

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In accordance with the broad NRHM guidelines, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has launched the programme in September 2007 with the primary aim of improving health status and quality of life of its rural population with clear and explicit emphasis on sustainable development measures. In order to achieve the objectives of the mission, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has put in place various institutional arrangements to operate, manage and monitor the activities envisaged under NRHM in the state. Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), a safe motherhood intervention under the umbrella of NRHM is proposed for all the pregnant women in the state of Uttar Pradesh. This includes a cash assistance to the pregnant woman to enable all antenatal care visits during the pregnancy period, institutional care during delivery and immediate post-partum period in a health centre by establishing a system of coordinated care by field level health workers namely ASHA/AWW and ANM with an overall objective to reduce maternal mortality ratio and infant mortality rate.

SIFPSA, which has been supporting private and public sector projects with the main objective to increase access, improve quality and create demand for the reproductive and child health services, had conceptualized an evaluation study of Janani Suraksha Yojana in collaboration with SPMU-NRHM to look into various aspects of the scheme with the purpose to assess whether or not the scheme has achieved its objectives and to what extent.

The evaluation of JSY scheme was undertaken at the instance of SIFPSA. On behalf of our organization, we take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the SIFPSA Management, particularly Mr. Amit Kumar Ghosh (IAS), Executive Director for entrusting us with this important assignment.

Thanks are also due to Dr. Neera Jain, GM (MH) SPMU-NRHM and Dr. Vijay Laxmi, AD (MCH), DoFW, GoUP for their inputs. We also convey our special thanks to Mr. B. K. Jain, GM (R&E), Mr. S. P. Khare Consultant (R&E) and Mrs. Seema George PC (R&E) for providing necessary support during the execution of this study. We acknowledge the help offered by Mr. K. S. Bisht, DPM (R&E) and Mrs. Mamta Verma, Secretary (R&E). Our appreciation also goes to the health officials in the districts for their cooperation during data collection.

Board Member of CREATE, Mr. Khatib Alam Khan and Dr. A. S. Dey, Advisor (Population & Health) spent their valuable time during discussions on the study and rendered all the possible support that really facilitated in completion of this assignment. We convey our special thanks to both of them. Last but not the least my special thanks are also due to the members of the study team of Ms. Maneesha Johri (Research Executive), Mr. Lalit Lohani (Jr. Research Executive) and other research and field professionals for their excellent and untiring efforts during various stages of the study that helped in bringing out this report.

We hope that the findings of the evaluation would be quite useful and facilitate SPMU-NRHM/SIFPSA in fine tuning the JSY scheme and taking administrative and programme related decisions to bring in a qualitative improvement in its functioning to attain the desired goals.

September, 2013

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