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News from the Field



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Strengthened union health facilities could transform Bangladesh's maternal and newborn health situation



Strengthening the union level health facilities could be key to achieving the country's ambitious targets related to curbing maternal and newborn mortality rates. There was a general agreement among the participants who met at a national meeting on August 17th, 2016 that the upcoming Health Nutrition Population Sector Program; due to come into effect in

2017 need to prioritize strengthening of the union facilities, to ensure universal access to life-saving maternal and newborn care services.

The national meeting organized in the city's Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel by the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) with support from USAID's MaMoni HSS

project was meant to share the findings of a national assessment of all the union facilities in Bangladesh. The assessment argues that a significant number of these primary level facilities can provide normal delivery services with minor to moderate level inputs.

The speakers that included top officials of the ministry, DGFP and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), thought that the database built as part of the assessment containing detailed information about 4,461 union facilities, would be immensely helpful to plan their development programs.



Dr. Ishtiaq Mannan, Deputy Country Director, Save the Children in Bangladesh, presented the key findings of the assessment and highlighted the importance of an equitable progress in the availability and utilization of essential maternal care, especially delivery services. He showed that though 37% of the deliveries take place at the facility, the progress is not equitable across the region with Sylhet and Chittagong lagging much behind the national level.

Mohammed Nasim, MP, Minister, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOH&FW) as well as Chief Guest of the ceremony, appreciated the effort of DGFP and thanked MaMoni HSS and USAID for supporting this huge undertaking. He directed the secretary and the chiefs of DGFP and DGHS, to take into cognizance the findings of the assessment and consult the recommendations while working out the way forward for the health sector.



Zahid Maleque, MP, State Minister, MOH&FW, Syed Monjurul Islam, Secretary, MOH&FW, Professor Dr. Deen Mohd Noorul Huq, DG, DGHS, Melissa Jones, Director, Office of Population Health, Nutrition and Education (OPHNE), USAID, Dr. M. Iqbal Arslan, Secretary General, Bangladesh Medical Association, spoke at the meeting as special

guests.

Mohammad Wahid Hossain, *ndc*, Director General, DGFP, chaired the meeting. Earlier Dr. Mohammad Sharif, Director, MCH Services, DGFP, made a welcome speech while Joby George, Chief of Party, MaMoni HSS Project, thanked the participants. Dr. Fahmida Sultana, Deputy Director (MCH Services) unit, DGFP, made a presentation on the background of the assessment of the union level facilities carried out by the DGFP.

The meeting saw participation of around 200 participants representing the MOH&FW, DGFP, DGHS, UN agencies, other development partners, INGOs, professional bodies, and members of the print and electronic media.

"Bangladesh made commendable success in attaining eHealth benefits" Zahid Maleque, MP, State Minister, MOHFW

Cabinet Division, Ministry of Public Administration and Access to Information (A2i) of Prime Minister's Office jointly organized 2 day long Civil Service in Development Innovation Summit, 28-29 July, 2016 at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Novo Theatre, Dhaka. In this 2 day long summit a total of 9 seminars were held. State Minister, MOHFW Mr Zahid Maleque, MP graced the seminar "Leveraging Benefits of e-Health for attainment on



health related SDGs in Bangladesh " as the Chief Guest while Secretary, MOHFW, Mr Syed Monjurul Islam was present there as the Guest of Honour. DG, Directorate General of Family Planning, Mr Mohammad Wahid Hossain, chaired the session. DG, Health Economics Unit, MOHFW, Mr Md Ashadul Islam, ADG, Directorate General of Health Services Professor (Dr) Abul Kalam Azad were also present in the seminar. Representative of WHO made the keynote presentation. The Chief Guest pinpoints the development in the Health Sector from 2009 which has reached the pinnacle in the last few couple of years especially in the arena of eHealth attainments.

Advocacy Workshop on Mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS Programme



An advocacy workshop on mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS was held at Conference Room of IEM Unit, DGFP on September 6, 2016. National AIDS/STD Programme of Directorate General of Health Services organized the orientation workshop with the presence of Program Managers and

Deputy program Managers from all the units of DGFP. The main objective of the workshop was to orient the officials of the DGFP about the prevailing HIV/AIDS situation in the country and around the globe and recommend how the current DGFP OPs can mainstream the national HIV/AIDS programme which is being implemented by the DGHS. All the Program Managers of DGFP briefly narrated the programs of the relevant OPs and displayed the importance of HIV/AIDS. Mr Mohammad Wahid Hossain, DG, DGFP graced the workshop as the chief guest. Directors of DGFP also participated in the workshop and offered valuable suggestions in mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in DGFP activities. Line Director, NASP, DGHS moderated the



workshop. DG, DGFP as the chief guest wishing the success of national AIDS/STD programme said, though prevalence of AIDS is not a concern to our country, we will have to be cautious about it. He reinforced the importance of mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS.



DGFP conducts Video Conferencing with District Managers



DG, DGFP attended video conferences with some of the district level officials of family Planning recently. Video Conferences with Tangail and Sirajganj are some of them. DG, DGFP along with the Directors of Family Planning attended

in one side and district level officials along with Deputy Commissioner of the relevant district participated in the conference. The meeting were also attended by elected local government officials. DC and other district level officials discussed the various issues of family Planning at the field level with DG, DGFP. This type of video conferences has expedited the monitoring and evaluation activities of higher and local authority as the local level officials can present live the activities they do in the field.

APA (Annual Performance Agreement) Signed among various offices at DGFP

Annual Performance Agreement (APA) is a continuous routine activities in the Government offices where Government offices sign yearly performance agreements with their immediate higher or lower authority.

The objective of APA is to implement the Government vision in a specific time frame. Divisions and District offices of Family Planning already completed APA among them. APA of Chittagong Division with all the districts of Chittagong took place on



September 28, 2016. Mr Mohammad Nurul Alam, Joint Secretary and Director, Chittagong Division signed the separate agreements with all the districts in presence of all Deputy Directors of the relevant districts. It was hoped that according to the signed agreements the performance of these districts will surely increase; which will have a good outcome in

Family Planning program in reducing maternal and child mortality.

National Mourning Day 2016 observed with proposals of performance increase at MFSTC



MFSTC (Mohammadpur Fertility Service and Training Centre) observed the National Mourning Day 15 August 2016 in memory of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with due respect and honor. In the month of August, MFSTC implemented series of activities like Campaign against Militancy, Feeding the poor on 15 August, Paying floral wreath to Dhanmondi 32, attending the Milad and Doa Mahfil at DGFP premise and Tree Plantation activity at MFSTC compound.

Mr Mohammad Wahid Hossain, *ndc*, Director General, DGFP graced the Tree Plantation program as the chief guest. The importance of the ceremony was also added by the presence of Professor (Dr) Iqbal Arsalan, Secretary General, BMA. Dr. Md. Munirizzaman Siddiqui, Director, MFSTC thanked the guests for their kind presence and presented some proposals for Director General's consideration. Strengthening the Infertility unit, expediting the re-cannalization activity, developing Infrastructure, lift and main gate and strengthening the on-going automation activity are some of them. Chief Guest gave Director, MFSTC a patient hearing and assured the proposals will soon be addressed.



Sunamganj increases LAPM activity

Director General Mr Mohammad Wahid Hossain, *ndc* along with Director, CCSDP Dr Moinuddin Ahmed visited different upazillas of Sunamganj to see the LAPM (Long Acting Permanent Method) activities. DG visited different UHFWCs at remotest



Shalla, Dirai upazilla. He also attended with patience the clinical performances of officers at OT. Sunamganj District Family Planning performed 1872 LAPM cases in the month of August 2016. Among them female sterilization 302, male sterilization 98 are worth-mentionable.



Orientation on AV Van Show Implementation, Reporting & Monitoring Tools



The AV Van Show Implementation, Reporting & Monitoring Tools Orientation Workshop was held on August 02, 2016 at the IEM Conference Room of DGFP. A total of 42 professionals attended the

workshop. USAID funded BKMI provided the technical assistance of the workshop.

In the opening remarks Mr. Md. Ferdous Alam, Director IEM, DGFP mentioned that from today's workshop on AV Van Show Implementation, Reporting & Monitoring Tools, the AV van projectionists and monitoring officers will improve their knowledge and skill and perform their responsibility properly. He added that by successful implementation of AV Van show updated information on HPN issues can be ventilated to the community in media dark and hard to reach area in order to change their behavior towards healthy life.

After the introduction, Mr Dipak Kanti Mazumder thanked all and begun the session by providing a brief background on developing AV Van Implementation, Reporting & Monitoring Tools. He also discussed the purpose and steps to be followed in implementation & monitoring the tools as well as who can use this checklist.

Mr A K M Rokonzaman, Assistant Director (MP), IEM unit presented a detailed presentation on AV Van show Implementation. It explained the 'to do list' of activities before, during and after the AV Van Show.

Ms. Zakia Akter, DD(PM), IEM; Ms. Rifat Zafreen, DD, Directorate of Mass Communication, Mr. Mohiuddin Ahmed, Assistant Chief, BHE, Ms. Shamima, BBC Media Action and two



other projectionist shared their experiences and discussed on various issue of AV Van show implementation, reporting and monitoring tools.

Md Mohiuddin Ahmed, Senior Communication Specialist, BKMI and Jesmin Akter, Research Officer, BKMI were involved in performing group exercise with all the

participants.

Md. Ferdous Alam, Director-IEM, DGFP wrapped the workshop with his valuable suggestions and remarks and vote of thanks.

FSD Unit hands over the vehicles to strengthen monitoring and supervision

Field Services and Delivery (FSD) Unit, DGFP purchased 10 vehicles to strengthen field level monitoring and supervision of FP-MCH activities all over the country in 2015-16 FY. The vehicles were handed over to the Deputy Directors, Family planning of nine districts (Khulna, Chandpur, Rangpur, Pabna, Noagaon, Feni, Chapainabganj, Narsingdi, Khagrachari) and FSD Unit. It is expected that the relevant districts with the vehicles will be able to expedite the monitoring and supervision of the diverse activities on FP-MCH issues at grassroot level. Director (Finance) Pranab Kumar Neogi was the chief guest in this handing over session of the vehicles.

FSD Unit conducts orientation workshop in Kushtia

Field Services and Delivery Unit of DGFP successfully conducted orientation workshops on Satellite Clinic Register in three batches at Kushtia recently. The workshops were implemented with the technical assistance of Save the Children under the FSD OP. All the FWVs, TFPA's of all the Upazilla of Kushtia participated in the workshop. The workshop discussed the satellite clinic manual. The usage of updated version of satellite clinic register was demonstrated in the orientation, with the practical training of uploading the online MIS Form.

Bangladesh First-ever 'National Comprehensive SBCC Strategy' for Health, Population and Nutrition Disseminated



Bangladesh's first-ever National Comprehensive Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) Strategy for Health, Nutrition and Population (HPN) sector officially disseminated on August 30, 2016 at CIRDAP Auditorium, Dhaka. The event was organized with technical assistance from Bangladesh Knowledge Management Initiative

(BKMI). Under USAID's Global Health communication Capacity Collaborative Project, this is jointly implemented by BKMI, Johns Hopkins Center for communication Programs (CCP) and Bangladesh Center for Communication programs (BCCP).

In the presence of a large number of SBCC professionals and policy-makers representing different government, non-government, private and donor agencies, Director General of Family Planning Mohammad Wahid Hossain *ndc*, accompanied by Additional Secretary (Public Health & World Health) Ms. Roxana Quader, Mr. Md Abdul Malek, Joint Secretary (Public Health-2), MoHFW; and Dr Faruk Ahmed Bhuiyan, Line Director, Non-Communicable Diseases, Director General of Health Services, unveiled the strategy. As the Chair of the event, Mr Wahid Hossain applauded the initiative taken by the MoHFW under the leadership of Ms. Roxana Quader. He thanked BKMI, CCP and BCCP for their continued support. The chair also mentioned that based on the recommendation from the Mid-term Review of the HPN Sector Development Program 2011-2016, this Comprehensive SBCC Strategy has been developed for effective implementation of high-quality SBCC activities throughout Bangladesh. This strategy is a "pathway towards a theory-based, consistent, coordinated and audience-specific SBCC." A highly participatory process has been followed in developing the SBCC Strategy, he added.

Ms Quader in her welcome address expressed her gratitude to USAID-funded BKMI for their critical role in conceptualizing the content of the strategy, and then from developing the initial draft to finalizing and printing it involving key stakeholders from different ministries and directorates, international and national NGOs, private and donor organizations. She thanked everyone for their time and contribution. Line Directors of Bureau of Health Education and Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN) of DGHS; and IEM Unit also spoke on the occasion. Mis Rebecca Arnold, Project Director, BKMI and Ms. Zakia Akhter, Deputy Director, IEM Unit of DGFP jointly made a power point presentation on 'Overview of SBCC.'

BKMI provided technical assistance to develop Bangladesh's first-ever Comprehensive National SBCC Strategy. BKMI facilitated the process of conceptualizing the content of the strategy, preparing an outline in consultation with other partners, and working closely with the concerned government units for undertaking a Health, Population and Nutrition (HPN) landscape analysis; coordinating among different committees and subgroups; facilitating rigorous stakeholder consultations; developing an Action Plan for implementing the strategy involving a wide range of stakeholders; preparing the final document and printing it; and finally organizing a dissemination ceremony to promote the use of the SBCC strategy.

Follow-up Meeting on the Use of eResources in Comilla

A follow-up meeting was held at the meeting room of Chandina Upazila Health Complex, Comilla on September 20, 2016 on the effective use of eResources (eToolkit and eLearning Course) developed by BKMI with funding support from USAID. Mr. AKM



Mahbubur Rahman Joarder, Joint Secretary, MOHFW & Director-MIS, DGFP attended the meeting as Chief Guest. The meeting was attended by UFPOs and UFPAs from selected Upazilas including District Statistical Assistant. From BKMI, Mr. Mohiuddin



Ahmed and Mr. Monzur Morshed attended the meeting. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Mahbulul Karim, Deputy Director-FP, Comilla.

The main purpose of the meeting was to share and discuss with local officials and come up with concrete ideas to expedite the use of eResources including monitoring, trouble shooting and reporting. It is to be stated that 320 FWAs and FWVs from six Upazilas in Comilla received orientation in eleven batches on the use of eResources with support from BKMI/USAID who received Tabs from MIS Unit of DGFP during March-July 2016.

The selected UFPAs who received orientation earlier were assigned to provide hands-on-mentoring including trouble shooting, follow-up and monitoring the use of eResources at six Upazilas in Comilla. It was reported in the meeting that after receiving orientation, 52 FWAs and FWVs of Debidar Upazial completed eLearning course and started using the eToolkit in their regular IPC and counseling sessions. As reported, the FWAs and FWVs are also using eToolkit while doing IPC and counseling. In the meeting, the UFPAs were asked to assist the FWAs and FWVs in completing eLearning course by 30th September 2016. It was also decided to send report to MIS Unit of DGFP in each month on the use of eResources in Comilla. Director MIS Mr. AKM Mahbubur Rahman Joarder thanked BKMI and USAID for all the support being extended to DGFP related to eToolkit and eLearning Course.

Noakhali Zila Parishad supports District Hospital set up KMC Corner



Noakhali Zila Parishad handed over a cheque worth taka one lac to the District Hospital authorities on August 29th in 2016 to establish a Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) corner. KMC refers to the practice of continuous skin-to-skin contact between mother and infant, a practice that decreases the likelihood of mortality and morbidity of preterm and underweight babies. Dr. Zafor Ullah, Administrator of Noakhali Zila Parishad, handed over the

cheque to the Hospital Super Dr. Samsul Karim.

The donation for setting up the KMC corner marks MaMoni HSS project's successful advocacy to engage the ZillaParishad in the development of the Maternal, Neonatal, Child Health services in the district level.

Engaging the Local Government Institutions (LGIs) has been part of the project's strategic approach to strengthening the health facilities. The Union Parishads or Upazila Parishads have played an important oversight role besides mobilizing local resources for the development of the facilities in the MaMoni HSS districts. The LGIs have a mandate to allocate resources from their annual budget for the improvement of Maternal and Child Health services in their areas. The project's advocacy efforts have led to about 95% of the targeted Union Parishads allocating resources for improving the MCH services.



NHSDP News Brief

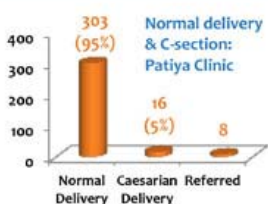
Patiya Surjer Hashi Clinic performed 303 Normal Deliveries in one month!



In August, 2016 a rural Surjer Hashi (SH) clinic Patiya (পটিয়া) performed 319 institutional deliveries among which 303(95%) are normal delivery (NVD). Patiya is an Upazilla of Chittagong District, around 10 kilometers away from the Chittagong City Corporation.

The clinic started CEmOC services from 2009 with 34 staffs including 9 Paramedics, 4 Medical Officers and 35 Community Service Providers.

In Bangladesh, over the past 10 years, the proportion of deliveries by medically trained providers has increased 2.6 times, from 16% in 2004 to the current level of 42%. On the other hand, the percentage of births delivered by C-section has been increasing over time, from 4% in 2004, to the current level of 23% (BDHS2014). This level of C-section is 8% points higher than the WHO's maximum prescribed limit. The UN health agency says, "There is no justification for any country to have C-section accounting for more than 10-15 percent of the total births."



Besides facility delivery the clinic has shown notable progress in terms of achieving program income (BDT 1,012,064/-), serving total customers (14,943) and cost recovery (121% of target).

The clinic sold medicine valued BDT 480,330/- and earned BDT 42,773/- during the month.

"Encouraging normal delivery helped us to increase client flow, resulted more income in the clinic." - PD, FDSR

- Clinic distributed free medicines to the poor and poorest of the poor worth BDT 18,221/- from RDF¹ profit.
- The clinic provided discounted service to 140 mothers among 303 NVD and 4 mothers received 100% free of cost.
- Moreover, among 16 caesarian sections in this month, 13 paid partial fee.

Dr. Ashit Kumar, Chief Medical Officer, Patiya SH clinic

"Quality services at an affordable cost, ensuring partograph for each mother, advocacy and outreach activities with shifting to a well-structured building led us to achieve more."

¹ Revolving Drug Fund



USAID-DFID NGO Health Service Delivery Project



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