

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS NEPAL

A pilot project to scale up **multiple micronutrient powder (MNP) supplementation** in six Nepalese districts was rolled out comparing two delivery models at community level. The most efficient delivery model will help design a national scale-up program for implementation in 2013.

- Program specifics: The two delivery models are: a) MNP distribution via Female Community Health Volunteers; b) MNP distribution via health facilities. The pilots started in May 2010 and were implemented one after another, each running 18 months subdivided into two supplementation phases and one rest period. Each participating child received 60 sachets per supplementation period that is one sachet every three days. The sachets contained 12 key vitamins and minerals including zinc. The last pilot ended September 2012.
- MNP is used to treat chronic malnutrition. Zinc strengthens the immune system and prevents stunted physical and mental development.
- Project Specifics:
 - 101,838 children aged six-23 months had received MNP supplementation.
 - A total of 12 million sachets of MNP were distributed.
 - 10,731 personnel including female community health volunteers, health workers, community agents and municipal staff in the six pilot districts have been educated on the utilization of zinc-containing MNP as well as zinc tablets and ORS for diarrhea treatment.
 - 3,311 mother group meetings were conducted by the female community health volunteers educating 88,956 mothers on zinc's benefits.
 - 50,382 people were reached through social mobilization and communication activities to create awareness on infant and young child feeding and micronutrient supplementation. Schools, pharmacies, government agencies and community-based organizations were also targeted.
 - Preliminary Result April 2012: MNP coverage is significantly higher using Female Community Health Volunteer- channel.
 - In fall 2012 the MNP program has been expanded to an additional nine districts.

UNICEF assisted the Government of Nepal in improving the nation-wide utilization of **dispersible zinc sulphate tablets** together with oral rehydration salts to control diarrhea as recommended by WHO/UNICEF

- A detailed review of Nepal's current zinc treatment for diarrhea strategy was completed and recommendations for improvement were made .
- UNICEF provided assistance to the Ministry of Health to create a behavior change communication to raise the awareness of zinc for diarrhea treatment.
- UNICEF supported the national procurement of zinc tablets for diarrhea treatment with 2 million zinc tablets.