Context:
Widespread poverty and illiteracy have spawned some of the most devastating health indicators in this most populous state of India. The state’s public sector health services are dependent on weak, fragmented, and overly centralized management. Uttar Pradesh continues to be a key state for India’s achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. There are several health system issues that impede efficient and effective delivery of health services to its population.

Project Development Objective:
To establish an appropriately-managed health system, through the delivery of effective services, stemming from policy reform, institutional, and human resources development, in addition to investments in health services.

Project Components:
- Developing a strategic management capacity – through a review of health systems performance; the establishment of a drug policy; forging public-private partnerships; developing accurate health management information systems; and conducting management training;
- Improving the quality of clinical practice in public health services and of access to health services.

Location/Scale:
Some state wide systemic interventions and the rest in 28 districts across the state, largely in the poorest regions of the state: Bundelkhand and Eastern UP; the Project is also being implemented in the state of Uttarakhand, which was earlier a part of UP.

Status:
There has been a steady increase in the health budget allocations and expenditures, with the state health budget going up 200 percent in the 11th Plan as against the 10th Plan.

The Project has also piloted a number of innovative initiatives aimed at increasing the access of the poor to healthcare services in both states such as mobile health vans, vouchers for services and using NGOs for service delivery in remote areas.