

Foreword

About the Programme

Training Update

Diarrhoea Treatment Combi-Pack

Programme Champion

ORS Week

ZINC ORS NEWS

Quarterly Newsletter on Childhood Diarrhoea Management in Bihar Issue No. 1

FOREWORD



Dear friends,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the *Zinc ORS News* – a quarterly update to stakeholders on '**Reducing deaths from Diarrhoea**' programme through ORS and Zinc therapy in Bihar. As you may be aware, the Micronutrient Initiative (MI) is supporting the Department of Health & Family Welfare in Bihar to scale up the use of ORS and Zinc for treatment of childhood diarrhoea – one of the key causes of child deaths – through the public health system.

The programme seeks to build the capacity of frontline health workers including the ANM and ASHA as well as the *Anganwadi* workers to treat child diarrhoea cases. With the provision of adequate communications and supplies, supported by a strong monitoring system, it is expected to create a successful model that could be expanded across the state.

MI thanks the Department of Health & Family Welfare and the Department of Women & Child Development, Government of Bihar for their support in rolling out this important intervention in the quickest possible manner. We will endeavour to bring you regular updates on the program through this newsletter and seek feedback to improve this programme further.

Best regards,

Mathew Joseph

Director, India

Micronutrient Initiative



The State Health Society, Bihar considers the prevention and management of diarrhoeal diseases as central to improving child survival and is committed to support all programmatic interventions in reducing under five mortality rate. To reduce the burden of diarrhoea on child health and increase child survival, Micronutrient Initiative (MI) is providing technical and programmatic support to State Health Society, Bihar for implementing Childhood Diarrhoea Management programme in 15 districts of Bihar. The purpose of the three-year programme is to facilitate mainstreaming and scale-up of therapeutic zinc supplementation and Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) for treatment of childhood diarrhoea through public health system, while increasing the proportion of caregivers who seek rational treatment for diarrhoea.

Micronutrient Initiative (MI) has successfully conducted trainings of government health functionaries in the districts of Banka, Bhagalpur, Sheohar, Samastipur and Sitamarhi and also supplied combi-packs for diarrhoea treatment. Such interventions will build the capacity of public health personnel and strengthen the management of diarrhoeal diseases at grassroots level. I congratulate entire team of Micronutrient Initiative working in the state for the activities implemented till date and wish them success ahead.

Sanjay Kumar, IAS

Secretary, Health

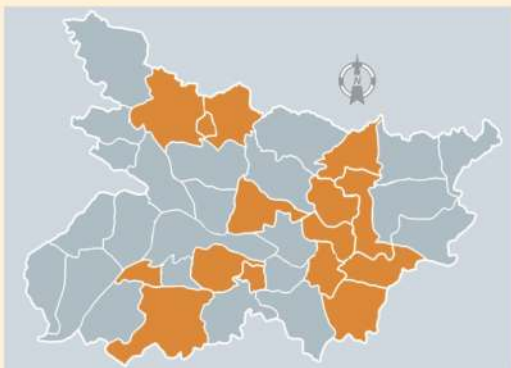
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Executive Director

State Health Society

ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

Micronutrient Initiative (MI) has been actively working towards promoting better health amongst children and thereby improving their quality of life. 'Reducing deaths from Diarrhoea' programme is one such initiative undertaken by MI in collaboration with Government of Bihar which aims to reduce child mortality caused due to diarrhoea. The deaths caused due to diarrhoea in children could be very easily prevented with proper education, training and easy accessibility of treatment facilities. With this mission, MI is implementing the demonstration phase of the programme in fifteen districts of Bihar, viz., Banka, Bhagalpur, East Champaran, Gaya, Jehanabad, Khagaria, Madhepura, Munger, Saharsa, Nalanda, Samastipur, Sheikhpura, Sheohar, Sitamarhi and Supaul. The programme is supported by The Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF).



Programme Districts in Bihar

The key objectives of the programme are:

- To build capacities of public sector health-care providers on revised diarrhoea management
- To ensure timely and easy accessibility of diarrhoea treatment combi-packs consisting of Zinc and ORS, at the point of care
- To ensure that there is adequate awareness among the caregivers with respect to Zinc and ORS administration

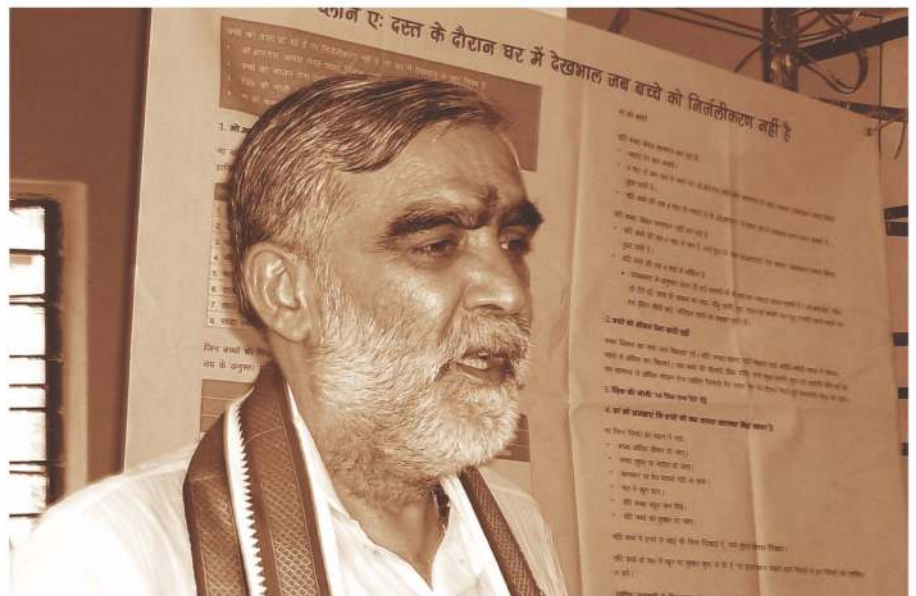
TRAINING OF HEALTH AND ICDS FUNCTIONARIES



Training Programme at Samastipur

With the support of State Health Society, MI launched cadre-wise training programme for the government health and ICDS functionaries. MI hired a professional training agency to conduct training programmes in the five districts of Banka, Bhagalpur, Sheohar, Samastipur and Sitamarhi over a period of two-and-half months starting from mid-May till the end of July. The training module consisted of revised diarrhoea management protocol, use of inter-personal communication tools and reporting of cases of childhood diarrhoea. The training programmes were conducted at three levels:

- Medical Officers and Child Development Project Officers were trained at districts
- ANMs, LHVs (Lady Health Visitors), Pharmacists, Block Health Managers, Block Community Mobilisers and Staff Nurses were trained at blocks
- ASHAs and AWWs (Aanganwadi Worker) were trained together



Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey

Honourable Health Minister, Bihar at Sultanganj block in Bhagalpur addressing health workers during training on diarrhoea management

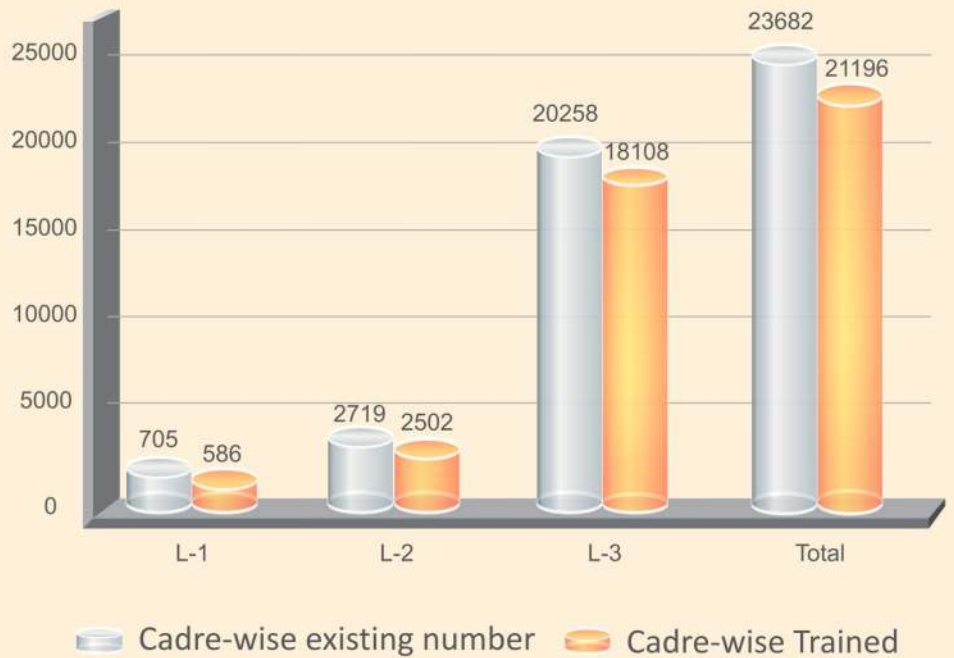


Washing hands with soap can reduce the risk of diarrhoeal diseases by 42–47%

Source: Lancet Review-Vol 3, May 2003

As shown in the graph, cadre-wise attendance ranged between 85-90% against the planned training load. More than 21,000 personnel were trained in the aforesaid five districts.

Level	Cadre-wise Existing Number	Cadre-wise Trained
L1	705	586
L2	2719	2502
L3	20258	18108
Total	23682	21196



PROGRESS UPDATE

DIARRHOEA TREATMENT COMBI-PACK

In an endeavour to effectively treat childhood diarrhoea, Micronutrient Initiative (MI) has procured seed supply of ORS and Zinc formulation as per the standards recommended by WHO and GOI.

MI has designed a compact treatment unit, **combi-pack**, with two sachets of ORS and 14 tablets of Zinc. A pictorial leaflet illustrating preparation of ORS and Zinc solution along with a 'measure' is also included in each combi-pack.

MI has distributed nearly nine lakh combi-packs in five districts of Banka, Bhagalpur, Samastipur, Sheohar and Sitamarhi till date. MI's efforts of distribution of combi-packs in public has been substantiated by concerned district health functionaries and have made availability of combi-packs to Primary Health Centres (PHC), Health Sub-centres (HSC) and to frontline health functionaries including ASHA and *Aanganwadi* workers (AWW). This distribution of combi-packs by MI is in addition to the supply made by the state government through ASHA drug kits.



An ASHA administering Zinc solution to a child suffering from diarrhoea in Paswan tola village, Ujjiyarpur block of Samastipur district

