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News from the Field






IN THE SPOTLIGHT

World Population Day 2016 marked with due respect and honor



The World Population Day (WPD) 2016 was marked with honor and respect all over the country. The inauguration ceremony of WPD 2016 of 11 July was celebrated on 21 July this year due to the prolonged Eid vacation in the country. “Investing in Teenage Girls” was the theme of 2016 WPD all over the globe emphasizing investing more and more on the adolescent segment of the population in a view to reducing the maternal

mortality as well as infant mortality. The gala national level inauguration program was held at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium on 21 July in which Mr Mohammed Nasim, MP, hon’ble Minister, MOHFW graced the occasion as the chief guest. The chief guest reinforced present government’s commitment in addressing the issues of teenage girls in his speech. Mr Mohammad Wahid Hossain, DG, DGFP delivered the welcome speech

elaborating the present situation of the teenage pregnancy in our country and also the various government initiatives to combat the situation. Additional Secretary, MOHFW Mr Biman Kumar Saha, ADG, DGHS Prof Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Ms Farzana Brownia, CEO of Sharno Kishoree Foundation and Assistant Representative UNFPA also delivered their speech in the occasion. Mr Syed Monjurul Islam, Secretary, MOHFW presided over the discussion meeting. At the end of the meeting the chief guest accompanied with the other guests visited the nicely decorated stalls erected by Go-NGO collaboration at the lobby of the venue. Earlier in the morning a colorful rally of thousands of GO-NGO participants made their way to Osmani Memorial Auditorium starting from National Museum, Shahbagh. The rally was escorted by band party and decorated horse carts with banners and festoons which added the beauty of the rally.



Dissemination of Impact Survey findings held at Dhaka University



Department of Population Sciences, University of Dhaka successfully disseminated the Impact Survey on IEC/SBCC activities implemented by IEM Unit, DGFP at the Senate Bhavan at University campus on July 2016. Mr Syed Monjurul Islam, Secretary Ministry of Health and Family Welfare graced the dissemination gathering as the chief guest

while Mr Mohammad Wahid Hossain, DG, DGFP, Mr Md Ferdous Alam, Director IEM, along with all the faculty of the Dept of Population Sciences, Directors of DGFP and a mentionable number of stakeholders from different organizations attended the dissemination. Dr Kamrul Islam, Faculty of Population Sciences and Team Leader of the study made the presentation with the major findings of the study.

The major objective of this Impact Survey on IEC/SBCC activities by IEM Unit was to identify the success of the program as well as its limitations, implementation challenges and lessons learned. IEC OP caters the provision of conducting two Impact Study in every five year plan to assess the impact of different packages IEM Unit conducts every year. This survey is the second of its kind while the first one was conducted in 2013. I am optimistic the findings of this study will be food for thought in forecasting various priority activities of the forthcoming Five Year Plan (2016-21) for the key actors of DGFP as well as Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The speakers remarked that as the esteemed academic body in Population study,

inclusion of Department of Population Sciences will surely impregnate more values and trust of this study among the stakeholders. This study will not only help the IEC OP but also guide other OPs of DGFP in formulating their key activities addressing the FP-MCH issues for the next sector program.

Matarbari: an example of Safe Delivery Centre in the remotest

Sultana Begum, Family Welfare Assistant of 1/kha Unit of Matarbari Union, Maheskhal, Coxsbazar made the UHFWC of Matarbari a Centre of Excellence with her officers and other colleagues for safe deliveries for the less privileged people in the island of



Maheskhal. The praiseworthy FP-MCH services of this centre has attracted the attention of the mass people as well as the media. DG, DGFP Mr Mohammad Wahid Hossain paid a visit at the centre on April 30, 2016 accompanied with LD, CCSDP Dr Moinuddin Ahmed, Division Director Chittagong Mr MdNurul Alam and DD, FP

Coxsbazar Mr Amir Hossain.

DG, DGFP visited the OT and was present at the time of delivery of a patient. He also attended in a meeting with the local elites about the upgradation of the service provided by the UHFWC. He expressed his satisfaction to see the overall management and service quality of the UHFWC. He hoped that Matarbari UHFWC can be a glaring instance of FP-MCH service delivery despite its location in the remotest.

Orientation Workshop held at Coxsbazar with the DDOs under IFM OP

DDO (Drawing and Disbursing Officer)s of all levels from Rangamati, Khagrachari, Banderban and coxsbazar attended in a workshop on Auditing and Financial Management under the OP of Improved Financial Management(IFM) of DGFP.



The major objective of this workshop was to enhance the quality of the DDOs with the upgraded financial management system so that the audit objections can be reduced to the minimum quantity. It was informed in

the meeting that no mentionable audit objections against 1159 DDOs was found in last 7/8

years. Moreover this type of orientation among the DDOs has helped expedite the pension procedures by clearing the No Objection Certificate (NOC) among the pensioners. In the FY 2015-16 a total number of 570 officers and staffs was given this orientation training which will surely establish financial regulation and accountability .

DG, DGFP Mr Mohammad Wahid Hossain, Additional Secretary, MOHFW Mr Md Nazrul Islam, Director (Audit) Mr Abdus Salam Sarker and Director, Chittagong Division Mr Md Nurul Alam attended the programme as the guests.

Street Drama staged in huge gathering at Coxsbazar

Disseminating diversified messages on family planning, maternal and child health, adolescent health care, child marriage prevention, small family norms through street drama is a very popular means in the rural areas of Bangladesh. In a view to upholding the



above good practices on FP issues, IEM Unit, DGFP has successfully orchestrated 200 street drama shows in local dialect in all the upazillas of Chittagong and Sylhet Divisions where TFR, MMR, IMR are relatively high in contrast of those of the national

standard. The drama at Samitirpara near Coxsbazar seabeach in local dialect by a local popular theatre attracted the attention of the mass people of the area. Director Logistics and



Supply, DGFP Mr Abdul Mannan Ilias delivered a speech highlighting the small family norm, spacing between two children, child marriage and empowerment of women.

Innovation with Facebook in Mirzapur, Tangail with FP activities

Social Media Facebook can be a tool in monitoring the FP-MCH activities. Mizapur Family Planning Office, Tangail is using facebook in conducting satellite clinic, visiting community clinics, helping the pregnant mothers, conducting health education programs in schools,



etc. all the frontline supervisors and workers are somehow joined and added with facebook page ID of UFPO, Mirzapore office. FPIs, SACMOs, FWVs and FWAs post the different activities they perform. As a result

everybody come to know the activities done by others. As a result motivation level of the staffs increases and performances can be visualized by the higher officers. For example

school health activity in the recent past has increased dramatically. The local authority is also answering the various queries made by the clients as well as the service providers. As a result with the introduction of Facebook in daily official activities has expedited the performance of the frontline workers.

MaMoni HSS signs three LOC(Letter of Collaborations) with different departments of MOH&FW

LOC with Planning Wing

MoU signing ceremony at Save the Children in Bangladesh office on 29 June
USAID's MaMoni Health Systems Strengthening project, implemented by Save the



Children and its partners, signed a Letter of Collaboration (LOC) with the Planning Wing of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) on June 29, 2016. Under the LoC, the project would provide technical and operational support to Planning Management and Monitoring Unit (PMMU) of MOHFW, including operational support for development of the Program Implementation Plan (PIP)

for the new Health Nutrition and Population sector program. William Lynch, Interim Country Director, Save the Children, Dr. A. I. Md. MuhiuddinOsmani, Joint Chief, Planning, MOHFW, signed the LOC on behalf of their respective organization.

LOC with Health Economics Unit

This LoC signed between Health Economics Unit (HEU) of MoH&FW and USAID funded MaMoni HSS Project provides for the latter's support to implementation of quality improvement activities across the health systems in Bangladesh. The areas of collaboration would include the following areas:

< >Strengthen the technical and managerial capacity of the QI Secretariat. Provide technical assistance to developing/ updating national guidelines, protocols and tools to support the implementation of the national QI strategy. Facilitate establishment and functioning of the decentralized QI management structures at divisional, district and sub-district levels. Support the development of a system at subnational levels for monitoring QI indicators as per different areas of national strategic planning document.

The other one signed on 30 June, 2016 with the Human Resources Management Unit of

MOHFW, dwells on the following is:

< >Improve human resources planning for healthcare facilities at district level and below services considering national context, standards and skill mix through conducting assessment on workload and staffing needs leading towards recommendationsPilot implementation of Health Workforce Information System (HWIS) in two MaMoni HSS districtsSupport roll out of HWIS in other areas for planning and management decision support for better health systems performance.Plan and deploy human resources at union level facilities using the data on human resources and facility readiness of union level facilities across the country

Improving quality of Permanent Method services at public health facilities

MaMoni HSS in partnership with icddr,b carried out a number of operation research (OR)



to identify specific intervention challenges and use the learning to reshape the program design. One recently completed operation research has dealt with the quality of Permanent Method family planning services provided at public health facilities. The major findings of the study were shared in a national advocacy workshop called “Improving Quality of Care in Permanent Method (PM) services of Family

Planning” on 2 June, 2016 at Meeting Room IEM, DGFP. Participants from DGFP, DGHS, EngenderHealth, Population Council, BRAC, Marie Stopes, SMC and RTM shared their experience, challenges and recommendation to improve the PM Service delivery at public health facilities.

Dr. Md. Moinuddin Ahmed, Line Director, CCSDP, chaired the session while Mohammad Wahid Hossain ndc, Director General, Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) spoke as the Chief Guest.

Imteaz Mannan, Sr. Adviser, MaMoni HSS, presented an overview of the MaMoni HSS initiatives and experiences on FP services. MasumBillah, Sr. Research Investigator, icddr,b underlined some issues from the OR findings that need more attention from the DGFP to accelerate the quality of PM in public facilities. Particularly important are emergency readiness of OT, privacy in counseling room, pre-operative preparation room/service, re-screening by the surgeon, post-operative vitals assessment, advices on discharge and follow-up visit, recording and reporting client’s follow-up visits, proper autoclaving and infection prevention by surgeon, on-site clinical supervision and provision

of feedback and filling up of vacant posts of Medical Officer-Maternal Child Health, Family Planning (MO-MCH-FP).

Moinuddin Ahmed mentioned the shortage of MO-MCH and the resulting gap in continuous supervision and monitoring of FWAs. Joby George, Chief of Party, MaMoni HSS, also echoed the need for a mechanism to continuously monitor the status and quality of family planning services. Wahid Hossain, DG, DGFP, informed the meeting that 380 MO-MCHs would be recruited shortly and efforts are on to get at least half of them attached to DGFP.

Multisectoral Workshop on Implementation and Monitoring of AV Van Shows

In Bangladesh, during 1980s, AV-Van program was introduced in family planning under the



strengthening Information, Education and Motivation (IEM) Unit project with support from United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The main purpose of introducing audio-visual van (AV-Van) program was to reach remote population with Family Planning –Maternal and Child Health (FP-MCH) messages integrating entertainment education such as

drama serials, 10 (Television Commercial (TVC) & Radio Commercial (RDC), short film, folk-song in order to raising awareness, increasing Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) and lowering fertility.

An orientation workshop Program Managers/ Deputy Program Managers/ Zonal Managers/ District Deputy Directors/ Training & Field Officers/ Projectionist/ AV van driver/ AV Equipment Mechanic was held at IEM conference Room at DGFP with different level participants from Department of Mass Communication, BHE & IPHN of DGHS, IEM Unit, DGFP, BBC Media Action attended the workshop. The major objective of the workshop was to orient the officials engaged in AV van Show activities with a monitoring checklist which will strengthen the quality of AV Van show. The checklist caters the the various stereotyped processes/steps to be followed before, during and after the AV van Shows which is expected to enhance the quality outcome from the shows. Director IEM wrapped up the workshop by hoping that the workshop will surely transform some changes in the planning process of the AV Van Shows demonstrated by various other organizations along with DGFP.

FPAB RHP Helping a Hapless Mother in Labour

Shimu Begum aged 28 years lives in a village in Patuakhali, Bangladesh. She has a family of 6 members and her husband works as a day-labourer in a brick field in



Narayanganj to support the family. Days were very difficult for Shimu while struggling in rearing her children. Unfortunately, Shimu became pregnant again. Her life became harder and started falling sick often. There was none at home to look after or to take her to a doctor for any antenatal visit. She was living in this hapless condition, while a baby was growing in her womb. At the 8th month of her pregnancy, she felt helpless and decided to go to her husband's workplace in Narayanganj.

After staying there for few days; following a quarrel with her husband, she left alone for Patuakhali.

When she was on a motor boat (launch) to return home, she started having labour pain, and she felt completely helpless. None of the passengers of the launch came to attend her. Hearing her screaming, Mrs. Nurjahan Akther Rabeya, a Reproductive Health Promoter (RHP) of FPAB (Family Planning Association of Bangladesh), Patuakhali Branch rushed to her and started attending her. In the morning, the launch arrived at the terminal. Getting no help from others, Mrs Nurjahan took Shimu to the FPAB branch clinic of Patuakhali by a rickshaw. At the FPAB clinic, Shimu delivered a healthy baby boy with help of paramedics who were guided by a duty doctor.

After her delivery, Shimu was given financial assistances and drove to her village home by an ambulance of FPAB. Mrs Nurjahan Akther Rabeya, RHP also accompanied Shimu to her village as to make sure she reached home safely with her newly born baby.

Shimu and her family were grateful to Mr Nurjahan Akther Rabeya, RHP and other officials of FPAB. Shimu said that she would never forget the help that she received from FPAB.

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Thanks to the following contributors:

Md. Ferdous Alam, Zakia Akhter, Mohammad Badsha Hossain, Mukti Rani Shil, Md.

Mahfujar Rahman

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DGFP is located at
6 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka - 1215

eBulletin Chief Advisor:
Director General, DGFP

eBulletin Editor:
Director, IEM Unit

Directorate General of Family
Planning, Ministry of Health and
Family Welfare

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