Strengthening Reproductive, Maternal Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health in India

John Snow Inc. (JSI), a leading global public health consulting firm, is dedicated to improving the health of individuals and communities around the world. For nearly 40 years, JSI has worked with governments and local partners in more than 100 countries to advance reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health (RMNCH+A).

During the last decade, JSI has implemented almost 70 global, regional, and country based RMNCH+A projects in 65 different countries. Our multidisciplinary approach addresses the entire spectrum of maternal and child health needs and challenges: improving the quality of maternal care from preconception, during delivery, and postpartum. From birth to childhood our work aims to improve the health and lives of mothers and children all over the world.

In 2013, we deepened our long term commitment in India by forming John Snow India Private Limited (JSI India), a subsidiary of JSI with formal registration in India. This allows our JSI India staff to combine their local expertise with JSI's global infrastructure, knowledge management, best practices and financial support.

JSI's RMNCH+A work in India

JSI's high-impact interventions strengthen national and state public health initiatives and are aimed at reducing child and maternal mortality, reducing inequities, and making health care accessible. We develop comprehensive health policies and evidence-based, cost-effective interventions to guide effective capacity building. By designing and implementing state-of-the-art behavior change programs we reach underserved populations. We integrate robust performance monitoring and evaluation systems into program design to ensure that accurate data informs program development.

JSI India collaborates on developing high-impact interventions to:

- Accelerate innovative solutions related to planning and implementation of high quality RMNCH+A services.
- Improve access and reduce financial barriers to RMNCH+A services.
- Develop private-sector partnerships to leverage market intelligence, reach and financial support.
- Scale-up RMNCH+A services through both public and private sectors.
- Support health system strengthening efforts to reduce system inefficiencies and to promote universal health coverage.

Technical Expertise

Our projects highlight expertise in high-impact interventions, advocacy, monitoring and evaluation, capacity building, knowledge management, and familiarity with local systems:

The **'Scaling-Up Interventions in RMNCH+A:Vriddhi project'** (2014-18), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), continues to support the GoI's RMNCH+A strategy in thirty-three high-priority districts in six states. JSI supports the roll out of new child health related GoI guidelines, particularly, Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) and use of Injection Gentamicin and oral Amoxicillin by community health workers. JSI also helps strengthen ongoing programs like home-based newborn care (HBNC) and utilization of ORS-Zn for diarrhoea among children in two selected high-priority districts of Uttarakhand and Jharkhand. Further, in collaboration with professional bodies, such as National Neonatology Forum (NNF), Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP), Indian Medical Association (IMA), and Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI), JSI is undertaking a landscape analysis to understand the profile of maternal, newborn and child health services being provided by the private sector. We are in the process of establishing an innovative ICT platform, "The Practitioners Forum," where private sector service providers with similar interests will be able to connect and share their knowledge, challenges, experiences to promote collaboration between public and private sector.

Through the **'Engaging Multiple Stakeholders to Inform RMNCH+A Policies in India'** project (2015-17), funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, JSI is supporting the government with analyzing experiences and learning for key policy areas. Jointly with the Public Health Foundation of India, we have conducted a landscape assessment of human resource challenges across the country to support GoI develop a strategic framework for action on human resources for health. JSI is also facilitating the identification, replication and/or scale up of emerging and promising best practices in RMNCH+A in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Working closely with professional bodies like FOGSI, IAP, IMA and NNF, we are identifying priority areas of mutual interest and develop a road map for increasing private sector engagement for advancing health outcomes. JSI is also strengthening the GoI's information and supervision mechanisms to improve health intelligence and quality of care in health facilities through greater use of ICT tools.

Through the **USAID | DELIVER PROJECT** (2014-16) JSI provided technical assistance to strengthen supply chain management of about 40 essential commodities required for implementation of the 5x5 matrix for high impact RMNCH+A interventions in six states (Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Punjab, and Uttarakhand) where USAID is the lead development partner.

Funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (2014-16), through the **Uttar Pradesh (UP) Technical Support Unit (TSU)**, JSI provided technical and managerial support to the UP government for the scale-up and implementation of the RMNCH+A strategy in 25 high-priority districts. Our technical

support contributed to improving the coverage and quality of RMNCH+ services and immunization. We provide leadership in strategic planning and linking this state-based program to the NHM-supported RMNCH+A initiative at the national level.

JSI was a partner in the **'Technical Support Agency for GoI's National Health Mission- NHM'** project (2014-16), funded by the Department for International Development (DFID). JSI provided support in appraisal of Program Implementation Plans and assistance in regular monitoring of the program.

During 2009-14, JSI was the lead partner in India for the **Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP)**, USAID's flagship program focusing on maternal, neonatal, and child mortality reduction and acceleration of progress towards Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5. JSI collaborated with the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of Uttar Pradesh (UP), and Jharkhand, NGOs, CBOs, and the private sector to develop operational guidelines and training resource packages on immunization and child health. JSI also provided technical assistance at the state, district and block level. The JSI MCHIP team staffed and managed the secretariat for the Government of India's (GoI's) National Summit on the Call to Action for Child Survival, held in February 2013. JSI supported MoHFW in the development and roll out of the RMNCH+A strategic road map, which lists the high-priority interventions under each thematic area and helps in monitoring progress of implementation. Along with other development partners, JSI supported MoHFW in developing handbooks and guidance notes for implementation and monitoring of RMNCH+A interventions in high-priority districts (HPDs), including scorecards, and dashboards amongst others.

Through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded **RMNCH+A Innovations project** (2013-15), JSI supported the MoHFW in the development of "RMNCH+A: Illustrative Performance-Based Incentives (PBIs) for high-priority districts"; "Key Performance and Quality Indicators for High Impact RMNCH+A Interventions"; guidelines on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC), the India Newborn Action Plan; strategy for prevention of postpartum hemorrhage and series of maternal health guidelines. The JSI team also supported in developing a software for strengthening the supportive supervision mechanism leading to an improvement in the quality of health care.