

## Orientation of private providers on MNCH guidelines in Himachal Pradesh and Delhi

In continuation of the effort to orient private providers on government schemes and guidelines, two more trainings were organized through USAID supported Vriddhi project. Capacity building efforts were initiated in Himachal Pradesh through training of 37 pediatricians in January and a second round of training was organized in Delhi adding another 48 pediatricians to the pool of private providers trained on government schemes. About 40 private providers were trained in the first round in Delhi. The origin of these trainings is traced to findings from six states landscape assessment which indicated that private providers had limited information on government schemes and rarely followed government endorsed guidelines.

In alignment with the format followed in previous trainings, the meeting in Himachal Pradesh was facilitated by representatives from professional associations (Dr. Ajay Gambhir), local chapters of the association (Dr. Rakesh Sharma) and JSI (Dr. Sudhir Maknikar). Dr. Anil Gupta (IPE Global) also participated. The highlight of the training was The Mission Director (MD), National Health Mission (NHM), Shri Pankaj Rai, inaugurating the training. MD, NHM addressed the gathering and informed that the Maternal and Child Health indicators of HP as compared to other States are not very encouraging but the NHM and the State government have collectively undertaken various initiatives such as Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Menstrual hygiene scheme (MHS), Weekly Iron Folic Supplementation (WIFS) and Maternal & Child Health (MCH) wings, for improved maternal and child health outcomes. He urged the private providers to come forward and volunteer for the Prime Minister's initiative of Pradhan Mantri Matrutva Suraksha Abhiyan (PMSMA) and contribute for providing quality Antenatal care services to mothers. The Officer on Special Duty, Child Health, Dr. Mangla Sood also reflected on these issues. The participants shared that they would like to participate in such discussions. They also got an opportunity to discuss issues that they face while engaging in public sector schemes directly with the MD.



MD, NHM, HP Shri Pankaj Rai addressing the gathering



Dr. J P Kapoor interacting with the doctors and discussing newborn health issues in Delhi

In Delhi too, the Director, Health and Family Welfare (Dr. J.P. Kapoor) presided over the training. At the end of the training, not only did the participants get access to information and copies of the government Maternal Newborn and Child Health guidelines, they were able to understand the ways to contribute to overall reduction of maternal and infant mortality in Delhi. The private providers, after detailed deliberations with Director (HFW) and their professional association's representatives, could articulate steps needed to strengthen their engagement with the government. These included instructions from the government to follow standard treatment protocols, irrespective of private or public sector health service sector, creation of a portal for all doctors where they can access guidelines and involvement of paramedical staff in the quality improvement and government engagement activities as they are the primary drivers of health care.