



Saving Women's Lives with Misoprostol: Asia Programs

*In South Central Asia women have a 1 in 61 lifetime risk of dying from maternal causes¹, the majority due to excessive bleeding after childbirth, or **postpartum hemorrhage (PPH)**.*



VSI is working in Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan to ensure widespread access to misoprostol and information on its effective use in women's health, focusing on **policy** development, **training** and **distribution** through the public and private sectors.

Highlighted Activities

- Identification of several high quality manufacturers in Bangladesh, Egypt and India and negotiation of the world's lowest export prices for generic misoprostol for obstetric and gynecologic use
- Technical assistance in registration of misoprostol for postpartum hemorrhage in Bangladesh (2007), Nepal (2008) and Pakistan (2009)
- Training of doctors, nurses, midwives and community-level providers on misoprostol for PPH
- Strategic guidance on nationwide rollout plan of misoprostol for PPH in Bangladesh
- Community-level research in Bangladesh wherein trained birth attendants and community health workers provide misoprostol via clean delivery kits to prevent PPH; enrolled over 90,000 women who deliver at home
- Procurement of misoprostol tablets to support distribution via community-level health providers in Nepal and Bangladesh
- Pharmacy detailer education on misoprostol for PPH in Pakistan

VSI works in collaboration with many partners in its Asia programs, including ministries of health.

International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh, EngenderHealth-Bangladesh, UC Berkeley Bixby Center for Population, Health and Sustainability, Gonoshasthaya Pharmaceuticals Ltd., MCHIP-Bangladesh, Nepal Family Health Program, CRS-Nepal, Nepal Fertility Care Center, National Committee for Maternal and Neonatal Health-Pakistan, Zafa Pharmaceuticals, Greenstar-Pakistan

¹ Population Reference Bureau. World Population Data Sheet. Washington, DC: PRB, 2009.

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