

**SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROMOTION PROJECT (SMPP)**

সেফ মাদারহুড প্রমোশন প্রজেক্ট

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, Bangladesh.

**Launching Workshop**

The launching workshop of the Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP) was held on 13th March 2007 at the BIAM, Dhaka. The Hon'ble Advisor, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Major General (Dr) A S M Matiur Rahman (Rtd) was the Chief Guest of the Inaugural Session and presided over by the Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. His Excellency Mr. Masayuki Inoue, Ambassador of Japan attended the session as the special guest. Other guests in the occasion included Director General of Health Services; Director General of Family Planning; Resident Representative of JICA Bangladesh; senior officials from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and other Ministries; Directorates; Representatives from Development Partners; UN agencies; International and National



organizations; Media persons and key participants from Narsingdi. After the inaugural session, business session was started with the participation of key participants from Narsingdi and Dhaka. At the outset of the business session four presentations on good practices (lessons learnt) were made in the following areas: Safe Motherhood; Neonatal care and Community participation and Public-Private Partnership.

After the presentation, participants were divided in to three groups in light of above mentioned areas/topics. The group task was "What are the challenges in respective areas (Safe Motherhood; Neonatal care; and Community participation and Public-Private Partnership) and how to overcome those"? There was individual group presentation followed by plenary discussion. At the end a closing session was held chaired by the Joint Chief, Planning, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

**2nd District Project Implementation Committee (DPIC) Meeting**

As part of functioning of the DPIC, the second meeting of the DPIC was held on 13th February 2007 at the conference room, DC office, Narsingdi. The meeting was presided over by the Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi as the Convener of the

DPIC and Civil Surgeon and DD-FP, Narsingdi among others were present in the meeting. On behalf of the Line Director, MCH services, DGFP, DD (MCH) & Program Manager (MHS) attended the meeting. Deputy Representative of JICA Bangladesh and Health sector in charge was also present in the meeting. Key decisions made in the meeting were:

- District and Upazila Managers should be

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informed formally well before regarding any initiative undertaken by the project

- Regarding dissemination of information latest data preferably from BDHS should be used.
- MO-MCH as the Member Secretary of the UPIC should be included in the DPIC as the member.

### Development of LLP

As part of developing Local Level Plan (LLP) for the fiscal year 2007-08 under Family Planning wing Upazila LLP teams were actively involved in organizing stakeholder meeting and developing LLP at each Upazila. As part of that a two days long District LLP Compilation Workshop was held on 6th and 7th February 2007 organized by DD-FP office. Core LLP cell, DGFP facilitated the workshop. Upazila Coordinators, SMPP were actively involved to assist Upazila LLP team in compilation and finalization of Upazila plan.

### Micro plan, SMPP, Polash

A daylong Micro plan development session was held on 12th February 2007 at the UHC training room, Polash organized by H & FP departments. All Upazila managers including others from union attended the session. The draft action plan was presented by UH&FPO and with inputs from the audience it was finalized.



In order to disseminate the Micro plan widely, a Dissemination meeting was held on 20th February 2007 at the UHC premises, Polash chaired by Civil Surgeon, Narsingdi. Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi and Convener of the DPIC was the chief guest. DD-FP, UNO and all health and family planning staff including local NGOs and other guests from medical centers of local industries were



### Upazila Project Implementation Committee (UPIC) Meeting

During the first quarter of the calendar year 2007 UPIC meeting was organized in all Upazilas. As part of functioning the UPIC, Upazila Coordinators provided technical assistance to respective Coordinator (UNO) and Member Secretary (MO-MCH) in organizing UPIC meeting at Upazila level. Consolidated findings of UPIC meetings included:

- A consensus was made that departments of social services, women affairs and youth

development will be actively involved in the project incorporating safe motherhood component in to their existing training package with priority

- Relatively better organized in terms of discussion on MCH related issues especially performance review Emphasis given on community related activities especially raising awareness among all stakeholders
- Provision of package services in cluster (making number of unions as one cluster) particularly for hard to reach areas.



present in the occasion. The chief guest in his speech made a remark that based on local needs this sort of initiative should be undertaken in each Upazila with the participation of all stakeholders. The chairperson suggested that this Micro plan should be incorporated in to the Upazila LLP for effective implementation.

## Union Advocacy Workshop

In order to ensure community participation in the project as well as increase awareness Union Advocacy Workshop was organized in Dulalpur union, Shibpur and Daulatpur union, Monohordi.

In Shibpur the workshop was presided over by respective Union Chairman and organized by UPIC. UNO as the Chief Guest and 2 MO-MCH among others were present in the Workshop. The workshop was participated by respective Health and Family Planning staff, local and national NGOs, members of union parishad, Imam and Teachers. One of the key decisions made in the workshop was to establish functional linkage between H & FP staff and Union Parishad. In this connection it was decided that H & FP field staff will attend the monthly coordination meeting at the UP chaired by Union Chairman on regular basis.

In Monohordi Union Advocacy Workshop was organized by UPIC in light of considering the union as the Model Union. UFPO, Monohordi took the lead role to organize the workshop. UNO was present as the Chief Guest; MO-DC was also present on behalf of UH&FPO and workshop was chaired by respective Union Chairman. Respective Health and Family Planning staff, local and national NGOs, members of union parishad, Imam and Teachers, SBA, TBA, Pregnant mothers and other stakeholders were present in the day long workshop. Union Chairman made a big contribution in terms of finance, time and efforts to make the program success. Some key decisions were made that included:

- Union Chairman will oversee the activities of H & FP staff.
- H & FP field staff will attend the monthly meeting organized at the Union Parishad chaired by Union Chairman.
- Basic situation of the union in relation to Safe Motherhood will be assessed and interventions will be undertaken accordingly.

## Imam orientation

A daylong Imam orientation on Safe Motherhood was organized by UPIC on 19th March 2007 at the Upazila Conference room. UNO, Polash as the Coordinator of the UPIC inaugurated the orientation. UFPO acted as the course coordinator. UH&FPO, UFPO & President, Imam Samity, Polash were the resource persons. SMPP brief, discussion on MCH issues and role of Imam were key topics. At the end of the day specific events were identified for active involvement of Imam; e.g. Imam to talk on MCH issues in light of Islam in the Mosque every Friday as part of regular speech (Khudba); any social formal or informal event and institution based dissemination.

## Visit of short term MIS expert

As part of technical assistance provided by JICA, a short term expert on MIS Dr Hanada conducted situation analysis on existing MIS of the Government H & FP system. He developed some recommendations in order to improve existing MIS. In addition he facilitated a technical session on Basics of Health Statistics for all level SMPP staff.



## Overseas Training

One month Overseas Training for Sr. FWV and Sr. Staff Nurse was organized by JICA in February



2007. The trainees are Kamrun Nahar, Sr. Staff Nurse, Sadar Hospital, Narsingdi, Nazma Begum, Sr. Staff Nurse, UHC, Monohordi, Narsingdi, Shahnaz Parveen, FWV, Putia H&FWC, Shibpur,

Narsingdi, Jannatun Nahar, FWV, Patuli H&FWC, Belabo, Narsingdi, Farida Yasmin, FWV, Radhanagar H&FWC, Raipura, Narsingdi. The training was held at Osaka, Japan from 1st February to 28 February 2007. After successful completion of the training they returned back to their duty station and sharing experience with the management and coworkers in their respective working places.

## Situation analysis on CARE part

A daylong Situation Analysis session on CARE part was held at the SMPP project office facilitated by External Consultant, CARE Bangladesh. SMPP team both JICA and CARE were present in the session. Draft questionnaire and methodologies on proposed situation analysis in two selected upazilas were presented by the consultant team. After having an open discussion feedbacks provided by participants were incorporated. The Situation Analysis was conducted in Monohordi and Raipura to analyze opportunities and issues/barriers of the target populations especially poor and marginalized in claiming the rights to Safe Motherhood and RH. The purpose of the situational analysis was to develop need based and realistic implementation plan, which will contribute in establishing an effective and sustainable community mobilization system in the project areas. One external consultant Therese Blanchet and her team was contracted to support the situational analysis exercise. The SMPP field staff was engaged in process of data collection at field level using both qualitative and quantitative method. This involvement gave the SMPP staff an opportunity to build their capacity to continue similar exercise over the project period. The study was conducted during the period of 27th February 2007 - 22nd March.



## Message from a Volunteer

Hello!! I am a member of Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteer (JOCV). I have stayed in Sadar Upazila of Narsingdi District of Bangladesh since last two



years. I am very happy to get chance to write this article about something from my experience. I want to tell about two things before leave for home on April 6. First of all it seems to me very impressive that most of Bangladeshis are nutrition in cooperation with each other in a family, which is seen very rare in the Japanese family due to nuclear spread in our country.

Bangladesh is advanced than Japan in terms of breast feeding for babies. I have seen many accreditation and awards in many health facilities which I did never seen in Japan. Another thing is very important and advice from my views as midwifery specialist. I just want to tell those who are particularly involved in this job. Please do not use "oxytocics" without supervision of a medical doctor and without having proper facilities. The oxytocics can be use only intravenously, even it needs a special attention and delicate adjustment. It was heard that some people use the injection directly with the pregnant women during delivery. As for this, my earnest request for all to stop using this injection which is absolutely dangerous for mother. The new JOCV members are scheduled to arrive in Narsingdi. One of them will be assigned as "Community Development Volunteer" to Monohordi Upazila, another person is a "Nurse" to be joined at Raipura Upazila and two other volunteers are "Midwives" joining in Polash Upazila and Narsingdi Sadar at the end of this year. I wish them all success and I hope that JOCVs will be able to enjoy and act happily at Narsingdi. I will meet them in future.

Thank you very much!

Hiroko Uchikado, JOCV, Bangladesh.

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