

**Project Name:** Vistaar: From Knowledge to Practice  
**Agreement Type:** Cooperative Agreement - Unilateral  
**Duration:** October 2006-September 2011  
**Geographic Scope:** UP, Jharkhand and some activities at national level  
**Technical Assistance Agencies:** IntraHealth International, Inc. (lead agency), Abt Associates, Catholic Relief Services, Johns Hopkins University- Centre for Communications Program  
**Implementing Agency:** IntraHealth International Inc.

**Description:**

Despite knowledge of many simple and proven interventions, maternal, newborn, and child health and nutritional status is still unacceptably poor in many parts of India. The purpose of this technical assistance Project is:

*To assist the Government of India and the State Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand in taking knowledge to practice for improved maternal, newborn, and child health and nutritional status*

**KEY ACTIVITIES:**

As a first step in promoting the transfer of knowledge to practice, the Project facilitated six Evidence Reviews (ERs) on six technical themes selected as priorities by the Government and other key stakeholders:

- Iron Deficiency Anemia Prevention and Treatment
- Complementary Feeding
- Delay of Marriage and First Birth
- Community-based Newborn Care
- Village Health Committees
- Performance Improvement of Community Level Health and Nutrition Functionaries

Recognized national experts reviewed promising interventions in each technical area to determine key lessons for MNCHN programming at scale in India. Based on these lessons the Project is currently working in the following areas:

- Providing Strategic Technical Assistance: the Project provides Technical Assistance (TA) to strengthen MNCHN programs of the Government of India (GoI), Government of Uttar Pradesh (GoUP) and Government of Jharkhand (GoJH), based on Government priorities, the evidence review lessons and recommendations and the Project’s comparative advantage. In 2008, the Project is providing TA in 11 districts of JH and eight districts of UP.
- Generating Knowledge through Demonstration and Learning Efforts: the Project also supports demonstration and learning efforts to generate evidence about ways to improve MNCHN interventions at scale, working with GoI, GoUP and GoJH.
- Advocating on Priority Topics: the Project advocates with the GoI, GoUP, and GoJH on priority topics such as promoting the application of lessons from the evidence reviews and contributing to national level advocacy efforts to improve nutrition programming. The Project serves as the Secretariat for the Coalition for Sustainable Nutrition Security in India, a high level advocacy group.

Important cross cutting themes for the Project are knowledge generation and sharing, facilitating collaboration and convergence and promoting interventions with a strong equity focus, including gender equity.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:**

**USAID/New Delhi:** Dr. Rajiv Tandon, Senior Advisor, Child Survival, MCHUH Division, Office of Population, Health & Nutrition, USAID/India, American Embassy, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi -110021, India, Tel: +91 11 2419 8586, Fax: +91 11 2419 8454/ 8612, Email: [rtandon@usaid.gov](mailto:rtandon@usaid.gov), Web: [www.usaid.gov/india](http://www.usaid.gov/india)

**Agency Contact:** Laurie Noto Parker, Project Director, The Vistaar Project, IntraHealth International, Inc., A2/35, Safdurjung Enclave, New Delhi – 110 029, Email: [lparker@intrahealth.org](mailto:lparker@intrahealth.org)