



## **Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP)**

**(A project of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare supported by JICA)**

### **QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT**

**Duration: April 2007 – June 2007**

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## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to document the activities and events undertaken so far during the period of April 2007 – June 2007. This is the second quarter of the calendar year 2007 and the first quarter of the fiscal year of JICA. During this quarter the project got the full momentum in terms of implementation of project activities. Along with planned activities according to Annual Operational Plan, some special events were organized; e.g. Safe Motherhood Day 2007, Inauguration of C-EmOC services etc. Based on the local need the project provided huge efforts on community mobilization. As part of that lots of Union Advocacy Workshops were organized in all six upazila. In addition, CARE team was actively involved in developing Action Plan on Community Mobilization in two selected upazila (Raipura and Monohordi). Upazila Coordinators were actively involved to provide necessary technical assistance to their respective government counterparts in effectively implementing project activities especially in the area of community mobilization activities. Narsingdi based project office provided necessary support to all Upazila Coordinators.

## **2. Project Management**

As part of support activities the project office successfully organized staff meeting at the project office, Narsingdi. The project office also provided necessary logistics support to Upazila Coordinators to organize Upazila Project Implementation Committee (UPIC) meeting at upazila level and District Project Implementation Committee (DPIC) meeting at the district level. In addition the project office provided extremely good logistics support to organize two workshops; e.g. Basic Training Finalization Workshop and TOT for the MOHFW Upazila Managers.

## **3. 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. Accordingly through formal and transparent competitive system one of SMPP Upazila Coordinators (Mr. Moukbul Ahamed, UC, Sadar) was promoted to the new position. Congratulations to Mr. Moukbul !

Then the project management recruited the new Upazila Coordinator following the same procedure (written and oral) at the beginning of the project. Mr. Dukul Borua was selected as the Upazila Coordinator and considering the existing situation he was placed in Sadar upazila. The project management also recruited one security guard (3<sup>rd</sup>) for the Narsingdi project office.

## 4. Major activities implemented

### 4.1 Upazila Project Implementation Committee (UPIC) meeting

The main body for the implementation of the project activities at the local is the UPIC. In order to make the UPIC functioning, Upazila Coordinators provided necessary technical assistance to respective Coordinator (UNO) and Member Secretary (MO-MCH) to organize UPIC meeting at upazila level. During this quarter each upazila organized at least one UPIC meeting. The status of UPIC meeting of six upazila follows:

Name of upazila	Month			Remarks
	April	May	June	
Polash	1			
Shibpur	1		1	
Monohordi		1		
Raipura			1	
Belabo	1			Transfer of UNO
Sadar	1			Transfer of UNO

Some of key decisions made by the UPIC meeting at all upazila are as follows:

- To select one Union and introduce as the Model Union
- Maternal and Neonatal Death Review (further investigation to identify the root cause) should be done after having the information
- H & FP combined report on SBA activities should be submitted to the respective District Manager through proper channel; e.g. UHFPO to CS and UFPO/MO-MCH to DD-FP
- Strengthening of FP committee at each union based facility
- Utilization of TBAs trained by CCDB (Sadar upazila)
- In Sadar upazila NNP Manager was given the responsibility to coordinate with H and FP on Pregnant Women Registration to avoid inconsistency

### 4.2 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, DPIC assisted the Convener to facilitate the meeting.

At the outset of the meeting the Convener, DPIC and Chairperson of the meeting had a welcome address. The chair then requested the member secretary to read out the last meeting minutes (2nd DPIC meeting) for comments. With consensus the minutes was approved by the meeting.

Due to administrative rearrangement (transfer) three key persons such as; Convener of DPIC and Deputy Commissioner of Narsingdi, Civil Surgeon of

Narsingdi, Assistant Director-Clinical Contraception (AD-CC) & Member secretary of DPIC attended the meeting for the first time. For this reason a short project briefing was done by the Project Manager, JICA.

The Chairperson requested all UPIC to present their activities. Accordingly UPIC Chairperson, UNO Sadar, Monohardi, Shibpur, Belabo and Raipura Upazila updated the meeting on respective UPIC activities related to 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 are collected from Monohordi and Raipura upazila during situation analysis. He discussed about objective, methodology & findings of the situation analysis and also recommendations.



During open discussion the following proposals were made by the participants:

- Dr. Md Khurshid Alam Consultant-Pediatrics of Sadar Hospital proposed to ensure emergency obstetric care service in 24 hours at MCWC. He also requested to provide some equipment like; ambo bag, incubator etc. for the neonatal unit of Sadar Hospital.
- UH&FPO of Raipura said that to ensure the emergency obstetric care service a strong referral linkage should be established with either Sadar Hospital or 100 bed Hospital of Narsingdi.
- UNO, Sadar said that based on CARE findings it has been evident that some monetary support is required for pregnant women especially hardcore poor. Mothers those who have three and more children need to be identified separately for special motivation about permanent sterilization. It can be done through micro credit group also. He also proposed to properly utilize NNP staff (CNO & CNP) in the field activities related to Safe Motherhood.

- ADCC mentioned that operation theatre (OT) of Raipura need to be repaired and it was supported by UNO as it was discussed in their UPIC meeting.  
In response to the concern raised by Upazila managers, Raipura regarding repair/renovation of OT, the project management clarified that decisions were already made by the central level to address this issue on urgent basis.
- UFPO, Shibpur requested JICA to introduce CARE activities in Shibpur as soon as possible and she also requested to repair/reconstruct the Chakradha Family Welfare Centre.

### 4.3 Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting

The second Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting was held on 09<sup>th</sup> May 2007 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 (FW-3) assisted the chair to organize the meeting. The following members attended the meeting:

MOHFW: Deputy Secretary, ERD, Deputy Director, PHC & PM, ESD (Health), DGHS, Director, Planning, DGFP, Director, MCH services & LD, MC and RH, DGFP, Deputy Chief (Health), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Superintendent, MCHTI, Azimpur, Dhaka and Sr. Assistant Chief, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Planning wing; FW – 3)

JICA: Deputy Resident Representative, JICA Bangladesh, Chief Advisor, SMPP, Project Manager, SMPP and Project Coordinator, SMPP and one representative from CARE Bangladesh as the partner of JICA



At the outset of the meeting the Chairperson welcomed all participants to the meeting. Due to change of few members the chair requested every participant to be introduced with each other. At the beginning of the business session Project Manager, Safe Motherhood Promotion Project, JICA made a brief presentation to update the audience on progresses made so far.

The decisions made in the meeting were:

1. A detail proposal on Human Resource issues especially vacancy 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 (Health and Family Planning) to reinforce the functional integration
3. Deputy Commissioner as the Convener of the DPIC, Civil Surgeon and Deputy Director, Family Planning, Narsingdi to be invited in JCC meeting
4. The documents; SMPP activities with budget breakdown 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 and consolidated report on community mobilization situation analysis conducted in two Upazilas (Raipura and Monohordi) to be submitted to the JCC
5. Annual Activity/Operational Plan of the project should be submitted to the JCC
6. A team of JCC members headed by Joint Chief, Planning & Chairperson of JCC including Deputy Chief (Health), Director, Planning, DGFP and Sr. Assistant Chief will visit EPI centre, Satellite Clinic and NNP centre in Sadar Upazila on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

#### **4.4 Project staff meeting**

As part of regular reporting as well as staff development several staff meetings were organized at the project office. But frequency and number of staff meeting during this quarter was less than that of last quarter (January – March 07) due to other important involvement in the project.

Some special meetings were also held before two workshops on Basic Training as part of SMPP preparation. Two workshops were; Basic Training Curriculum Finalization and TOT.

#### **4.5 Project Management Team (PMT) meeting:**

Due to increased involvement in the project at the local level the number and frequency of the PMT meeting has been very minimum during the reporting quarter. But the importance of the PMT meeting still exists and it was decided that the PMT should continue organize the meeting to discuss and agree on policy related issue.

#### 4.6 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, Narsingdi 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 Coordinator 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.

#### 4.7 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 7<sup>th</sup> May 2007 facilitated by External Consultant, CARE Bangladesh. Representatives from different Development Partners, international agencies, UNICEF, UNFPA, WHO and both JICA and CARE team were present in the session. On behalf of the Government, Deputy Director, PHC & PM, RH (ESD), DGHS was also present.

At the beginning of the business session Project Manager, JICA made a brief presentation on the project followed by open question. The external Consultant of CARE

Bangladesh shared the detail findings on the Situation Analysis conducted by CARE SMPP team 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.



#### 4.8 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 13<sup>th</sup> May 2007 in Raipura and 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.



Workshop



Group work

The key outcome of the workshop was the Draft Action Plan on Community Mobilization for the period of June 07 – March 08 and two Action Plans were developed accordingly.

After having inputs, action plans were finalized, agreed and endorsed by the Coordinator, UPIC and UNO of respective Upazilas. Upazila Coordinators were actively involved in making the program successful. According to the action plan, schedule of Union Advocacy Workshop at each union was prepared and SMPP team started organizing planned workshops with the participation of H & FP managers.

Impression:

- Attendance and participation of all stakeholders were very good
- Time allocation for group work was not adequate (in stead of speech from lots of people, more time could have been allocated for group work and open discussion)

#### 4.9 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 made tremendous contribution.



### CARE supported Upazilas

According to the action plan, with active involvement of Upazila Coordinator, CARE SMPP team facilitated to organize Union Advocacy Workshop at the union level chaired by respective Union Chairman. UNO, UHFPO, UFPO, MO-MCH and upazila managers from other departments attended the workshop and made contribution in terms of providing important message/information related to Safe Motherhood.

#### Findings:

- Active participation of all level stakeholders e.g. pregnant women, mother-in-laws, TBA, Imam, Teachers and key elites including Union Parishad body

Through participatory discussion problems/difficulties were identified and potential solutions were also identified on their own.

- Respective Union Chairman took the lead



role in organizing the workshop and made good amount of financial contribution. In addition in some unions respective UP chairman declared to donate Van and Engine boat to carry pregnant women towards hospital

- Union chairman donated some token money to pregnant mothers as 'Savings Fund' in Soil Bank (locally available hand made soil bank) in order to introduce this model throughout the community.
- Upazila Managers headed by respective UNO especially in Monohordi played very important role in terms of their attendance, participation, disseminating information and overall interest to make Union Advocacy effective.

### Non-CARE Upazilas

In Polash, Shibpur and Belabo several union advocacy workshops were organized. Respective Upazila Coordinator facilitated to effectively organize the workshop. In all unions respective UP Chairman took the lead role and representatives from key stakeholders of the community attended the Workshop. Upazila Managers including UNO, UHFPO, UFPO, MO-MCH and other members of UPIC attended the workshop as resource persons.

Overall impressions:

- More time should be given for open discussion in stead of speech of guests
- Based on good lessons learnt, union advocacy workshop should be organized in all unions
- SMPP team with active participation of Upazila Managers should focus on effective implementation of decisions made in Union Advocacy Workshop.
- Sadar upazila should start organizing union advocacy workshop

#### 4.10 Model Union

##### 4.10.1 Danga Union, Polash:

The UPIC selected Danga union as the Model Union in Polash upazila. During this quarter several very 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 all events fruitful and effective. UP Chairman was found very committed to be involved in safe motherhood related activities. Innovative events organized by UP Chairman were:

- 5,000 TK was donated by UP Chairman to repair the OT in H&FWC (Health & Family Welfare Centre; Union based facility) to perform permanent sterilization



Mini Ambulance



Handover session

- The Chairman donated one “Mini Ambulance (locally made Van) and Mobile Phone” to carry pregnant women and mothers for safe delivery. During an auspicious occasion, the Chairman handed over the Mini Ambulance and Mobile Phone to respective UNO and the occasion was attended by Deputy Director, Family Planning, UH&FPO, UFPO, Upazila Women Affairs Officer and other key elites of the community.
- The Chairman provided ‘Soil Bank (locally available hand made soil bank; in Bengali ‘Mateer Bank’) to all invited pregnant women for savings and donated 50 TK each as the token fund.

#### 4.10.2 Daulatpur Union, Monohordi:

According to the plan developed by the UPIC meeting, Daulatpur union was selected as the Model Union in Monohordi upazila. Accordingly Upazila Managers headed by UNO provided lots of support in that union. Upazila Coordinator along with SMPP CARE 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 for Safe Motherhood. 10% (61,313 TK) of the amount budgeted under Local Governance Support Project has been allocated for line item 'Health and Social Welfare'. Under this line item activities mentioned 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.

In addition under the line item 'Women and Children Development', some financial resources were also allocated for "Mothers Club".

#### 4.11 Basic Training on Safe Motherhood

In order to develop the draft curriculum of the basic training on Safe Motherhood (Bangla), the SMPP team followed the steps which are as follows:

- Preliminary Brainstorming session at the SMPP staff meeting to agree the process of curriculum development and its detail contents
- Task distribution among SMPP team members
- Collection of available curriculum/module/book/training materials etc. related to Safe Motherhood and development concept
- Review all collected materials to select better ones (contents) considering knowledge level and experience of Health and FP staff
- Draft development session: several sessions were held in this connection

After having prepared the draft curriculum, in consultation with MOHFW district and upazila managers it was agreed that a day long **"Workshop on Finalization of Training Curriculum"** should be organized. Accordingly with the participation of respective key managers e.g. UHFPO, UFPO and MO-MCH, the workshop was organized at the project



office, Narsingdi on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2007. Civil Surgeon, Deputy Director, Family Planning and Assistant Director, Clinical Contraceptives were present in the Workshop. During this day long workshop it was decided that the project should organize the TOT for Upazila Managers before implementation of training.

Accordingly a day long “**Training Preparation Workshop (TOT)**” was organized at the project office, Narsingdi on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007. UHFPO, UFPO and MO-MCH from six upazila were the participants. District managers also attended the workshop. The objectives of the TOT were to:

1. Develop common understanding among Trainers Team (Upazila H & FP managers) on “How to make the Basic training effective”?
2. To perform dummy exercise (simulation) on different sessions with different methodologies
3. To agree the TOR of the Basic training including the training calendar
4. To share the concept of TOT with Trainers Team (Upazila H & FP managers)

During the day long workshop the following key decisions were made:

- Regarding training calendar it was agreed that each Upazila will develop their own training calendar considering day to day activities, departmental priorities and other important official involvement and share with the SMPP team.
- It was also agreed that before training all logistics including budget should be made available through Upazila Coordinators.
- Regarding participants it was agreed that first priority on Health Assistant (HA), Family Welfare Assistant (FWA) and NGO worker/Volunteers those who are working in vacant areas as GOB field staff (HA & FWA). And after that respective supervisors and technical staff will be provided the same training with inclusion of monitoring and supportive supervision.

#### **4.12 Inauguration of C-EmOC in Polash**

In order to introduce Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care (C-EmOC) in Polash upazila, UHFPO took the lead role 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 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.

#### **4.13 PMT in Char area**

Raipura under Narsingdi is the biggest upazila of the country having 24 unions and eight (8 no) 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 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007.



It was two hours travel from Raipura Sadar to Bashgari Union by boat and another half an hour walks to reach Union Parishad. The team visited respective H&FWC and met available H & FP staff to discuss about constraints the community and service providers facing.

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 group run by them. Through open discussion the team had an impression that the Adolescent group could play the vital role in raising community awareness on Safe Motherhood.

#### **4.14 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 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.

## 5. Special events undertaken by the project

### 5.1 Safe Motherhood Day 2007

The 28<sup>th</sup> May 2007 was observed by the SMPP as the Safe Motherhood Day. Upazila Managers headed by UNO took the lead role in observing 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 Coordinator.



Rally



Small drama



Folk song



Miking with pick-up van

The following events were organized at the District, Upazila and Union level:

- Rally
- Post-rally discussion
- Cultural event: Small drama, 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
- Essay competition and prize distribution

#### Findings:

- All Upazila Managers of H & FP including other departments e.g. social services, women affairs, youth development etc. were actively involved in organizing events
- Several events were organized at the union level also
- Stakeholders at all level especially pregnant women/mothers attended several events and best pregnant mothers were awarded by UPIC as well as Union Chairman of Danga and Daulatpur union.
- Local NGOs e.g. BRAC, BWHC were actively involved in all events at respective Upazilas and provided financial resources and others e.g. in Polash BWHC and BRAC jointly organized cultural events and in Shibpur BRAC organized cultural event.

### **5.2 Participation in National Immunization Day (NID)**

Second round of the 15<sup>th</sup> NID (National Immunization Day) was observed countrywide on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2007. In order to make it success, each Upazila Coordinator was actively involved in the following areas:

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

At the district Deputy Commissioner, Narsingdi inaugurated the Vaccination session and Civil Surgeon including other district managers attended the session.

### **5.3 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 or Atur Ghar (Separate room for the delivery) 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 bad impact of Chhati Ghar and advantages of scientific practices in order to reduce and or eliminate the wrong traditional practice in the Hindu Community.

#### **5.4 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 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> 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 involved in disseminating relevant information. Upazila Coordinator along with SMPP CARE team provided necessary assistance to organize that event effectively.

#### **5.5 Briefing for MOs on SMPP**

In consultation with UHFPO, Raipura a briefing session on the SMPP was held for newly posted Medical Officers working in the UHC. UHFPO and MO-MCH attended the session. UC and PM, SMPP made presentations on SMPP followed by open discussion.

### **6. Challenges faced**

During the quarter few challenges faced by the project in order to achieve the expected outcomes. The challenges included:

- Frequent change of key personnel; DC, UNO (Sadar & Belabo), UHFPO (Polash) etc.
- Lengthy procedure in the Government system; collection of allocated equipment from Central Medical Store, Dhaka and assessment of repair and maintenance of equipment
- Upazila Managers especially UNO are more interested on activities which are visible; e.g. advocacy workshop in stead of software part of the project

### **7. Positive changes occurred**

#### **❖ Ownership**

District Health and Family Planning Managers were actively involved in the project activities. All most all UNO played the lead role in organizing UPIC meeting and several events at the upazila level.

In Monohordi, Union Chairman of Daulatpur union made a budgetary provision (separate line item; Health and Social Welfare) in the Annual Budget for FY 2007-08 under Local Governance Support Project for Safe Motherhood. 10% (61,313 TK) of the amount budgeted under Local Governance Support Project has been allocated for line item ‘Health and Social Welfare’ for activities; 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. The Chairman also provided 'Soil Bank' to pregnant women for savings.

In Polash Union Chairman of Danga union donated one "Mini Ambulance (locally made Van) and Mobile Phone" to carry pregnant women and mothers for safe delivery. The Chairman also provided 'Soil Bank (locally available hand made soil bank; in Bengali 'Mateer Bank') to all invited pregnant women for savings and donated 50 TK each as the token fund.

In addition, during Union Advocacy Workshop some UP Chairman declared to provide Van and Engine boat for carrying pregnant women for safe delivery.

Impression:

Union Parishad (UP) is the lowest and permanent administrative unit of the Government structure in the country and UP body (one Chairman, nine members including three female members) is determined through election. All developmental activities at the community undertaken by the Government are coordinated by the Union Parishad headed by Union Chairman. The SMPP has been able to actively involve some unions in the project activities and respective Union Chairman played the lead role in this connection.

#### ❖ **Attitude of MOHFW counterpart**

Attitude of the MOHFW counterparts at all level has been improved in terms of active participation in the project. Civil Surgeon and Deputy Director, Family Planning attended several sessions that organized by the project. New Assistant Director, Clinical Contraceptive was highly involved in the project activities as the Member Secretary of the DPIC. UHFPO, Monohordi got lots of interest in the project and was actively involved in union level advocacy workshop.

#### ❖ **Involvement of Upazila H & FP managers**

Each Upazila Team (also called Trainers Team) comprises of UHFPO, UFPO and MO-MCH was actively involved in finalizing the draft curriculum of the Basic Training for MOHFW staff. Through open and participatory discussion the draft curriculum was finalized and training plan was also developed by them.

In order to make the training effective and uniform as well as develop the training skills, Upazila Trainer's Team attended a day long workshop on Training Preparation (TOT).