India: Actions at the Policy Level – taking policy for anemia control as an example

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Goal for Anemia Control in India

- Reduce anemia prevalence by 25% and severe anemia by 50% among children and pregnant women
- This was the goal in
  - 9th Five year plan (1997-2002)
  - 10th Five year plan (2002-2007)
  - 11th Five year plan (2007-2012)
- likely to be the goal for the 12th Five year plan (2012-2017)
Anemia

★ Children: Very High 80% among under three years of age
★ Different SES consistently high…
  - Urban (63%)
  - Wealthiest households (56%)
  - Children whose mother’s have 12+ years of education (55%)
  - Girls (69%), boys (70%)
  - Women: Over 50%;
  - Pregnant Women 58%: Similar picture
Why Anemia Control?

Reduction of:
- Progress towards MDG 4 & 5
- Less morbidity and mortality of mothers
- Less blood loss
- Less chances of deaths
- Faster recovery to normalcy
- More birth weight of the child
- Better survival of child
- Less infection
- Better growth potential
- More appetite

The World Health Organizations (WHO) 2002 Report titled “Preventing Risk, Promoting Healthy Life”, mentioned iron deficiency as one of the top 10 preventable risks to disease disability and death in the world today.
Why Anemia Control?

Results into

Improved Learning ability

Better Mental concentration

More energy and better health

More Strength and work capacity and so more income!

Because that

Improves School achievement

Increases Earning potential

Raises Ability to care for family

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Treatment and control of anemia can increase national productivity by over 20%
Anemia Control: Partners

- Government
- Health + Education
- NGOs
- Private sectors
- International Agencies
- Research Institutes

Client Centered Anemia Control

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Ownership

Health

Education

Agriculture

Social Welfare

Women and Children

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