



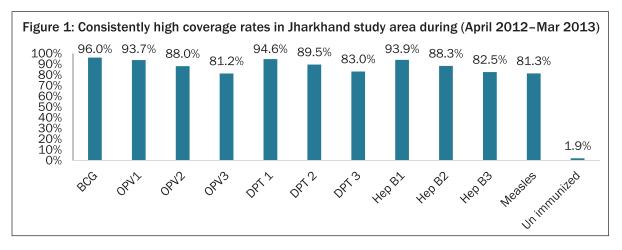
## Synopsis: My Village My Home (MVMH) Tool to Improve Immunization Coverage

As found in the recent surveys, full immunization coverage of children in India is low at 61%¹. This situation must be addressed, because immunization offers protection from vaccine-preventable diseases that disable and kill many children. In spite of an immunization program in place for more than 30 years, communities are not fully aware of the need for immunization and the vaccination schedule. In 2009, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched the "Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS)" to ensure that all pregnant women and newborns receive full maternal and child health services. But the system faced some ground-level issues in implementation, such as lack of clarity among health workers on the information to be fed into the software and lack of connectivity, leading ultimately to ineffective tracking of beneficiaries.

The USAID-funded Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) chose to work in districts of Deoghar and Jamatara (Jharkhand) that have traditionally been poor performing: full immunization coverage was 48.6% in Deoghar and 68.6% in Jamatara<sup>2</sup>.

During 2011 MCHIP adapted and modified the intervention of My Village My Home (MVMH) concept that was originally developed in 2003 by IMMUNIZATIONbasics<sup>3</sup>. This tool was developed with the intent to improve coverage by ensuring registration of all beneficiaries at village level, and then following up the beneficiaries to complete their immunizations as per the national immunization schedule. The tool simplifies tracking of infants due for immunizations and, most importantly, engages the community in the program. The intervention was initiated across 28 Anganwadi Centres in Jamtara and Deoghar districts to capture all births occurring in 2012–13. After witnessing the success with the intervention, MVMH tools in a flex form were provided to all the AWCs across the state by the state government, Jharkhand.

After implementation of the MVMH intervention, the findings revealed positive results with improved coverage for all antigens as depicted in the figure.



Coverage rates for all the vaccines were more than 80%, and the unimmunized rates were just 1.9% in the Jharkhand study areas (Deoghar and Jamtara).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Fully immunized among 12-23 months children; Coverage Evaluation Survey 2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Annual Health Survey 2011–12 data.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> http://www.immunizationbasics.jsi.com/Docs/BASICS\_MyVillageIsMyHome.pdf.

 $Effectively\ used, the\ MVMH\ tool\ can\ ensure\ complete\ immunization\ of\ beneficiaries\ and\ will\ improve\ the\ overall\ coverage\ within\ any\ geographical\ area.$ 

