

Protecting Children in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan with Vitamin A

India, October 23, 2007



Micronutrient Initiative (MI) representatives visited Chattisgarh on October 23, 2007 during the “Sishu Sanrakshan Maah (Child Protection Month)”. In 2006, the Government of Chattisgarh announced that October and April would be celebrated as the health and nutrition promotion months in all the districts of the state. During this period a variety of important services are delivered including immunization, with focus on Administration of Vitamin A. Doses of this essential nutrient were

given to children aged 9 months to 5 years who have not received Vitamin A in the past 6 months. Other services offered included vaccines, with a focus on never or partially vaccinated children, de-worming, re-treatment of bed nets in malaria endemic districts only, salt testing for iodine content and iron and folate distribution to pregnant women and children. Nearly a million children were reached during each round in the first year while the state has targeted reaching more than 2 million children in October 2007. MI Asia Regional Director Luc Laviolette and National Program Manager for India for Child Survival Interventions Dr. Anand Lakshman were accompanied by Mr. Ken Porter from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) during this visit.



Bangladesh, October 27, 2007

The first round of the 16th National Immunization Days (NIDs) was observed in Bangladesh and vitamin A supplementation was incorporated for children under 5 years of age. The vitamin A supplements help support children's immune systems and ability to survive common but too often fatal diseases such as measles and diarrhea. More than 22 million children up to 5 years in age received the vaccines and vitamin A supplements. The incorporation of vitamin A supplements in the program was supported by Canadian International Development Agency

(CIDA), the Micronutrient Initiative and more partners. The NID's will be implemented through more than 60,000 health workers and volunteers in 140,000 vaccination centres including mobile centres and outreach sites across Bangladesh. A house-to-house search will follow each round in order to make sure no child misses the immunization. [Please read the newspaper article for details.](#)

Pakistan, October 29, 2007

Micronutrient Initiative (MI) representatives were pleased to attend the launch of the National Immunization Days with Vitamin A in the Pakistani province of Punjab. The NIDs with vitamin A in Punjab represents a significant opportunity to prevent vitamin A deficiency and protect many children given the high population of the province. MI Asia Regional Director Luc Laviolette and National Program Manager for Pakistan Dr. Noor Khan were accompanied by Mr. Ken Porter from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), who participated in the launch event on stage.