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## \$14mn tie-up for healthcare of women, kids

**Mumbai:** The US Agency for International Development (USAID), the Kiawah Trust of the UK and an Indian foundation launched a \$14 million partnership on Wednesday for the healthcare needs of adolescent girls, mothers, newborns and kids in India.

According to the trust, India's mortality statistics are alarming and a huge percentage is avoidable. About 67,000 mothers die each year from complications during pregnancy and childbirth. Almost half the children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition, with about 70% of these suffering from anemia. The alliance will enable greater engagement and committed resources through a multi-stakeholder approach focused on fostering innovation, improving health outcomes, and scaling high impact interventions.

Dr Rajiv Shah, USAID administrator, said: "Partnership and inspiration born of local solutions hold the key to achieving gains in health, prosperity, and dignity." USAID invited India's entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, foundations, financial institutions, investors and philanthropists to join it. Neera Nundy, co-founder of Dasra, a strategic philanthropic foundation, the Indian component of the partnership, said USAID would invest in local partners. **TNN**

# THE ECONOMIC TIMES

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## Dr. Rajiv Shah Interview

**When we make investments, we seek matching funds from Indian organisations: Rajiv Shah, USAID**  
Gayatri Nayak, ET Bureau Mar 6, 2013, 05.52PM IST

*USAID will be co-partnering with the government of India and with the private sector to tackle issues like food security, says [Rajiv Shah](#), Administrator of United States for International Development in a talk with [Gayatri Nayak](#) and [Karthik Krishnan](#)*

### Can you tell us a bit about your agenda in India?

President Obama was here in 2010. India is an indispensable partner for the US. At that time, we decided we will change the way [USAID](#) partners and operates in India and transition away from being a traditional development partner and build our efforts as an innovation lab to support and tackle big global challenges around the world with India as a partner. We are meeting with and expanding partnerships with private companies, private philanthropists and scientists and work more closely. We tackle issues like agriculture and address food insecurity in [Africa](#) or reducing under-five child mortality and preventing child death here in India and all around the world. In all of those cases, we see Indian efforts are critical to building a world that can successfully take on some of the big moral challenges of our time.

### So, what role are you seeing for yourself in terms of co-coordinating or getting funds?

Last June, [Ghulam Nabi Azad](#), Minister of Health and Family Welfare along with other partners convened a major effort in Washington DC to convince the world to tackle the fact that too many children die under the age of 5. Nearly 7 million die and about 22% of them are in India. Two weeks ago in Chennai, the Indian leaders held their own call-to-action to prevent child death. Azad brought many ministers and leaders from states and the private sector together to come up with detailed plans of saving children's life.

### There are many American agencies involved in such activities. How would you stand apart?

We are focussed on partnering with the private sector and pursuing and searching for the kinds of innovative new solutions that can apply in India and also in other parts of the world like Afghanistan and Africa. We met with Indian private sector leaders to learn about the differing strategies they were employing here and to partner with them to bring their business models and their technology to African countries that are dealing with hunger and food insecurity. USAID is partnering with them to help them tackle hunger and poverty in Africa.

### Is the US trying to learn from the Indian model?

Yes. We are also working with [Indian organisations](#) to help support [women](#) in Afghanistan or to help improve health efforts here in India and throughout Asia where we can save more children's life.

### What kind of [funding](#) support are you planning to commit in India?

The US has a broad partnership with India. Our partnership is different now than 40 years ago when India needed a lot of external financing. Today, we do our work in partnerships. When we make [investments](#), we seek matching funds from Indian organisations. Many times we will do one-to-one matching programmes with local Indian businesses and one example of that is that the Millennium Alliance with the [Ficci](#), with whom we created

a grant programme to encourage Indian entrepreneurs to develop solutions to address extreme poverty. We do that with matched Indian co-financing.

**What has been your commitment so far?**

Our commitment has so far been \$100 million a year. It has been pretty consistent in that regard.

**Which sectors are you looking at?**

Health, public health, renewable energy and food security and agriculture. We also have some efforts in education.

**At the Indian policy level, there are a lot of challenges. Are you providing any advisory support on that?**

We do provide support. One of our longstanding partnerships has been in [tuberculosis](#) control and we provide support to the national tuberculosis programme. In over 25 years of that programme, we believe, the programme led and financed by the [Indian government](#) has saved more than 2.5 million lives. That is just one example. Efforts will only be successful if the Indian government makes the right policy decisions to prevent hunger and child death to tackle and address tuberculosis.

**Are you working with NGOs and other not-for-profit organisations?**

We work more than before with the private sector and NGOs. We seek to work with the most innovative models like providing smart off-grid energy solutions to rural communities. That has a huge life-changing impact on the rural community.

**Has the role of India changed over the years?**

It used to be that we would spend resources here in India for services or activities. Today, the focus is on finding the most novel and important innovations to address the challenges we have identified and bring those solutions to other parts of the world. This partnership in Africa on ending hunger is one example. An Indian mobile phone is providing agriculture extension services by giving handheld mobile devices to African farmers. An Indian seeds and chemical company is providing seeds to African farmers.

**Is India going from being a seeker to a giver?**

Absolutely, we are facilitating it and India benefits from the efforts too.

**Besides helping farmers in Africa, what are the other areas where you are seeking to replicate Indian models?**

India is a co-convenor to prevent child death. There are many Indian companies creating most of the world's vaccines. Many of the most notable new diagnostics technology for tuberculosis are coming from Indian scientists and delivered around the world. We work in public health and food. About 70% of our budget goes to health.

## India gets \$16.4mn aid to tackle child deaths

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
MUMBAI, MARCH 6

To help tackle child deaths in the country, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced a fund of \$16.4 million for establishing quick response teams in India. The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has also developed score-cards to gauge how states in

the country are faring in tackling child mortality in their respective states.

Dr Raj Shah, administrator of USAID said, "USAID has extended two of its flagship projects for child survival — the integrated maternal and child health project (MCHIP), and the health of the urban poor project (HUP). The MCHIP with a total funding of US \$16.4 million will support

### USAID to grant fund for establishing quick response teams in India

The Government of India (GoI) in establishing a quick response team, which will provide support to states on the cusp of

accelerating their efforts for child survival. The HUP will continue to support the Centre in the implementation of its urban health programmes."

In addition to the funding, the USAID will also offer help in providing technical expertise to the country and also form public private partnership to give an impetus to the efforts to bring down the child mor-

tality rate on a countrywide scale.

In order to measure how the states are performing and to improve accountability, the ministry of health and family welfare has also developed a National Survival Score Card and an innovative dashboard to track progress on child survival and development. Additional secretary,

ministry of health, family and welfare and mission director of NRHM, Anuradha Gupta said, "It's an evolved scorecard, we will measure the performances based on two kinds of data. One is comparative, which is where each state stands vis-a-vis one another and then we have periodic data on the basis of which we would have the national indicators."

## US extends 2 child projects in India

MUMBAI: The United States has announced extension of two of its flagship projects on child survival in India by pledging financial support, an official said on Wednesday.

Integrated maternal and child health project (MCHIP) and health of urban poor project (HUP) have been pledged support, said visiting US Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Rajiv Shah.

The MCHIP, with a total funding of \$16.4 million, will support the Indian government in establishing quick response teams which in turn will help states on the cusp of accelerating their efforts for

child survival.

The HUP programme will continue to support the Indian government in implementing its various urban health initiatives, Shah told reporters in the city.

"I applaud the Government of India's commitment to saving children's lives by establishing an integrated approach to address reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health," Shah said.

The USAID has also announced a new effort to support diarrhoea management, one of the leading causes of child deaths in India.

— AGENCIES

## USAID, Kiawah Trust, and Dasra to address maternal and child mortality

Mumbai

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Kiawah Trust of U.K., and Dasra, India's leading strategic philanthropy foundation, on Wednesday launched a new \$14 million partnership to address the health-care needs of adolescent girls, mothers, newborns, and children in India. The announcement was made at the Dasra Philanthropy Week 2013 in Mumbai.

Indian women and children continue to face major health challenges. Approximately 67,000 mothers die each year from complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

Almost half of children under the age of five suffer from chronic malnutrition, with about 70 percent of these children suffering from anemia.

To address maternal and child mortality, the alliance will enable greater engagement and committed resources through a

multi-stakeholder approach focused on fostering innovation, improving health outcomes, and scaling high impact interventions.

In his address, Dr. Rajiv Shah, Administrator of USAID, said, "At the forefront of global innovation and progress, India is leading the fight against some of our greatest challenges in development—from ending extreme poverty to realizing a world without hunger. But innovation alone will not lead us to solve the world's development challenges.

Partnership and the inspiration born of local solutions hold the key to achieving unprecedented gains in human health, prosperity, and dignity." Dr. Shah invited India's entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, foundations, financial institutions, investors, and philanthropists to join USAID in driving meaningful solutions to India's development challenges.



## Indo-Asian News Service

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### **US extends two child projects in India**

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"I applaud the Government of India's commitment to saving children's lives by establishing an integrated approach to address reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health," Shah said.

The USAID has also announced a new effort to support diarrhoea management, one of the leading causes of child deaths in India.

Out of the total funding of \$4.7 million, the partnership is leveraging \$2.4 million from the private sector.

Pharmasynth, an Indian manufacturer of Oral Rehydration Solution, is partnering with the USAID-supported Strengthening Health Outcomes through Private Sector Project in the marketing of zinc syrup in 22 districts of Uttar Pradesh through 1,100 rural health practitioners.

In addition, USAID will work with ITC's e-Choupal network, to scale-up access to Oral Rehydration Solution, zinc, and other health products, across 11 districts.

As part of the new USAID-India strategy on building local partnerships models, Shah said USAID will announce two new alliances totalling up to \$24 million.

India and US also renewed their commitment, through USAID to end all preventable child deaths and to strengthen India's Call to Action on Child Survival and Development, at a summit held in Tamil Nadu last month.

"The renewed commitment of partners from the Call to Action Summit will be taken forward on a campaign mode to both urban and rural communities in all states," said Anuradha Gupta,

additional secretary in ministry of health & family welfare and mission director, National Rural Health Mission.

Noting that high-impact interventions and tools for child survival have led to a faster than global average decline in India's under-5 mortality rate, Gupta said: "This progress is proof that the technology and the necessary know-how to reach even the most vulnerable children with life-saving practices are available in India."

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## America aims to collaborate with India to propel development.

Substance – There are many Indian-Americans serving on key positions in President Obama’s cabinet. Dr. Rajiv Shah is one such high-ranking official, serving as the Administrator for USAID. In his present position, Dr. Shah has worked on important issues like food security (President Obama’s ‘feed the future’ program), disaster management, education and research. On a recent visit to Mumbai, Dr. Shah shared the USAID vision with the Janmabhoomi team. He underscored that USAID wants to work with India on issues like eliminating poverty and malnutrition. On a question of the seeming contradiction of bumper crops on one hand and malnutrition deaths in India on the other hand, Dr. Shah opines that the need of the hour is to use science and technology and to improve the public distribution system to solve this problem. Dr. Shah underscored USAID’s aim to partner with private organizations to make progress and development by implementing innovations.

### ભારત સાથે હાથ મિલાવીને વિકાસ સાધવાની અમેરિકાની નેમ છે : ડૉ. રાજીવ શાહ

આશિષ ભીન્ડે તરફથી  
મુંબઈ, તા. ૧૬ : બરક ઓબામાના તંત્રમાં અનેક ભારતીયો મહત્વના પદો છે. આવા જ એક ભારતીય એટલે ડૉ. રાજીવ શાહ. યુ. એસ. એજન્સી ફોર ઈન્ટરનેશનલ ડેવલપમેન્ટ (યુએસએઈડ)ના સંચાલક તરીકે કાર્યરત ડૉ. રાજીવ શાહ ભારતીય મૂળના આ અમેરિકને ૨૦૦૮થી આ પદભાર સંભાળ્યા પછી ફૂડ સિક્યોરિટી, ડિઝાસ્ટર મેનેજમેન્ટ અને સંશોધન તથા શિક્ષણ ક્ષેત્રે અનેક કાર્યો પાર પાડ્યાં છે. બરક ઓબામાના ‘ફીડ ધ ફ્યુચર’ નામના ફૂડ સિક્યોરિટી કાર્યક્રમના વડા ડૉ. શાહ હાલ મુંબઈ આવ્યા હતા ત્યારે યુએસએઈડના ભાવિ કાર્યક્રમો અંગે ચર્ચા કરી હતી. ‘અમેરિકા ભારતના પારંપરિક વિકાસ ભાગીદાર તરીકે નહીં, પણ સાથે મળીને વિકાસ તરફ આગળ વધવાની ભૂમિકા ભજવવા માગે છે. ભારત સાથે મળીને ગરીબી તથા ભૂખમરો દૂર કરવાના તથા ખેતીમાં નાવીન્યતાના મામલે આગળ વધવાની અમારી નેમ છે.’



ડૉ. રાજીવ શાહ

ભારતમાં એક તરફ અનાજનું અમ્પર ઉત્પાદન થાય છે, તો બીજી તરફ ભૂખમરોનું પ્રમાણ પણ ઊંચું છે. તમને શું લાગે દૂર થાય તો ચિત્ર બદલાઈ શકે છે’ એમ ડૉ. રાજીવ શાહ જણાવ્યું હતું. અમેરિકાએ આ વર્ષે અનેક કુદરતી આપદાઓનો સામનો કર્યો છે અને ખૂબ જ સારી રીતે તમામ સમસ્યાઓ સાથે પનારો પાડવામાં પણ તમને સફળતા મળી છે. આ કઈ રીતે શક્ય બન્યું? ‘હવામાનને લગતી આપદાઓ ખૂબ જ ગંભીર છે. વિથના મોટા ભાગના દેશો આ પ્રકારની સમસ્યા સામે ઝઝૂમી રહ્યા છે. અન્ય દરેક ક્ષેત્રોની જેમ ડિઝાસ્ટર મેનેજમેન્ટ ક્ષેત્રે પણ અમે નાવીન્યતાને પ્રાધાન્ય આપ્યું છે’ એમ ડૉ. રાજીવ શાહે જણાવ્યું હતું. યુએસએઈડની ભારત માટેની શી યોજનાઓ છે? ‘આગળ કહ્યું તેમ ભારત સાથે પારંપરિક વિકાસ ભાગીદાર બનવાને બદલે સાથે મળીને વિકાસનો માર્ગ બનાવવો એ બાબત પ્રાથમિકતા પર છે. પ્રાઈવેટ સેક્ટર સાથે હાથ મિલાવીને વિકાસની સંસ્કૃતિ પડવાની અમારી યોજના છે’ એમ ડૉ. રાજીવ કહે છે.