

A Technical Cooperation Project of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
Maternal & Child Health Training Institute (MCHTI), 3rd floor, Azimpur, Dhaka - 1205, Tel: 8642980, 8610114 ext: 151

Messages

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Government of Japan for the initiation of its Four year technical assistance project for improving health status of women and neonates titled "Safe Motherhood Promotion Project" ('Shustho Matritto' Project) in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Currently the project is piloted in 6 Upazillas of the District of Narshingdi. I am happy to know that the project is making good progress in the target area through public-private partnership and active participation of the community. As the chairperson of Joint Coordination Committee, I will provide all out support to all concerned for efficient and effective implementation of the project and I firmly believe that JICA will also render all sorts of technical support throughout the project period.

I hope and believe that the successful implementation of the project will definitely create substantial impacts on the overall health situation of Narshingdi district which will eventually act as a model for other districts of the country. I wish every success of the project.

Khodeza Begum

Joint Chief, Planning
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

This is our pleasure to be the part of the Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP), a project of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). We hope with active participation of all stakeholders under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the project will be implemented successfully. Narshingdi including all six upazilas have been selected for piloting. We believe that best practices under this project will be replicated in other parts of the country. We will provide full support and cooperation to the project for effective implementation for improving our national programme.

Dr. Jafar Ahmad Hakim

Director (MCH Services) and
Line Director (MC&RH), DGFP

I am pleased that Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in cooperation of JICA started Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP) in Narshingdi. In line with the solid track record of Japan's assistance on maternal and child health in Bangladesh, SMPP is expected to further contribute to improving the health status of mothers and children. Let us work together for the success of the project.

Eiichiro Cho

Additional Resident
Representative
JICA Bangladesh



Planning Workshop, Narshingdi

I am glad to know that Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP), a project of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) started its activities in the target area Narshingdi. I would like to express my gratitude to all concerns for developing the project. Hope this project will certainly contribute to the reduction of Maternal and Neonatal deaths in Bangladesh. And from my part I will provide necessary support and cooperation at all level of implementation of the project. I wish all success of the Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP).

Dr. Md. Shukuruddin Mridha

Director, Primary Health Care and
Line Director, ESD (Health)
Directorate General of Health Services

Staff Recruitment

During the period of September and October 2006 the project completed the staff recruitment at all level. As part of that the Project Manager joined the project in mid September 2006, Japanese Project Coordinator and six Upazila Coordinators including support staff in 1st November 2006. Members of the Dhaka based team are: Yukie Yoshimura, Chief Advisor, Kenji Yokoi, Project Coordinator, Dr Zubayer Hussain, Project Manager, Md. Sanwar Hossain, Project Assistant and Md. Abdus Salam, support staff.

And members of Project office team are: Upazila Coordinators: Moukbul Ahamed, Sadar; Md. Alamgir Hossain, Palash; Haran Chandra Sarker, Shibpur; Mohammad Monir Hossain, Raipura; Dipak Kanti Mistry, Monohordi; and AKM Mustafizur Rahman, Belabo and support staff: Zakir Hossain, Project Assistant; Md. Mahmudul Hassan, Office Assistant, Narayan Shaha and Md. Alamgir Hossain, Security Guard and Ms. Mamtaz Begum.

Project Management

The month of November 2006 was mainly occupied by setting up the office at Dhaka and Narshingdi, placement of Upazila Coordinators, staff orientation and introductory visits made by project management to all Upazilas.

Project office and Dhaka office have been functioning well with necessary facilities. The project office successfully organized weekly staff meeting at the project office, Narshingdi. The project office also provided necessary logistics support to Upazila Coordinators to organize Upazila Project Implementation Committee (UPIC) meeting at upazila level. All Upazila Coordinators had been able to organize office space at respective government premises.

Staff Orientation

As all Upazila Coordinators joined the project on 1st November 2006, a two days Orientation programme was organized at the project office. The contents of the orientation programme were JICA profile; Project Design Matrix (PDM); common understanding on role of Upazila Coordinators,



working strategy and project management; issues related to administration and logistics.

Project Staff Meeting

During November 2006 several meetings with project staff were organized at the project office, Narshingdi and weekly staff meeting was introduced accordingly. The purpose of weekly



meeting was to develop common understanding among all level project staff on project related technical and administrative issues; facilitate office arrangement in each Upazila and having agreement on priority tasks to be completed.

District Project Implementation Committee (DPIC) Meeting

One of the key activities of project output no.2 is to establish District Project Implementation Committee (DPIC). Accordingly with inputs from central level and local level especially Deputy



Commissioner (DC), Civil Surgeon (CS) and Deputy Director Family Planning (DD-FP) the District Project Implementation Committee (DPIC) was formed. And the First meeting of the DPIC was held on 5th November 2006 at the conference room, DC office, Narshingdi. The meeting was presided over by the DC, Narshingdi as the Convener of the DPIC and CS, DD-FP and AD - CC, Narshingdi among others were present in the meeting. Along with Health and FP officials district officers of Social Services, Women Affairs, Youth Development and Local Government departments were present as members. The main discussions in the meeting were: membership and TOR of the DPIC; membership and TOR of the Upazila Project Implementation Committee (UPIC); frequency of the DPIC and UPIC meeting during the project period etc. In addition, introduction of JICA SMPP team was done at the meeting.

Upazila Project Implementation Committee (UPIC) Meeting

One of the key activities of the project is to establish Upazila Project Implementation Committee (UPIC) at upazila level. As part of functioning the UPIC, Upazila Coordinators, JICA provided technical assistance to respective Coordinator (UNO) and Member Secretary (MO-MCH) in organizing first UPIC meeting at upazila level. UH&FPO, UFPO including others from H & FP and representatives from education social services, women affairs and youth development are the members of the UPIC. Until December 2006 three UPIC meetings were organized in three upazilas: Shibpur, Raipura and Polash. Other upazilas were in the process to organize UPIC meeting at respective upazila.



Planning Workshop, Narshingdi

The Planning Workshop on Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP) was organized on 2th December 2006 by the District Project Implementation Committee (DPIC) at the conference room, DC office, Narshingdi. The workshop was chaired by Mr. Kamal Uddin, DC & Convener, DPIC. Mr. Eiichiro CHO, Additional Resident Representative, JICA Bangladesh was present as the Guest of Honour. Dr. Jafar Ahmad Hakim Director, MCH services, DGFP was also present as the special guest. Dr Monsur Ali, Civil Surgeon and Afroza Begum, DDFP and other members of DPIC and UPIC including representatives from CARE Bangladesh attended the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to orientate key stakeholders on the project and revise and agree the activities mentioned in the Project Design Matrix (PDM). SMPP team was actively involved to facilitate technical session including group work. As the partner, representatives from CARE Bangladesh were present in the workshop and introduced with all participants having small briefing on their role in the project.

Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) Meeting

The first Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting was held on 20th December 2006 at the Conference room, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Room No. 108, Clinic Building No. 9) presided over by Joint Chief, Planning, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as the Chairperson of the JCC. Deputy Chief (Health) and Sr. Assistant Chief (Planning wing; FW-4) assisted the chair to organize the meeting. The following topics were discussed:



- ◆ Brief presentation on the project
- ◆ Membership and TOR of the JCC
- ◆ Discussion on PDM especially outcomes of the Planning Workshop, Narshingdi and Plan of Operation
- ◆ Overseas midwifery training

The meeting approved the PDM and Plan of Operation with minor changes in terms of rewording. The meeting also decided that JCC meeting should be organized quarterly. The following members attended:

MOHFW: Director, Planning, DGHS; Director, PHC & LD, ESD (Health), DGHS; Director, Planning, DGFP; Director, MCH Services & LD, MC and RH, DGFP; Deputy Chief (Health), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Director, Training, NIPORT; Sr. Assistant Secretary, ERD (on behalf of Deputy Secretary, ERD); and Sr. Assistant Chief, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Planning wing; FW-4)

JICA: Resident Representative, JICA Bangladesh & Co-chair, JCC; Deputy Resident Representative, JICA Bangladesh; Chief Advisor, Safe Motherhood Promotion Project(SMPP); Project Manager, SMPP; Project Coordinator, SMPP; Program Officer, health, JICA Bangladesh and Two representatives from CARE Bangladesh

Agreement signed with CARE

A bilateral agreement has been signed between JICA and CARE Bangladesh on 12th December 2006 in order to provide necessary technical



assistance to the project (SMPP) for effective

implementation of the Project Output No. 4 (Community Part) as the partner.

District LLP Workshop under FP wing, Narshingdi

As part of developing Local Level Plan (LLP) for the fiscal year 2007-08 under Family Planning wing, a two days District LLP Workshop was organized on 26 and 27 December 2006 at MCWC, Narshingdi. The workshop was organized and facilitated by the Core LLP Cell (CLC), DGFP. Project Manager and all Upazila Coordinators of SMPP attended the workshop and contributed to the practical session on filling-up the LLP Toolkit. At the workshop all participants sought technical assistance from the JICA, SMPP Team in LLP development process. A schedule for developing Upazila plan was agreed:

Name of upazila	Date	
	Stakeholder meeting	Plan development
Belabo	11.01.2007	16.01.2007
Monohordi	11.01.2007	15.01.2007
Polash	10.01.2007	14.01.2007
Raipura	09.01.2007	11.01.2007
Sadar	14.01.2007	17.01.2007
Shibpur	14.01.2007	18.01.2007

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