Duration: Nov 2010 – May 2012
Partners: Government of India (Family Planning Division, Ministry of Health & Family Planning), State Governments of 16 States

In 2008, the Government of India (GoI) took the initiative to revitalize the Postpartum Intrauterine Contraceptive Device (PPIUCD) services in the country. This initiative was taken to address the high unmet need for postpartum family planning (PPFP) services beyond sterilization, and help improve pregnancy spacing, which would contribute in improving maternal and child morbidity and mortality status throughout the country. PPFP services are defined as family planning services provided during the extended postpartum period (through first year after delivery). These services are crucial and need to be addressed by maternal, neonatal or child health or reproductive health/family planning programs. The reasons are many—large unmet need for contraception among women during the first year postpartum; clear evidence of the health benefits of family planning for women and children; increasing usage of family planning methods during this period, even in conservative areas in Northern Nigeria. An array of contraceptive options is available to all postpartum women for pregnancy spacing and limiting, including the Intrauterine Contraceptive Device (IUCD), which is available as either interval (inserted 4-6 weeks post-delivery) or post-partum (inserted immediately after delivery, including cesarean deliveries, or between 10 minutes to 48 hours post-delivery). Through the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) funded project, Jhpiego India is providing technical assistance to help revitalize PPFP, with emphasis on PPIUCD.

Some key factors have indicated that this is the right time to implement a large-scale revitalization effort for PPIUCD in India. To name a few: Expansion of ‘Janani Suraksha Yojana’, the conditional cash transfer scheme to promote institutional delivery among poor pregnant women, which has led to dramatic increases in institutional deliveries; an enthusiastic national expansion of the interval IUCD program; a revision in thinking about the PPIUCD service by leading specialists of obstetrics and gynecology; the mobilization of community educators to educate women and their families on maternal and child health issues and promote family planning services, including PPFP; and finally, the availability of funds for increased family planning activities, within the National Rural Health Mission and Reproductive and Child Health II Program.

The GoI has had a long-standing relationship with Jhpiego, especially in the field of developing training strategies, materials and systems for interval IUCD, as well as the development of standards and guidelines for service delivery. Thus, the MOHFW welcomed Jhpiego’s technical assistance and support in the revitalization of PPIUCD.

1 In Bihar there were 117,062 births in health care facilities in 2006–2007, but 838,481—more than a seven-fold increase—just one year later (2007-08). In Rajasthan facility based births rose from 29% in 2003 to 69% in 2008 and will reach 80% by 2011.
services in the country. The development of local training capacity had already begun in 16 states in 2007-2008 with Jhpiego’s technical assistance, under the USAID supported ACCESS FP project, and it therefore became the goal of this BMGF funded project to work with the MOHFW to scale-up the use of PPIUCD services in 16 states in India, where service delivery preparation had already begun.

In 2010, the BMGF Project augmented the scaling up of PPFP/PPIUCD services to 16 additional states, apart from the 3 USAID-focus states. Presently, Jhpiego is working in 19 states of the country for the revitalization of the PPFP/PPIUCD services. The alternative training methodology of using humanistic anatomic models and competency-based clinical training for PPIUCD services is now being used in all the 19 states for building the capacity of the providers.

The objectives of this project supported by BMGF are to: 1) Support the Indian Government’s strategy to establish high-quality, PPIUCD services and training in the 16 Indian Government selected states—Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Bihar, Gujarat, Orissa, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Meghalaya and Assam; 2) Demonstrate quality provision of PPIUCD services below the state level in two districts of Bihar. Establishing quality PPIUCD services at all levels of the public health system where doctors and staff nurses conduct deliveries in these districts; and 3) Develop awareness of and demand for PPIUCD services through promotion of the method within routine maternal and child health services, like antenatal care client counseling, counseling in early labor and up to 48 hours post-partum period, when clients are in the facility and advocacy with providers and opinion leaders.

The PPIUCD expands the method mix in the basket of family planning options available to the clients and helps improve pregnancy spacing and thereby improve maternal, infant and child survival.

Selection of Sites at 16 States

Before the onset of the BMGF Project, the Government of India (GoI), with technical assistance from Jhpiego, had established Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi, as the national training site for PPIUCD services, while Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) were chosen as regional training sites for these services. Providers had been trained from at least two sites each in the 16 states in India to deliver PPIUCD services.

To take the GoI’s initiative forward under the BMGF project, the need of the hour was to establish quality service delivery sites and subsequently establish and scale up, quality training site in each of these 16 states. Various criteria were taken into consideration for the selection of sites:
- District Hospitals and Medical Colleges were first taken into consideration as these sites impart knowledge and spread awareness at a large scale and to the right audience
- The site should have high delivery load, which would make PPIUCD services available to a higher client base
- Sites where providers had already been trained by the GoI were also given preference

Based on these criteria, in consultation with the GoI and respective state governments, 2-3 sites were selected in each state, consisting of Medical College/s and District Hospital/s.

This selection of sites was the first step in consolidating the efforts of the Indian Government to expand PPIUCD services in India and establish capacity—in 16 of India’s biggest states—to conduct state-level PPIUCD trainings for providers, and thus, help decentralize PPIUCD training in the country.

Materials Development and Finalization

Jhpiego worked in collaboration with the GoI to develop and finalize the following materials for PPFP/PPIUCD.

- The **PPIUCD Learning Resource Package (LRP)**, consisting of Reference Manual, Facilitator’s Guide, Job Aids and PPIUCD Insertion Video, has been put into use after being approved by GoI
- The **PPIUCD BCC Material**, developed earlier by Jhpiego, was adapted and approved by GoI for distribution in the 16 states. This BCC material includes posters, information leaflets and discharge card for clients and information leaflet for providers

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2 Although (other than Bihar) this project will not be focusing on the entire state, these 16 states combined consist of approximately 900 million people, which is 78% of the total 1.15 billion people in India.
- **PPFP/PPIUCD Counseling Skills Learning Resource Package**, consisting of Reference Manual, Trainer’s Notebook and Job Aids, has also been developed.

- **Data collection tools** for PPIUCD Insertions and PPIUCD Follow-up, and formats for PPFP/PPIUCD Monthly Services Report, have been finalized and printed in the form of registers for all the facilities at 16 states.

- **PPFP counseling LRP** for community based link workers, ASHA, which included Participants’ Manual, Trainer’s Notebook and Job-Aids finalized and approved by Govt. of Bihar.

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**Site Assessments at Focus States**

As a part of the initial steps for the implementation of the program, all the facilities of the 16 focus states were assessed by the Jhpiego staff through personal visits, in collaboration with the representatives from the facility. The facility assessment tool for PPIUCD service delivery and training sites was used for the assessments. Sensitization meetings were conducted with the stakeholders of each facility. The facilities were assessed for their status of service delivery and for the prospect of becoming a training site. A kit consisting of PPIUCD BCC materials, PPIUCD Learning Resource Package, PPIUCD Insertion Register, PPIUCD Follow-up Register and Monthly Services Reporting Register, was handed over to each facility.

These assessments also helped in identifying the myths and misconceptions of the stakeholders regarding PPIUCD services and in providing evidence based clarity to dispel the same. It led to advocacy among authorities for institutionalization of services. The need for orienting/training more providers at the facility was also explained.

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**Work in Bihar**

For achieving one of the project objectives, which is establishing quality PPIUCD services below the state level in two districts in Bihar at all levels of the public health system having medical doctors and staff nurses and adequate delivery load, Jhpiego team moved forward in Bihar, in coordination with Bihar government.

In consultation with the Bihar State Health Society, Darbhanga and Begusarai were finalized as the two focus districts for Jhpiego’s intervention in Bihar. Furthermore, seven facilities in Darbhanga and six facilities in Begusarai were finalized at the sub-district level. Facility assessments were conducted at six medical colleges: Patna.
Medical College Hospital (PMCH), Nalanda Medical College Hospital (NMCH), Darbhanga Medical College, Gaya Medical College, Bhagalpur Medical College and Muzaffarpur Medical College and the 13 sub-district facilities in the two focus districts. PPIUCD trainings were conducted at PMCH where 56 providers, including staff nurses from all 5 medical colleges and 13 sub-district facilities, were trained in PPFP/PPIUCD services. After the trainings, PPFP/PPIUCD services have been initiated in 13 selected sub-district facilities in the two focus districts and the medical colleges in Bhagalpur, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Gaya. In addition to the PPIUCD trainings, orientation of staff nurses on counseling was held at PMCH and NMCH, and a one-day orientation on PPFP/PPIUCD was held for the ASHA State Master Trainers.

In continuation of its efforts, the Jhpiego team visited all the focus medical colleges of Bihar and distributed PPIUCD IEC/BCC materials, which was displayed at all the facilities. The PPIUCD materials were also showcased at the Bihar Divas Fair, in which Jhpiego actively participated to promote the concept of PPFP/ PPIUCD. Visits for Supportive Supervision were conducted at all 6 medical colleges and 13 sub-district facilities to institutionalize services, streamline data collection and display the IEC/BCC materials. In 2012, PPFP/PPIUCD trainings are in the process of being decentralized and being organized at NMCH, Darbhanga and Bhagalpur medical colleges.

The discussions and presentation on PPFP and PPIUCD were held in state professional forums of obstetricians and gynecologists, which enhanced the interest of providers in PPIUCD services.

All activities for the state of Bihar have been in synchronization with, and with the approval of the Bihar State Health Society, with all the feedback and updates regularly shared with them.

**National Level Developments**

Along with all the ongoing state level activities, there have also been developments at the National level. Jhpiego has consistently advocated for PPIUCD services among professional bodies like GoI, NARCHI, and FOBSI. The activities conducted in this direction are:

- PPIUCD Orientation Workshop conducted for Ob/Gyn faculty and Residents of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC), Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital, Delhi
- PPIUCD Training conducted at LHMC, in which providers from 12 Government hospitals of Delhi were trained
- PPIUCD Training conducted at Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital (SGMH), in which 15 providers were trained from government hospitals of West Delhi. This has given a boost to the services being provided at SGMH, leading to 24x7 services and also other staff being trained
- Safdarjung Hospital continues to provide PPIUCD services, maintaining a high service delivery load

**PPIUCD Workshop- Sharing Experiences and Strengthening Services**
A milestone achievement of this project has been the two-day workshop, conducted under the aegis of Family Planning Division, MoHFW, GoI, for sharing experiences and strengthening of PPIUCD services among providers from identified facilities of 19 states where PPIUCD services are either being provided currently or will be started soon.

The workshop was inaugurated by Dr. Kiran Ambwani, Deputy Commissioner, Family Planning, MoHFW; Dr. Jeffrey M. Smith, Global Director, MCHIP; Dr. Sushma Dureja, Asst. Commissioner, Family Planning, MoHFW and Dr. Bulbul Sood, Country Director, Jhpiego. 90 participants, including providers from Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, HODs, Professors, Assistant professors as well as heads of institutions, from 19 states of India got together under one roof to make the workshop a big success.

The objectives of the workshop were:
1. To share the experiences/learning from the introduction of PPIUCD services
2. To discuss the systematic approach to standardize the quality of PPIUCD services
3. To learn from good practices/successful approaches implemented by the various sites
4. To understand the challenges faced by the providers to standardize the services
5. To discuss the ways to overcome/mitigate these challenges

The printed PPIUCD IEC/BCC materials, insertion, follow-up and reporting registers as well as the PPIUCD learning resource package were formally released by Dr. Ambwani at the occasion. The workshop emerged to be not just a learning experience but also an arena to discuss and share achievements, constraints and challenges faced by all the providers at their facilities. PPIUCD Performance standards were discussed with the participants and were agreed upon. It became a tool to encourage the providers to go back and provide consistent quality services at their facility leading the way for demand generation of PPIUCD services.

Need-based PPIUCD Trainings

The advocacy meetings of Jhpiego staff with the state governments and stakeholders, the rapid site assessments conducted in all the states, and the National Standard Sharing Workshop- all gave a big impetus to the need for PPIUCD Trainings in various states. There was a demand from the State Governments to increase the pool of master trainers. The Heads of the Obs. & Gyn. Departments and senior gynecologists participated in these trainings:

- **PPIUCD Training, PMCH, Bihar, held on April 18-20, 2011**: The Head of the Department (HOD), Obs. & Gyn., from five medical colleges of Bihar- NMCH, Darbhanga Medical College, Gaya Medical College, Bhagalpur Medical College and Muzaffarpur Medical College were trained

- **PPIUCD Training, Guwahati Medical College (GMCH), Assam, held on May 23-25, 2011**: The Senior gynecologists from two facilities of Assam- GMCH and Mahendra Mohun Choudhury Hospital, and two facilities of Meghalaya- Ganesh Das Hospital and Nangpoh Hospital, were trained at GMCH

- **PPIUCD Training, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, May 26-28, 2011**: The HODs from two facilities each of West Bengal, Orissa and one facility of Haryana were trained in Delhi
- PPIUCD Training, Zenana Hospital, Jaipur, May 24-26, 2011: Participants from S P Medical College, Bikaner and R N T Medical, Udaipur were trained.

- PPIUCD Training, IOG, Chennai, Oct 11-13, 2011: Participants from Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore, Hassan Institute of Medical Sciences, Hassan, Govt. HQ Hospital Viridhu Nagar, Madurai, along with 07 participants from various facilities of Tamilnadu were trained.

- PPIUCD Training, Zenana Hospital, Jaipur, Aug 02-04, 2011: Participants from Byramjee Jejibhoy Medical College (BJMC), Ahmedabad and General Hospital Gandhi Nagar, along with 09 participants from various facilities of Rajasthan were trained.

- PPFP / PPIUCD Counseling Training at 4 states- Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and West Bengal (13 to 29 Nov’11): Participants, including one Jhpiego supported counselor cum program coordinator and two staff nurses each from 32 facilities in the 16 states, were trained.

Scale Up of PPFP/PPIUCD services

As a direct outcome of the progress and positive results under the current project, several of the states, including Assam, Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Meghalaya, Haryana, Maharashtra, have initiated the scaling-up of PPFP/PPIUCD services up to the district level facilities. The trainings have been rolled out with Jhpiego’s technical support at Hyderabad, Kolkata, Guwahati, Cuttack, Shilong, Pune and Chennai as states’ efforts to increase the number of trained providers. GoI has also shown interest in scaling-up the PPFP/PPIUCD services in six high focus states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. The services will be introduced in a total of 150 district level facilities in these states by the end of 2012.

PPIUCD Acceptors: November 2010 - April 2012

The following figures show the trend of PPIUCD acceptors in the facilities of 16 BMGF supported states, segregated by type, i.e. Post placental, Intra Cesarean and Postpartum, from the period of November 2010- April 2012.

Figure 1 - State-wise PPIUCD Acceptors since Nov-2010*

*Data from “Scaling-up of PPFP/PPIUCD Services in India” with support from BILL & MELINDA GATES Foundation
Figure 2 - PPIUCD Acceptors by State Top 20 facilities Nov-2010 to Apr-2012*

![Bar chart showing PPIUCD acceptors by state and facility](#)

*Data from "Scaling up of PPF/PPIUCD Services in India" with support from BILL & MELINDA GATES Foundation

Figure 3 - Proportion of PPIUCD Acceptors among institutional deliveries Nov-2010 to Apr-2012*

![Pie chart showing proportion of PPIUCD acceptors](#)

*Data from "Scaling up of PPF/PPIUCD Services in India" with support from BILL & MELINDA GATES Foundation

Figure 4 - Follow-up Findings (Nov-2010 to Apr-2012)*

![Pie chart showing follow-up findings](#)

*Data from "Scaling up of PPF/PPIUCD Services in India" with support from BILL & MELINDA GATES Foundation

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