

Country Story, India

Uttar Pradesh Team - Advocates for action

2003

Uttar Pradesh team that attended the IBP India Intra-Country Meeting, September 2003 set out **“to improve the quality of service delivery in order to increase access to and acceptance of family planning services at all sites”**.

Their root-cause analysis of local challenges led them to the observation that only 25% of auxiliary nurse-midwives (ANM) lived in the sub-centres where they served. When ANMs did not live at the sub-centres, people’s access to services was more limited. Underlying the low residency rate was the low level of housing subsidy that the ANMs received.

Central government policy called for higher subsidies, but state-level decision makers had yet to act.

Following the Agra IBP launch meeting, the team took up an advocacy to improve the housing conditions for ANMs. The campaign was directed to the Secretary of Health and Family Welfare and Finance Ministry and involved letter-writing, meetings and workshops.

By the end of November 2003 the Department of Family Welfare had issued a Government Order increasing the subsidy from 100 rupees to 250 rupees per month, and in mid-December the funds were released.

The team had accomplished its goal in just four months.

The next 5-year health plan called for improving housing facilities for ANMs.