

Grant Orientation Workshop

The **T**echnical **A**ssistance in **C**apacity Building in **M**idwifery, **I**nformation & **L**ogistics (TACMIL Health Project) grant orientation ceremony was held today in Islamabad. The TACMIL Health Project is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Abt Associates Inc. The purpose of the grant program is to identify innovative ways for delivering good quality, family friendly preventive health care services through either public/private partnerships or through the private sector alone. It is expected that the grants program will address health systems' challenges in the public, private, or commercial sectors which can be resolved with modest grant assistance by concerted local effort of non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Six NGOs, who have experience working in the health sector, have been selected to receive grant awards in *round one*. These organizations are Al Qaim Women Development Organization, Association for Gender Awareness and Human Empowerment, Health and Nutrition Development Society, Strengthening Participatory Organization, Centre for Peace and Development, and Midwifery Association of Pakistan. These NGOs will implement programs in the districts of Jhelum, Charsadda, Gwadar, Dadu, D.G Khan, Thatta and Larkana.

The orientation session provided the *round one* grant recipients with a general overview on TACMIL Health Project and provided the grantees with an opportunity to present their proposed activities, which include:

- Strengthening intra natal care skills through training of 'AMSTL' and 'partograph' techniques and its implementation through public health facilities.
- Strengthening local governance and civil society for the formation and allocation of need-based health budgets in public sector, and dissemination of budget information to beneficiaries.
- Forming and strengthen 'health monitoring committees' at union council and district levels and improving community awareness of basic rights to good quality health services.
- Strengthening referral mechanisms and increasing utilization of public health facilities through community mobilization and promotion of safe motherhood services in public and private health facilities through a voucher scheme.
- Improving access to family friendly and reproductive health services using advocacy and capacity building skills.
- Improving health care service delivery system through the introduction of a community-based monitoring system.

Mr. William Conn, USAID Technical Officer for the TACMIL Health Project and Dr. Zafarullah Gill, Chief of Party, Abt Associates Inc. were present at this occasion. They highlighted the importance of this program and emphasized on using proactive strategies and approaches to get the desired results. They urged the grantees to link the activities with the existing public health management activities and to strive for making these models sustainable in terms of program and finance. At the end, Mr. Conn awarded the contracts and cheques for first payment in this grant program.