

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.

*The second quarter of the calendar year 2007, the project got the full momentum in terms of implementation of project activities according to Annual Operational Plan, and some special events were organized; e.g. Safe Motherhood Day 2007, Inauguration of C-EmOC services etc. The project provided huge efforts on community mobilization based on the local need. The CARE team was actively involved in developing Action Plan on Community Mobilization in two selected Upazila (Raipura and Monohordi). Upazila Coordinators have built up good relationship with GoB partners and provided necessary technical assistance to them for effectively implementing project activities.*

## Safe Motherhood Day 2007

Safe Motherhood Day was observed by the SMPP on 28th May 2007. Upazila Managers headed by UNO took the lead role in celebrating the day. The SMPP provided all necessary technical assistance to the District and Upazila Managers to organize events on the day and the total process was facilitated by respective Upazila Coordinators. Local NGOs e.g. BRAC, BWHC actively supported all events at upazilas, provided financial resources and jointly organized cultural event.

The following events were organized at the District, Upazila and Union levels: Rally, Post-rally discussion, Cultural event (small drama and folk song), Video show, Miking through Pick-up Van decorated with posters, banner and festoons and Band party, Male gathering, Pregnant women/mothers gathering and prize distribution to best mothers, Rally with rickshaw pullers, Handball competition of adolescent girls and Essay competition.



## Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting

The 2nd Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting was held on 09th May 2007 at the Conference room, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) presided over by Joint Chief, Planning, MoHFW, the Chairperson of the JCC. The decisions made in the meeting were: 1. A detail list of Human Resource issues especially vacancy posts explaining the current situation should be submitted to the Chairperson for necessary action. 2. Regarding functional integration between H & FP at local level, a letter from the line Ministry may be issued to endorse the letters issued by both the Director General (Health and Family Planning) or

a follow up letter may be issued by both the Director General to reinforce the functional integration. 3. Deputy Commissioner as the Convener of the District Project Implementation Committee (DPIC), Civil Surgeon and Deputy Director, Family Planning, Narsingdi to be invited in JCC meeting. 4. The SMPP activities with budget breakdown should be incorporated in to the Operational Plan (OP) in MC and RH component under DGFP and the same to be incorporated in the Operational Plan (OP) in ESD (Health), DGHS. 5. The consolidated report on community mobilization situation analysis conducted in two Upazilas (Raipura and Monohordi) to be submitted to the JCC.

## District Project Implementation Committee (DPIC) Meeting

The 3rd District Project Implementation Committee (DPIC) meeting of the Safe Motherhood Promotion Project was held on 31st May, 2007 presided over by the Convener of the DPIC, Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi. Civil Surgeon, ADC-Development, Deputy Director, Family Planning including other members of the DPIC attended the meeting. AD-CC as the member secretary of DPIC assisted the Convener to facilitate the meeting.

The Convener requested all UPICs to present their activities. Accordingly UPIC Chairpersons, UNO Sadar, Monohordi, Shibpur, Belabo and Raipura Upazila updated the meeting on respective UPIC activities under the Safe Motherhood Promotion Project. In absence of UNO of Polash Upazila, UFPO updated their activities.

Health Adviser of CARE Bangladesh shared community findings which were collected from Monohordi and Raipura Upazila during situation analysis. He discussed about objective, methodology & findings of the situation analysis e.g. prevailing three delays regarding Emergency Obstetric Care, and also recommendations.

## Action Plan Development Workshop on CARE part

In order to ensure safe motherhood CARE SMPP team facilitated two “Community Mobilization Action Plan



Development Workshop” on 13th May 2007 in Raipura and 22nd May 2007 in Monohordi. Representatives from all level stakeholders; e.g. MOHFW staff, UP chairman and members especially female, TBA, pregnant women, local

NGOs and local elites were the key participants of the workshop. The main outcome of the workshop was the Draft Action Plan on Community Mobilization for the period of June 07 – March 08 and later two Action Plans were approved by respective UPICs.

## Upazila Project Implementation Committee (UPIC) meeting

Name of Upazila	Month		
	April	May	June
Polash	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Shibpur	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Monohordi		<input type="checkbox"/>	
Raipura			<input type="checkbox"/>
Belabo	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Sadar	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Some of key decisions made by the UPIC meeting at six Upazilas are as follows:

- To select one Union and introduce as the Model Union
- Maternal and Neonatal Death Review should be conducted after having the information
- H & FP combined report on community SBA activities should be submitted to the respective District Managers through proper channel; e.g. UHFPO to CS and UFPO/MO-MCH to DD-FP
- Strengthening of FP committee at each union based facility
- Collaboration with TBAs trained by lead NGO (Sadar Upazila)
- In Sadar Upazila Natural Nutrition Program (NNP) Manager was given the responsibility to coordinate with H and FP on Pregnant Women Registration to avoid inconsistency

## Inauguration of C-EmOC in Polash

In order to introduce Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care (C-EmOC) in Polash Upazila, UHFPO took initiative to discuss with high officials of DGHS, District Health



Authority and SMPP management. Accordingly it was agreed in principle that before introducing C-EmOC services, adequate trained manpower and necessary equipment should be made available. As part of that an “Inaugural session” was held on 5th May 2007 at Polash Upazila. Director General of Health Services, Dr. Shahjahan Biswas was the Chief Guest in that occasion and special guests were Joint Secretary, Administration, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Director, Primary Health Care and LD-ESD (Health); and Divisional Director, Health. On behalf of the DPIC the Convener (Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi), Civil Surgeon, Assistant Director, CC (FP), respective Upazila Managers and SMPP team also attended the session. In this connection a team headed by Consultant, Gynae & Obs, Sadar Hospital performed a Caesarian Section providing spinal anaesthesia.

## District Orientation Workshop on LLP under Health

As part of developing Local Level Plan (LLP) at the upazila level a day long Orientation Workshop at the Civil Surgeon office, Narshingdi was facilitated by LLP Core Cell, DGHS.

Three resource persons from the cell attended the workshop. SMPP team was invited to attend the same to be actively involved. At the workshop it was decided that Upazila Coordinators will assist the respective managers under Health department in organizing stakeholder meeting and developing LLP at each upazila. Specific deadline was agreed for submission of filled up LLP Toolkit to the District. It was also agreed that Dhaka based SMPP team will work closely with LLP Core cell, DGHS.

## Union Advocacy Workshop

Union Advocacy Workshop was one of the most important activities during this quarter. And huge efforts from the project were made to facilitate the workshop at union level with leadership of respective Union Chairman. In order to ensure community participation in the project as well as increase community awareness. Union Advocacy Workshop was an opportunity to review the maternal and neonatal death occurred in their unions and discuss over possible preventive measures taken by unions. Some UP Chairmen as a result, declared to provide Van and Engine boat for carrying pregnant women for safe delivery.

## National Immunization Day (NID)

Second round of the 15<sup>th</sup> NID was observed countrywide on 8th April 2007. Upazila Coordinators were actively involved in the following areas:

- Joint visit to NID vaccination site
- Searching of drop out cases.



## Char area visit

Raipura under Narshingdi is the biggest upazila of the country having 24 unions and among them eight unions are hard to reach (char). The Project Management Team (PMT), SMPP along with CARE team had a day long visit to Bashgari Union on 8th May 2007. The team also had a meeting with UP Chairman, elected members and other key elites. Discussion points were: briefing on SMPP, role of Union Parishad (UP) and community to address constraints/problems in relation to Safe Motherhood and linkage between UP and union health facility/Upazila Health Complex. During discussion the UP Chairman was found very willing and committed to participate in Safe Motherhood related activities.

At the end the team visited a local NGO "PAPRI" and met an Adolescent girls group supported by them. Through open discussion the team had an impression that the Adolescent group could play a vital role in raising community awareness on Safe Motherhood.



## Preparation of Basic Training on Safe Motherhood

In order to develop the module of the basic training on Safe Motherhood, "Workshop on Finalization of Training module" organized on 11th June 2007. Then "Training Preparation Workshop (TOT)" was held on 28th June 2007.



## Dissemination of Situation analysis findings

A half day session on Dissemination of Situation Analysis findings conducted by CARE was held at Hotel Golden Deer on 7th May 2007. Representatives from different Development Partners, international agencies, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO and both JICA and CARE teams were present in the session.



On behalf of the Government, Deputy Director, PHC & PM, RH (ESD), DGHS was also present. The external Consultants of CARE Bangladesh have shared the detail findings on the Situation Analysis in two selected upazilas (Monohordi and Raipura). The session was concluded with some recommendations from the audience and further study on 'Dalal (referral agent)' issue was one of them.

## Chhati Ghar (Atur Ghar; separate room for delivery)

With leadership of the Chairman of Daulatpur Union under Monohordi upazila organized a special campaign to discuss with Hindu community on "Safe Motherhood and Impact of Chhati Ghar". UNO, UHFPO, UFPO, MO-MCH and MO-DC attended the session and presided over by the UP Chairman. The issue based campaign was organized because the Hindu Community still maintains the traditional practice to build the "Chhati Ghar" just before the delivery. Characteristics of the Chhati Ghar are: very congested (small size), no window, small door and detached from other rooms. The objective was to disseminate information on negative impact of Chhati Ghar and promote safe and hygienic delivery in order to reduce or eliminate the wrong traditional practices in the Hindu Community.



### Danga Union, Polash

During this quarter several important events related to Safe Motherhood were held with the leadership of respective UP Chairman. Upazila Managers headed by UNO and Upazila Coordinator provided necessary support to the UP Chairman to make following events fruitful and effective. 5,000 TK was donated by UP Chairman to repair the OT in H&FWC to perform permanent sterilization.



The Chairman donated one “Mini Ambulance (locally made Van) and Mobile Phone” to carry pregnant women for safe delivery. The Chairman provided ‘Mateer Bank (locally available hand made soil bank)’ to all invited pregnant women for savings and donated 50 TK each as the token fund. The Chairman of Danga Union Mr. Haji. Sayed Mohammad Iqbal has received the Best Chairmanship award for his devoted work on Safe Motherhood and participated in the National level award competition.



### Daulatpur Union, Monohordi

According to the plan developed by the UPIC meeting, Daulatpur union was selected as the Model Union in Monohordi upazila. Upazila Coordinator along with CARE SMPP team facilitated to organize several community mobilization events and UP Chairman took the lead role. These included:

UP Chairman provided locally made Soil Bank to some pregnant women for savings and donated some token money to demonstrate the model.

The Chairman made a budgetary provision (separate line item; Health and Social Welfare) in the Annual Budget for FY 2007-08 under Local Governance Support Project (LGSP) for Safe Motherhood. 10% (61,313 TK) of the amount budgeted under LGSP has been allocated for line item. The activities mentioned under this line item are: registration of all pregnant women, necessary treatment during pregnancy, financial support to poor mothers for nutrition and orientation on improvement of relations among family members especially wives and mother-in-laws. Some financial resources were also allocated for “Mothers Club” under the line item ‘Women and Children Development’.

### Mela on Bengali New Year

Upazila administration of Monohordi celebrated “Bengali New Year” through organizing different stalls and cultural events (Mela) for two days on 14th and 15th April 2007. And Upazila Project Implementation Committee (UPIC) headed by UNO especially organized a stall on Safe Motherhood. The stall was decorated with lots of IEC materials; e.g. posters, festoons, flip charts, leaflets etc. Upazila H & FP managers and staff were actively participated in disseminating relevant information. Upazila Coordinator along with SMPP CARE team provided necessary assistance to organize the event effectively.



### Visit of short term BCC Expert

As part of technical assistance provided by JICA, a short term expert on BCC Mr. SUMIDA Kazuaki conducted a situation analysis on existing BCC related activities and use of BCC materials developed by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and NGOs. After having detail review and analysis the expert developed the BCC strategy for the project. In addition he facilitated a technical session on the basic concept of BCC for all level SMPP staff.



### Recruitment of SMPP staff

In order to maintain the momentum of the project as well as address the local need, the project decided to create the position of the District Coordinator. Mr. Moukbul Ahamed, Upazila Coordinator, Sadar was promoted to the new position. Then the project management recruited the new Upazila Coordinator Mr. Dukul Barua in Sadar Upazila.



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