



Asha Healthcare

Making a difference in the slums of India

One Billion Slum Dwellers Worldwide Around one third of inhabitants of the world's cities live in the urban slums. Health threats abound; from poor sanitation and refuse collection, to pollution and chemical contamination.

In India, slum dwellers have neither the knowledge nor the means to manage these threats. Asha works in partnership with the local community to deliver comprehensive healthcare services. Its programme is one of a few that has demonstrated significant reductions in mortality rates among new-borns and children in urban slums.

	India's urban poor	ALL of India	Asha Slums
Number of child deaths under 12 months (per 1,000 live births)		50 ¹	14
Number of child deaths under 5 (per 1,000 live births)	112 ³	66 ²	17.8
Children who have received WHO recommended vaccinations against 10 preventable diseases	54%		95%
Children unhealthy / malnourished for their age	80%	52% ²	8.5%
Expectant mothers receiving at least one antenatal check		77% ⁴	98%
Expectant mothers receiving three antenatal checks		?	98%
Mothers receiving skilled attendance during delivery		47% ²	98%
New-born children breastfed within 6 hours of birth		41% ²	100%

¹ Home Ministry's Registrar General of India, 2009

² UNICEF, 2009

³ "THE STATE OF URBAN HEALTH IN DELHI" Dr. S Agarwal, Mr. A Srivastava
Dr. B Choudhary and Dr. S Kaushik for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, 2007

⁴ WHO World Health Statistics 2010



Living in a slum:

Average dwelling measures 6'x8' 1 water pump per 1,000 people Summer temperature 45 degrees 1 toilet per 27 households (where provided) Illegal dwellings can be destroyed without notice

And, healthcare is just one of Asha's programmes. It cares for the isolated elderly too, and has an education programme that has resulted in many slum children going to university, something which was previously unheard of.