems that diminish a student's capacity to learn and contribute to high dropout and repetition rates. The Empowering Youth for Population and the Environment Project addresses the dynamic of population pressures on the environment in vulnerable coastal communities. The project combines family planning activities and environmentally sustainable economic opportunities. Reproductive health programs are a major emphasis of SC's Philippines program. Addressing the needs of adolescents and youth who have limited options for quality reproductive health services and low awareness and skills related to high risk behaviors features prominently in this programming.

**Vietnam:** Health efforts in Vietnam are concentrated on Safe Motherhood, Child Survival, Adolescent Reproductive Health, and HIV/AIDS prevention. The goal of the Safe Motherhood Program is to reduce maternal mortality and ensure the survival of women and newborns in Vietnam. It provides training to district health service centers to improve their quality of care and raise awareness around pregnancy and delivery care within the communities in Thanh Hoa and Quang Tri provinces. A recently awarded five-year project, funded by USAID, will work to dramatically improve the maternal and child health of 87,070 mothers and their children under five years old. The Adolescent Reproductive Health (ARH) Program is entering its second phase and will now begin to focus greater emphasis on integrating ARH and HIV/AIDS programming as well as using mass media in tandem with community-based efforts to promote safe and healthy practices among young people. HIV/AIDS activities will continue to use peer education and community awareness to promote a reduction of high-risk behaviors and will continue to work closely with the Save the Children Alliance HIV/AIDS Working Group.

**Angola:** In Angola, Save the Children is working to improve maternal and child health in Angola. We are providing technical assistance to the Ministry of Health, the Luanda Delega\_ão Provincial de Saúde, local and international NGOs, and other public- and private sector collaborators to rebuild systems for sustainability, increased use of quality maternal and child health and HIV/STI services. Program activities and services include prophylactic malaria treatment for pregnant women and presumptive treatment for children with fever, ante- and postnatal services, high-dose Vitamin A distribution to infants, interventions for acute respiratory infection and diarrhea and increased use and improved prevention and treatment of STIs and HIV infections. We are working with the MOH to further the implementation of the integrated management of childhood illnesses (IMCI) and we are also collaborating to strengthen the formal health facilities to improve service delivery.

**Georgia:** In Georgia, the STI/HIV Prevention (SHIP) Project aims to reduce the rate of transmission of STI/HIV in targeted urban locations in Georgia, namely Tbilisi and the port city, Batumi. In collaboration with PATH and two leading local NGOs, Tanadagoma and Bemoni, Save the Children is working to reach at least 12,000 high risk individuals. The project provides systematic capacity building to NGOs so that they are better able to work with hard to reach groups who are at high-risk. The SHIP Project works to prevent transmission by addressing

information and empowerment needs of at-risk individuals, providing supportive counseling services, outreach and peer counseling networks.

**Malawi:** Save the Children's STEPs (Scaling-up HIV/AIDS interventions Through Expanded Partnerships) Program has been operating for more than 6 years in both rural and urban Malawi. Through STEPs, formerly known as COPE, communities are assisted in developing a sustainable "package" of services for HIV/AIDS prevention, care and mitigation that addresses the needs of AIDS-affected families holistically, including those of orphans and vulnerable children. Save the Children plans to expand the model into six districts in Malawi.

Save the Children supports and leads Umoyo NGO Network in Malawi, which is a partnership of five organizations collaborating to build the capacity of local NGOs to plan and implement health activities. The Umoyo Network aims to improve the quality of HIV/AIDS prevention and support other reproductive health activities available to communities.

In Mangochi District, the Nchanda ni Nchanda Pa Umi Wambone (Youth to Youth for a Healthy Life) project was launched in 1999 to enable young people to make positive life planning decisions and to improve the availability and accessibility of quality reproductive health services for youth. The project works with both in- and out-of-school youth, ages 10 to 25, and it is currently benefiting approximately 60,000 children and youth.

The Community Health Partnerships (CHAPS) Program in Mangochi District and the Partnership for Equity, Access, and Quality (PEAQ) in Balaka District both seek to strengthen district and community health systems for over 350,000 women and children. Working jointly with the District Health Management Team (DHMT), we are helping to strengthen district-capacity to plan and manage health programs, and supporting facility-based quality assurance teams who monitor service quality in relationship to established norms and standards. We also are working to improve access to care, caretaker practices and care seeking through the establishment of Village Health Committees, community-level drug revolving funds to ensure that basic drugs are available, alarm and transport plans, and bicycle ambulances to help improve access to emergency medical care, and training of community health workers, including traditional birth attendants. We have helped design and implement a behavior change communication strategy that targets caretakers, community "gatekeepers" and traditional healers to improve household practices and care-seeking related to the major causes of illness and death among mothers and children.

The Saving Newborn Lives (SNL) Program is working with Malawi's Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) to strengthen maternal and newborn health care in 4 districts through improved health worker training, behavior change communications to improve health practices in the household and among health providers, NGO capacity building, and design and implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems. SNL is working through the Kamuzu College of Nursing to build capacity for appropriate essential newborn care, focusing initially on in-service training at facility and community levels and later expanding to pre-service training. Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), a technique of continuous skin-to-skin contact between mother and newborn, is being expanded from Zomba District Hospital into several hospitals countrywide. This technique addresses many of the special needs of low birth weight newborns -- warmth, breastfeeding on demand, and close bonds between mother and baby, and does not require sophisticated equipment that might not be available or operational. In addition, SNL is also

conducting lactation management and basic training in the prevention of maternal- to-child transmission of HIV for service Providers in the districts where we work.

School Health and Nutrition (SHN) has implemented a highly successful school-based treatment program that documented a dramatic reduction in malaria illness and death. School children also benefit from regular treatment for schistosomiasis. School gardens have been used as a successful income generating activity, which have supported the implementation of pupil treatment kits (PTKs) in over 70 schools. These kits provide basic first aid and presumptive care for malaria. PTK teacher training highlights the necessity of a strong referral system to the formal health system. HIV/AIDS prevention activities that initially will focus on building parent and child communication around HIV and other adolescent health issues will begin in the fall of FY' 04.

**Bangladesh:** SC's health work in Bangladesh extends over 15 years of working on child survival and maternal health. The current portfolio of programs includes field efforts to develop curricula and approaches to reach adolescents with information regarding their health so that they might protect themselves and plan for their futures. In addition, strengthening child health services, especially immunization services, care for childhood infections, and school health and nutrition are a growing part of our work at the national and local levels. Saving Newborn Lives has a number of partners in Bangladesh who are implementing programs to improve maternal and newborn survival through improved childbirth practices and better home care for the newborn.