

## **CUTS Selected as Mother NGO**

CUTS has been selected as the Mother NGO (MNGO) for Chittorgarh, Rajasthan under the 'Reproductive and Child Health (RCH)' scheme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India (GoI). CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD), Chittorgarh is performing as the MNGO in the district.

The MoHFW has been supporting NGO involvement in health and family welfare activities, including the Reproductive Health Programme, since the early 1980s. Several schemes over the last two decades have supported technical and managerial strengthening of non-governmental organisation (NGO) through a variety of mechanisms.

In the ninth five-year plan (1997-2002), Department of Health and Family Welfare (DoHFW) introduced the Mother NGO scheme under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme. Under this scheme, DoFW is identifying and sanctioning grants to the selected NGOs called Mother NGOs in allotted district /s. these MNGOs, in turn, issue grants to smaller NGOs, called Field NGOs (FNGOs), in the allocated district/(s). The grants are used for promoting the goals/objectives as outlined in the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme of GoI.

The objectives of the project broadly include:

- Utilisation and delivery of health services for reduction in maternal mortality;
- Reproductive mortality;
- Infant mortality and fertility;
- Improvement in maternal healthcare;
- Addressing general healthcare issues;
- Childcare; and
- Family welfare through multi-stakeholder involvement and action.

During the ongoing preparatory phase, CUTS CHD has identified 4 FNGOs out of 15 NGOs applied for participating in the scheme, in response to an advertisement issued in leading newspapers. The DoHFW also has trained a few CHD staff, responsible for the implementation of the scheme. Now in turn, CHD is in the process of providing training during October 09-13, 2006 to the selected representatives of FNGOs. The field survey will begin on the completion of the FNGOs training. In consultation with the District Reproductive and Health Officer, Chittorgarh, CHD also identified the proposed area (non-serviced and small serviced) for the implementation of the scheme.

The Ministry is also considering appointing CUTS as the MNGO for Bhilwara district as well. The appraisal for the same is over and approval by the Ministry is awaited.