



# News Release



**Office of Public Affairs**

**U.S. Embassy**

## **USAID-funded Birthing Station Serves Mothers, Newborns in Dir Khot Sattian**

*Islamabad, May 5, 2007* – A newly set up birthing station with the financial assistance from USAID at Kot Siya in Union Council Dir Kot Sattian, some twelve kilometers from Murree, has been providing round-the-clock services for women and has delivered seven healthy babies since February.

“The Kot Siya Birthing Station, open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, will be a safe haven for women who experience problems during pregnancy or during childbirth,” the USAID Mission Director to Pakistan, Mr. Jonathan Addleton, said during his visit to the Basic Health Unit on Saturday along with Rawalpindi District Nazim Raja Mohammad Javed Ikhlas.

Speaking in Urdu, Mr. Addleton, who was born in Murree, recalled that like most children in the area, he had been born at home. “This works fine when there are no complications,” Mr. Addleton said.

Kot Siya sits at the end of a windy jeep track that’s closed in winter. Prior to establishment of the birthing station, pregnant women had to travel for hours to get care. These days, through USAID support, trained staff is providing antenatal, postnatal and newborn care as well as normal delivery services at BHU Kot Siya. District government is providing the building, refurbishment and maintenance costs.

“People in Dir Kot Sattian will gradually take over the running and management of this birthing station through a local Community Health Committee,” hoped District Nazim, Raja Mohammad Javed Ikhlas.

This birthing station was established under USAID’s Pakistan Initiative for Mothers and Newborns (PAIMAN) Project. PAIMAN is funding the National Rural Support Program (NRSP) to organize the effort at BHU Kot Siya. Nine newly hired community health workers are working with the community to foster greater awareness of danger signs during pregnancy and delivery. NRSP has also helped Dir Khot Sattian organize local transport for women with emergencies during pregnancy.

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