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FACT SHEET

USAID HEALTH RESEARCH 2015

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is committed to addressing some of the world's most challenging health and development issues through research, introduction, and scale-up of evidence-based solutions. The Bureau for Global Health's investments in research and development have led to critical breakthroughs in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of deadly global diseases. Through partnerships with our field missions and stakeholder countries, the Bureau for Global Health's research agenda includes implementing high-impact solutions to address Ending Preventable Child and Maternal Deaths, Achieving an AIDS-Free Generation, and Protecting Communities from Infectious Diseases.

Below are some highlights from USAID's work:

 **Ending Abuse and Disrespect in Health Services:** Abuse and disrespect during maternity care has been documented and observed globally. Women who choose to give birth at home without a skilled health care provider as a result of having experienced or heard about abuse and disrespect are more likely to suffer complications as are their newborns. A research study in Kenya drawing on host-country leadership and parallel advocacy led to a **35 percent reduction in disrespectful maternity care and the development of a World Health Organization statement** on the prevention and elimination of abuse and disrespect during facility-based childbirth. Evidence gathered from these studies is also driving scale-up efforts in Tanzania and Kenya, with active engagement and interest from several other countries.

 **Treating Newborn Sepsis:** Infections are among the leading causes of newborn deaths in developing countries and can be effectively managed with timely antibiotic treatment. Studies in South Asia and Africa document that 68 percent to 98 percent of families do not go or cannot access hospital-based inpatient care. USAID and partners supported research that showed a **combination of injectable and oral antibiotics can be safely delivered by trained health workers in lower level health facilities**. Drawing on this research, a newly released WHO policy recommends hospitalization as best but also advises governments that newborns can be safely treated with antibiotics as outpatients. Ongoing implementation research and evaluation are guiding safe introduction and adaptation in countries such as Bangladesh.

