Introduction

There has been noteworthy progress in reducing maternal and child mortality in past decade. Focus needs to shift to equity and innovation gaps that need to be addressed to further improve MNCH outcomes. In rural and underserved areas, inadequacy of capacity and lack of availability of providers reduces and limits access to quality MNCH services. Additionally, lifesaving health technologies are inaccessible because they are either too expensive or unsuitable for the specific context. At the same time, under-tapped public-private collaborations, administrative delays, complex policies, laws, and regulations often inhibit sustainable introduction and scale of promising technology and service innovations that have the potential to rapidly improve MNCH outcomes.

Saksham partners will boost implementation of high-impact interventions in Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha with high-burden of maternal, newborn and child morbidity and mortality. We will work towards improving access to quality MNCH services leveraging blend of expertise in capacity building, private providers engagement, industry leverage and community participation to harness a total market approach for maximum impact. In alignment with US Agency for International Development (USAID) vision and working closely with national and state governments, Saksham consortium will provide targeted technical assistance to the states, while demonstrating innovative Interventions for scale up.

SAKSHAM
Scaling up high impact interventions for MNCH in Assam, Chhattisgarh, and Odisha

USAID Maternal Newborn Child Health (MNCH) Accelerator

The Government of India (GoI) has been focusing on initiatives to improve MNCH indicators. Government has issued substantial guidance on evidence-based, high-impact interventions that have demonstrated potential to address preventable maternal and child mortality. However, the coverage of these life-saving interventions remains sub-optimal due to gaps in knowledge, capacities, availability of resources, and other State specific health system challenges. Additionally, efforts are needed to ensure quality of care even where the services become accessible to women and children.

Under this USAID funded MNCH Accelerator initiative, Saksham team aims to support the government through new approaches, including harnessing innovations, to boost the implementation of high-impact interventions for improving maternal, newborn and child health through a continuum of care approach.

Saksham Interventions

National level

Saksham will facilitate setting up of a National Technical Advisory Group (NTAG) for MNCH to identify, review and recommend the high impact interventions and innovations for demonstration and for advocacy for their scale-up.

State level

Saksham will provide targeted technical assistance to the States focusing on building sustainable state level capability for high-impact MNCH services provision with improved quality through:

- Enhancing the states’ capacity to effectively implement national policies and programs.
- Catalyzing the private sector partnerships to improve access to and quality of care
- Enabling evidence-based decision making, resource allocation, planning, monitoring, review, and prompt course-correction, using technology and data precision.
District level

Saksham will demonstrate innovative MNCH interventions including introduction of point of care devices, solutions for frontline workers and healthcare providers, and demonstrating process innovations for implementing existing MNCH guidelines.

Strategies

Saksham will adopt strategies to enable quality, equitable, and accessible service provision by –

- Deploying Human Centered Design methodologies to co-design systems for improved learning and accountability systems for health care providers (HCPs) and frontline workers
- Setting up an advisory group for MNCH to facilitate scale up of promising innovations.
- Enabling and supporting state level steering group and district level task force for MNCH through integrated MNCH dashboards for evidence-based planning and monitoring
- Enhancing private sector engagement for improving access to MNCH services
- Strengthening innovations and policy advocacy through Centers of Excellence and evidence-driven scale-up of innovations
- Improving MNCH service delivery in Assam through strategic partnerships for strengthening tea garden hospitals, referral linkages, through Mobile Medical Unit Plus (MMU+) model.

Demonstration Initiative

We will work towards a cohesive package of interventions that can address key MNCH gaps and achieve improvement in access to quality MNCH services.

Saksham will work with the national and state health system to demonstrate best practices. Based on the results of the demonstration, Saksham will provide technical assistance to the states to scale up successful initiatives.