Activities & News

Assessment on Accessibility of Women to Health Facilities has been done

Feb-May, an assessment, the reasons for sub-optimal use of antenatal, delivery and neonatal services by women in Kabul has been conducted by Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) and the Project. The objectives of the assessment are; a) to clarify the perceptions of the community and health personnel working at the target facilities of the maternal and newborn health services at Comprehensive Health Centers (CHC) in Kabul province; b) to identify the barriers for the women to use maternal and newborn care in Kabul province; and c) to identify possible solutions for overcoming the barriers and to increase the utilization of the services. The copies of the report will be prepared on demand. Please contact the project by e-mail: newsrh@hotmail.com

Review of Malalai Action Plan

May-July, To coordinate donors’ support to Malalai Maternity Hospital (MMH), Action Plan which was approved last year, was revised and finalized in July by Partners Collaborative Group (PCG). The PCG consists of UNICEF, JICA, AMI, Hope World Wide, USAID, US Army and others.

Refresher ToT was conducted for PHO training

May, the first ToT program for the Provincial Health officers (PHO) was conducted by MoPH with the cooperation of the Project. This program aimed to update the knowledge and skills of trainers and learn from other countries’ experiences to develop health system. Prof. Azrul Azwar, the Professor in Public Health Univ. of Indonesia was invited to share the Indonesian experiences to develop community-based health system. He covered several sessions like: Public Health Overview and Community based health system, finances, etc.

Implementation of Training Program For CHC Staff

May 20 - June 15, First Continuum of Care training was conducted for the female doctors and midwives of urban Kabul health facilities (CHCs & Polyclinics) in order to improve their knowledge, skills and behavior of female doctors and midwives. The training program was organized by Strengthen Referral System team, which consists of MoPH, KPHD, MMH TD, RH, NGO and the Project. July 23-27, Second ToT for CHC Training was conducted for trainers in MMH, RBH, NGO etc and also we received participants from Jalalabad and Bameyan. At the closing ceremony Dr. Naderah gave speech and she asked from the participants the following three main points:

1. Please continue such programs for self-confidence and capacity building
2. Try your best to decrease mortality ratio in Afghanistan
3. Try to have good behavior to patients and among each other.

2nd Reproductive Health Officers (RHO) training ended successfully

June, Second RHO training program conducted by RH Directorate of MoPH with the support of the partners ended successfully. This training aimed to give RHOs basic knowledge of public health and health system in Afghanistan, to fulfill their responsibilities as a provincial health officer. 26 RH officers were invited from 26 provinces. The evaluation showed the course was fully technical and met the expectation. After the 1st/2nd courses the RH directorate is planning to conduct a series of program in the future.

Initiation of 6 Hospital Network Meeting

Mar 14, six hospitals network team was set up among chiefs and personnel from RH Directorate of MoPH, MMH, Rabia Balkhi Hospital (RBH), Isteqlal, Khair Khana, Inderagandi, Ataturk hospitals and the Project.

The main purpose of the team is to make standard formats, for better referral network, to share their opinions and experiences to improve their works and to feed back physician’s point of view to MoPH.

Standard referral sheet and patient files were drafted. Standard protocols are under discussion. Other health facilities (District Hospitals and CHC) will be involved in this program hopefully in the near future.

Project Orientation

May 16, Project orientation was held for CHC directors at the IMC Training Center MoPH. Introduction of the Project, guidance of Strengthening of Referral System (SRS) Team and its activities, the result of assessment on health facilities and their services and the cooperation policy of JICA were presented by RH Directorate/MoPH, KPHD and the Project. CHC Directors expressed their concerns about scarcity of resources, security and plans of MoPH regarding CHCs. The Project plans to have continuous dialog and make steady efforts with CHCs to improve their works.

Continuum Care Workshop

May 12-13, workshop on Continuum of Care was conducted. The workshop was planned to introduce the concept of continuum of care to development Maternal and Child Health system in Afghanistan. Prof. Azwar, from Indonesia and Mr. Eiki Chinda, JICA expert on health administration shared the experiences of Indonesia and Japan from the continuity of RH/MCH care point of view.

The participants in this program were officers of RH Directorate /MoPH, SRS Team members, other partners, etc.

Program for Establishment Effective Referral System in Urban Kabul City

May, CHCs and polyclinics’ assessment was conducted by KPHD and the Project in order to know the present condition of health facilities in urban Kabul city. July, The proposal for the program of establishment effective referral system in urban Kabul city has been finalized and approved by the Executive Board, however some annexes of the proposal are still in progress.
JCCA Joint Coordination Committee

July 9, the 4th JCC was held at the office of the Deputy Minister of RH & MCH. The progress report of RH directorate and SRS Team was presented by Dr. Karima (Director of Family Planning) and the Proposal of Program for Establishment of Effective Referral System in Urban Kabul City was presented by Dr. Shokomad (General Director of Curative and Diagnostics) and Mr. Chinda (Japanese Expert), and conducted a frank exchange of views on it.

New member in JCC

We got Dr. Abdul Salam Jalali (new General Director of Human Resource Development) as new member in JCC.

KPHD Action Plan Workshop Was Conducted

June 13, Workshop for making KPHD action plan was conducted with the participation of the Project. The participants were from MoPH, KPHD, Provincial Health Coordination Committee members, Partners, CRC and BHC directors. The purpose of this workshop was to understand the responsibilities and functions of KPHD and exchange of opinions. Based on the result of this workshop, comprehensive action plan will be finalized by KPHD.

JICA to provide on the job training to Admin Officers of RH Directorate

July, the Project has started providing on the job training to the administrative staff of the RH Directorate. This training is in practical form, and trainees will acquire the basic management skill.

Visitors from Japan

2. June 14 and 20, Japanese Journalist visited Malalai Hospital as one of project sites and to the Ministry of Public Health to have an interview with the Deputy Minister of RH & MCH. The Deputy Minister, Dr. Nadera explained present situation and challenges of mother and child health care in Afghanistan, and expressed her appreciation to JICA Cooperation.

Visitors

Dr. Nasrin Oryakhil
New Director
Dr. Nafisa Nasiri
Former Director

Malalai New Director Came!!

August 13, MoPH has appointed Dr. Nasrin Oryakhil as a new Director of Malalai Maternity Hospital. She expressed her goals and wishes:

Could you tell us what is your expectation as a director?

My aim as a director of Malalai Hospital is to improve the quality of health services to mothers and newborns based on policy of MoPH. I want to work with my colleagues as a team in order to decrease the mortality ratio in all over Afghanistan.

Would you like to explain us what is your specific plan for Malalai?

Now we have many problems inside Malalai such as lack of medical supply, Infection Prevention (IP) goods and other things. As you know the load of the hospital is too much and MoPH cannot supply enough goods to the hospital. Thus I had to share the problems with Donors through like PCG meeting last week, and I hope they will consider about our requests and we will do the best for Malalai Hospital together.

Do you have any message for your colleagues?

To Malalai Staffs; First I really appreciate Malalai staffs’ performance, MoPH has selected me as a director. I want to work for the patients with my other colleagues. I would like to ask Malalai staff to implement MoPH policies.

To Donors; I would like to ask Donors to continue their support for Malalai, because MoPH has not enough budget. We need your support urgently, specially in medical supply such as emergency medicine, surgical gloves and IP goods such as chlorine powder for the moment.

Postscript by the editor

Nearly two years from the time we started the JICA Reproductive Health Project in Afghanistan. This news letter will be published quarterly by staffs of the Project for the persons who are involved or interested in the Project to share its information. We make effort to carry fresh news precisely, concisely, and attractively. If you have any comment, opinion, or idea for the news letter, please contact to RH Project of JICA at Malalai Hospital.

August 2006/Kabul

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Counterpart Training in Japan

June 19–July 10, four counterparts Dr. Sadia Ayubi Director of SMU/RH Directorate, Dr. Razia Fenoz RH Officer/ Kabul PHD, Ms. Guljan Jalal Nursing Directorate/ MoPH and Dr. Rita Hashimi Trainer of MMH attended to the Community Health and Nursing Administration training programs in Japan.

International Medical Center of Japan was the main location of training in Tokyo. Participants visited some health facilities and hospitals in Nagano and other provinces during the training.

The Participants impressed by good coordination among hospitals, other health facilities and also community in Saku, Nagano prefecture and they try to apply appropriate referral system to Afghanistan.

Moreover, they expressed that they learned communication skills, ex. how to be an effective person in a team, importance of respect other person through training programs.

2nd Technical Exchange Program between Cambodia and Afghanistan

August 26–September 4, this year again, technical exchange program is getting ready. The objectives of the program are: Financial and procurement reform at MoPH, exchange program is getting ready. The objectives of the program are: Financial and procurement reform at MoPH user fee management at ministry, provincial, district departments, hospitals and health center level.

Our next issue will tell you more about this program.

Hope to see you again,

Dr. Nafisa!!