



# HEALTH POLICY PROJECT / INDIA

Building capacity for improved health policy, advocacy, governance, and finance.

The Health Policy Project (HPP), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), contributes to improved health through strengthening the efficiency, effectiveness, and equity of health systems.

To learn more, visit HPP at: [www.healthpolicyproject.com](http://www.healthpolicyproject.com)

## Overview

It is an opportune time to invest in health policy in India. Significant reforms of the health system are altering the way services are delivered in the public sector. Establishment of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) is a primary example of the government's efforts to reverse health inequities.

The Health Policy Project (HPP) is contributing to these reforms by strengthening the capacity of public health entities and organizations to implement evidence-based policies and programs that enable a sustained response to the country's critical health needs. We work with in-country partners to

- Build capacity in health policy analysis, evidence-based decision making, advocacy, and governance
- Design policies based on evidence, proven best practices, and resource needs
- Enhance accountability by improving monitoring of policies and programs
- Ensure efficient and equitable use of resources for priority health areas
- Facilitate multisectoral cooperation in the planning and implementation of health programs

## Policy

HPP/India is helping cultivate a more supportive policy environment to increase access to family planning (FP) and reproductive health (RH) services and a broad choice of FP/RH options. The project builds capacity for strategic data analysis and use, fosters partnerships and linkages to support advocacy and policy dialogue, and facilitates the approval and implementation of key health policies. Key contributions in this area include

- Helping establish the Health Policy Unit at the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) to institutionalize capacities for policy analysis and multisectoral dialogue
- Conducting policy analysis to
  - Estimate population projections and requirements for meeting unmet need for FP
  - Assess the effectiveness of resource allocation and use by the NRHM in Uttarakhand State
  - Study barriers to the inclusion of injectables in the basket of contraceptive options offered under India's national FP program

## Advocacy

HPP/India builds the capacity of government and civil society partners to engage in evidence-based advocacy. The project facilitates partnerships and linkages, provides mentoring support, and strengthens national-level advocacy institutions.



Photo by: Health Policy Project



Photo by: Michael Foley

## Capacity Development

Capacity development is at the core of HPP/India's efforts to support sustainable health outcomes. Key contributions include

- Strengthening state-level capacity for evidence-based decision making
- Building the NIHFU Health Policy Unit's capacity for policy, advocacy, and multisectoral coordination
- Enhancing and institutionalizing capacities for evidence-based advocacy
- Using mentoring and seconding approaches to strengthen health systems

Our partners include

- The Health Policy Unit of the NIHFU
- The Citizens' Alliance for Reproductive Health and Rights—an alliance of parliamentarians that seeks to generate parliamentary leadership, catalyze policy action, and mobilize resources in support of urgent RH priorities
- Jansankhya Sthirata Kosh (JSK) (National Population Stabilization Fund)—an autonomous body under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) that advocates to achieve stabilization of India's population by 2045

## Governance

HPP/India strengthens health system governance by providing technical assistance and mentoring support to state governments and national institutions to improve the design and implementation of priority health strategies:

- MOHFW. The project supports the ministry in prioritizing strategies for child survival, including Child Survival—Call to Action (CSC2A); HPP/India also assists the Statistics Division with data management and analysis.
- Family Planning Cell, Government of Jharkhand. HPP/India developed a comprehensive training and mentoring program to strengthen the state's capacity to implement its FP program. In 2013, the state expanded the program to eight additional priority districts, and the MOHFW may apply the curriculum in other states.
- Departments of Health and Family Welfare, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh. HPP/India works with the departments to identify and prioritize areas for capacity building. The project has trained health managers in developing evidence-based district health action plans to improve planning and implementation of the NRHM.

## How to Work with Us

For over 40 years, Futures Group has managed large and complex international health and development projects for a range of major development players, achieving significant results on the ground in more than 100 countries. Host-country partners with interest in receiving project assistance should contact their USAID Mission. All Missions may participate through field support. For information on how to work with the Health Policy Project please contact:

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