



Together for Nutrition 2014

Working Across Sectors to Improve Nutrition in India

What measures are needed to make existing intersectoral convergence between DWCD, DHFW and DRD more effective, for improved maternal, neonatal and child nutrition in Odisha?

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to Government of Odisha

October 30 2014

Outline

- Background
- Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Acknowledgements



Background

- Collaboration between the Departments of Woman and Child Development, Health and Family Welfare and Rural Development initiated under **Odisha Health Sector and Nutrition Support Programme (OHSNP) Phase II, 2012-2015**, with FA and TA from DFID
- Overall aim to improve maternal, neonatal & child health and nutrition
- **Aim of this study:** to assess effectiveness of convergence to date and make recommendations, focussing on an intensified priority area for convergence in child health and nutrition – rural sanitation

“ Undernutrition in rural Indian children has been an intractable puzzle... The impact on nutrition of many faecally-transmitted infections, not just the diarrhoeas, has been a blind spot.”

(Chambers and Medeazza, 2013)

Methods

- **Research** using qualitative methods
- Qualitative design **informed by secondary data**: review of documentation, national and Government of Odisha statistics
- **Qualitative methods**: semi-structured interviews with policy makers and key informants at state and district levels; focus group discussions with block functionaries and affected communities
- **Sampling**: Purposive, nutrition High Burden Districts of Kalahandi and Bolangir
- **Select rural sanitation issues and programmes presented here**, to exemplify some key points
- **Data analysis framework**: adaptation of Ved and Menon Framework (2012) for assessing extent and nature of intersectoral convergence

Feedback Loop for Ongoing Utilisation of Evidence



Actors: super-sectoral and sectoral national and state policy actors most crucial, then DPs and other actors
Decisions & Actions: Prioritisation for convergent intervention; financing ; mechanisms for accountability



Actors: national and state policy actors most crucial, then DPs and other actors
Decisions & Actions: policy, strategy, and financial decisions; operational choices; method guidance



Actors: state, district, block and community actors
Decisions & Actions: operational strategy; action plans; financial disbursement; HR; recruitment; training; revision/adaptation of existing interventions



Actors: national, state, district, block, community actors; third party evaluators
Decisions & Actions: indicators and processes for both M & E, for convergence, as well as for interventions

Results

- **Swachh Bharat Mission** (formerly NBA) governed at national and state level; immediate high policy priority, under new government
- **OHSNP** governed by Project Steering Committee, chaired by Development Commissioner. Attended by PSs and key officials of 3 nodal Departments (DWCD, DHFW, DRD), and e.g. Finance, PRD, SC & ST Development, School and Mass Education – and DFID
- Reviews financial and physical progress and monitors delivery on decisions and agreements
- Sets priorities: e.g. determined focus on multi-partner convergent action for ***accelerating and multiplying progress on sanitation...*** through demonstrating and scaling up modified Community Led Total Sanitation - and long term strategy to address open defecation

It's a good area for convergence from RD – they should exploit it...

Interview with senior state policy actor

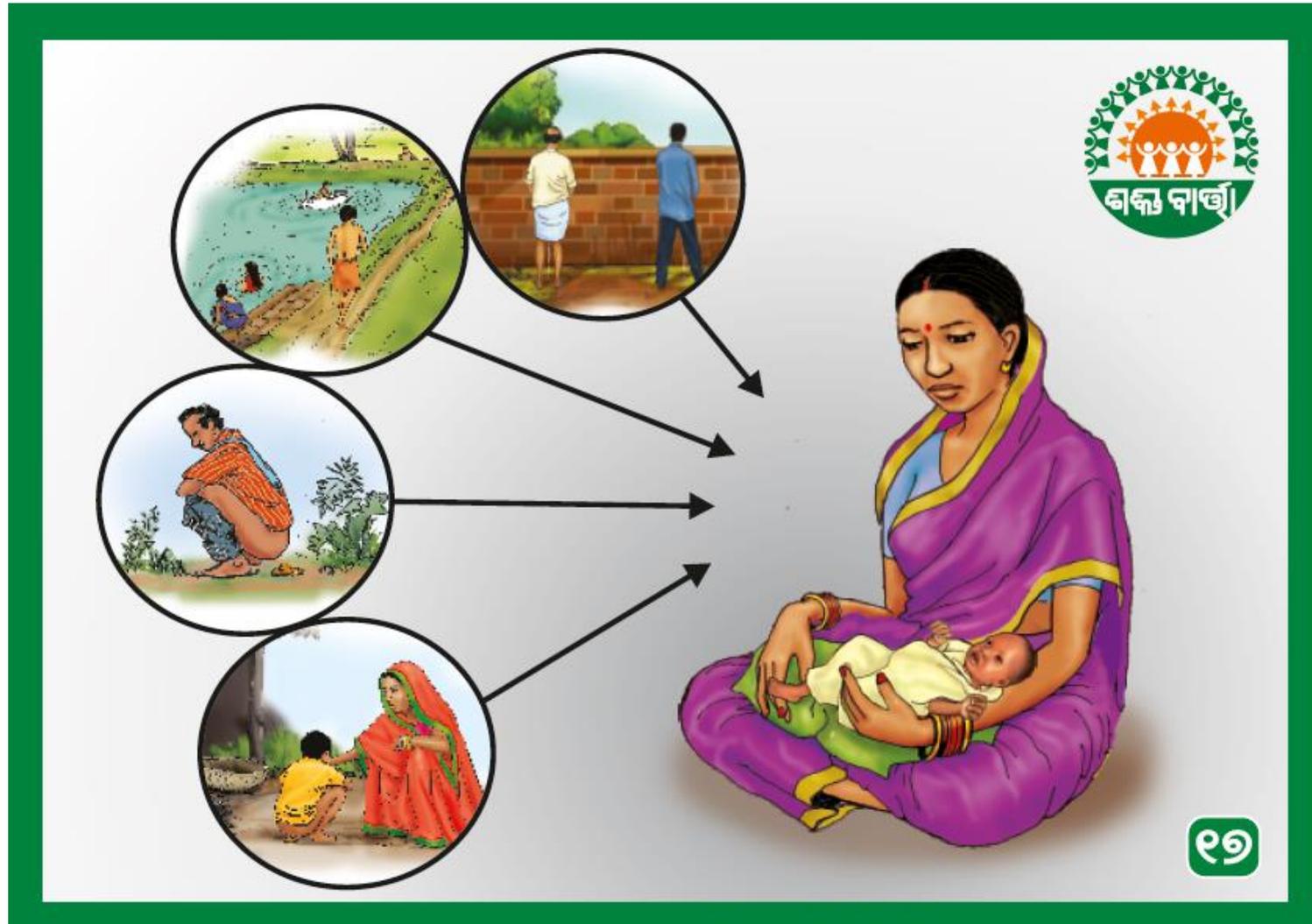
Results

The behaviour change [stopping open defecation] is the most important thing... previously it was just RD, now all Departments are roped in...

Interview with senior state policy actor

- Importance of demand creation through community processes recognised by policy actors, DPs and other stakeholders
- **Shakti Varta initiated:** scale integrated Health, Nutrition and WASH PLA Cycle, working with Mission Shakti in 15 High Burden Districts
 - Targets some 14 million people working with 100,000 SHGs
 - Intersectoral committee for planning, steering and approvals
 - Co-financed by DFID FA from DWCD, DHFW and DRD TA
 - Officials, FLWs and community actors of all sectors engaged
 - High quality, Odisha-specific, method guidance and tools
 - Linkages forged with supply side response to meet demand , including for modified CLTS and technical and hardware support

Convergent Shakti Varta PLA Cycle picture card linking Sanitation with Child Health and Nutrition



Results

We want that the convergence of MGNREGA should be stopped. When people construct toilets themselves, 100% use will be there. And it is possible...

Interview with district official

- Modified CLTS now implemented, engaging Collectors, officials across sectors and community actors at village level, including Anganwadi workers. Resource Persons in modified CLTS being trained for scale up
- Communities working to be open defecation free highlighted joint decision making, resource sharing, pride and desire to assist other villages. They also decided and enforced penalties for transgression: ***500 rupees fine for open defecation...***

FGD, affected community

- Benefits of appropriate convergence such as coordination and accountability were recognised: ***There should be one committee in the village... whether it is sanitation or health or anything. When we diversify...no one is ready to take the responsibility of other***

FGD, block functionaries

Results

Swachh Bharat Mission:

- State **Swachh Bharat Mission** results now reported monthly to national Secretary RD. State officials travel frequently to Delhi to provide updates
- State **Swachh Bharat Mission** Review Meetings now routine, but state MIS not yet up-to-date

OHSNP:

- Operations research quasi-experimental 3 arm design to evaluate modified CLTS interventions, including CLTS + Shakti Varta
- Concurrent Monitoring Survey of HNWASH services and outcomes, to provide reliable block level estimates, in every district of Odisha (2011, 2014, 2015)
- Shakti Varta (PLA) baseline (2014) and end-line evaluation (2016)
- Nutrition baseline (2011) and end-line evaluation (2014)
- Third party final evaluation of OHSNP: DWCD, DHFW and RD (2015)

Discussion

- New government catapulted **Swachh Bharat Abiyan**, as a peoples' movement, and **Swachh Bharat Mission**, to top of national policy agenda; coordinated convergent action across multiple departments will be essential to success
- In Odisha, immediate high level support and joint planning for Swachh Bharat Abiyan initiated. Chief Minister to visit Angul Block shortly; tasked to be ODF within 3 months . Momentum will need to be sustained to succeed and galvanise others
- Previous Nirmal Bharat Abiyan had strategy and guidelines, but not policy. National government has issued guidance for states to development Solid and Liquid Waste Management Policy. It will be important that this policy, and related strategies, guidelines and plans, are truly convergent, as opposed to simply consultative
- Unequivocal support from government administration above departmental level significantly advances effectiveness of convergence; in Odisha these include Development Commissioner, Nutrition Council and OHSNP PSC

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- Development of institutional frameworks, structures and processes for formalising convergent working, rather than ad-hoc or opportunistic actions, would support effectiveness. Departments have very different organisational cultures, institutional competences and ways of communicating, yet meaningful cross-departmental monitoring and accountability are required
 - Effective convergent action requires early adopters and champions; support from DPs and technical assistance can be helpful
 - Processes are often neither consistent, nor well communicated, between the state, district and sub-district levels, but this can be addressed through organisational development
 - Committee structures at sub-district level should be rationalised to assist effective convergence and increase accountability for delivery. This would support efficiency and quality of implementation

Acknowledgements

- TMST would like to thank the **Government of Odisha Department of Woman and Child Development, Department of Health and Family Welfare and Department of Rural Development** for their facilitation of this study
- TMST comprises experts from **Options Consulting Services, UK; IPE Global, India; and Care India**
- **DCOR Consulting Services** provided research translation and transcription services

This material has been funded by UK aid from the UK Government, however the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK Government's official policies

