



Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP)

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

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

Duration: October 2007 – December 2007

1. Introduction

Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP) has initiated from July 2006 in Narsingdi District. This is a project of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) as a technical partner. JICA invited CARE Bangladesh to be another implementation partner for Community Mobilization activity. The project aims to improve health status of women in reproductive age and neonate in the targeted area during four years implementation and envisages replicating good practices proven in Narsingdi to other districts.

This is a progress report of SMPP in the period of October to December 2007. Under this report the following activities are highlighted:

- The 4th District Project Implementation Committee (DPIC) meeting (30th October)
- SMPP Mid-year Review (14th-15th November)
- Orientation of C-SBA Reporting
- Family Planning Week (26th November – 2nd December)
- Upazila Project Implementation Committee (UPIC) meeting
- In-Country Study Tour preparatory visit to Jessore and Pabna (17th-18th and 29th-31st December)

A number of public holidays were observed during this respective period so that the project implementation had been slow. In addition, some project personnel changes affected SMPP activities to be paced down. However, one of significant events we conducted was Mid-year Review which helped JICA and CARE teams identify achievements of the project during the first year and discuss necessary adjustments to make our technical assistance to the GoB partners more relevant and effective. The revision of Project Design Matrix (PDM) has been proposed as a result of the Mid-year Review and will be a critical discussion topic for next DPIC meeting.

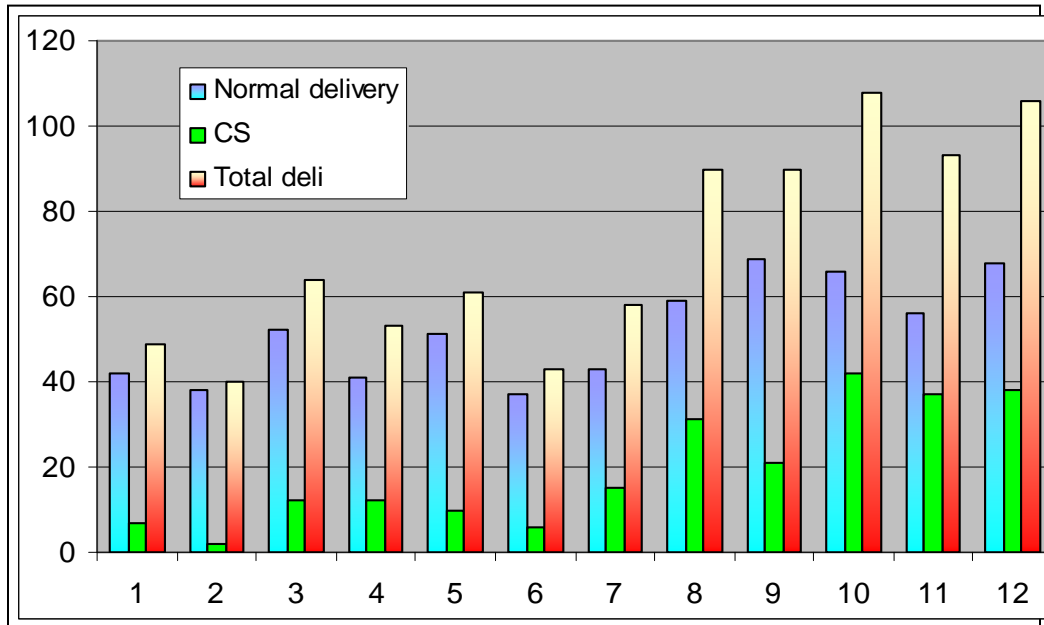
2. Major Activities Implemented

2-1. The 4th District Project Implementation Committee (DPIC) meeting

The 4th DPIC meeting was organized at Deputy Commissioner (DC) Narsingdi office on 30th October 2007. The DC of Narsingdi presided the meeting and as a member secretary ADCC facilitated the conduction of the meeting. Civil Surgeon, DD-FP, UNOs, UHFPOs, UFPOs and MO-MCH of each Upazila were participated together with NGO and other GoB departmental representatives. All upazilas made their activity presentation to inform participants their progress. The following specific issues were discussed and made decisions:

- 1) Improvement of the performance of MCWC Narsingdi

MO-Clinic informed house that MCWC marked significant increase in the numbers of normal delivery, Cesarean Section and ANC/PNC.



MCWC Narsingdi: Delivery Performance of the year 2007

Since new MO-Clinic, motivated by SMPP, joined MCWC Narsingdi in July 2007, the performance showed remarkable improvement. This is also counted as a project achievement and should be pursued further improvement.

2) UHC Polash and Raipura

Two UHCs were selected to initiate Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care (C-EmOC) services in Narsingdi. Accordingly, UHC Polash already inaugurated the C-EmOC services, yet it was stopped due to absence of Anesthetist. UHFPO requested a support from CS and JICA for posting of Anesthetist in DPIC meeting. UHC Polash and Raipura need renovation of OT and allocation of equipment to ensure suitable conditions for operation. This matter should be discussed at the national level and clarify if the MoHFW can provide a support to those two UHCs.

3) How to ensure MCH service at night & shortage of staff

A question of how to ensure 24 hours services under the condition that UHC has only one pair doctors available for C-EmOC and shortage of gasoline for generator was raised. There could be an arrangement among available doctors to work some times in different hospitals covering the shortage of staffing. Narsingdi also can consider sending interested doctors to Anesthesia training. This issue needs further discussion.

It was recommended that next DPIC meeting should be more result oriented to help DPIC members recognize what kind of achievements SMPP made so far.

2-2. SMPP Mid-year Review



SMPP mid year review was organized on 14th-15th November 2007 at SMPP JICA Narsingdi office. Both JICA and CARE SMPP teams were fully participated and discussed over the progress of activities and achievements SMPP made after the initiation. Main discussion was held on the revision of PDM especially indicators. Consequently, the PDM version 2 was developed based on the Mid-year discussions and waiting for the approval of DPIC and JCC.

2-3. Orientation of C-SBA reporting format



During last quarter of July- Sep. 07, SMPP hired a local consultant on MIS to analyze the situation of health and family planning MIS and proposed the development of uniformed reporting format for Community Based Skilled Birth Attendant (C-SBA). The local consultant actively discussed and consulted with MoHFW concerned officers including

Director MIS of both directorates and development partners and finalized the draft C-SBA reporting format. This format was further discussed and agreed to start using as a trial in Narsingdi at the MIS Workshop held on 13th September 2007. Subsequently, Upazila wise Orientation of C-SBA reporting was carried out with the participation of C-SBAs and selective FWVs. In this orientation several recommendations were raised and reflected to the revised format and additional creation of FWA notebook for daily record keeping was decided. SMPP initiated a dialogue with key MoHFW officers and DPs for issuance of Government Order to ensure smooth piloting of this new initiative.

2-4. Family Planning Week



SMPP was actively involved in Family Planning Week organized by DGFP in November providing financial and technical supports. During this period, all Upazila under Narsingdi district were engaged to promote FP in particular long term methods.

Polash Upazila was recognized as the best performing Upazila during this campaign.

2-5. Upazila Project Implementation Committee (UPIC) meeting

UPIC is the main implementation body of SMPP. The activity of SMPP at Upazila level needs to be approved, implemented and monitored by UPIC members. In this extent, UPIC meeting is vital for the success of SMPP. During this quarter three UPIC meetings were held in Belabo, Polash, and Sadar, chaired by UNO and activity progress was presented by respective Health and FP managers. The main decisions made at the UPIC meetings are:

- UPIC approved the selection of Model Union of each upazila
- UP chairman of model union will be added as a member of UPIC.
- The service delivery report of non-governmental clinics should be presented and clinic association/secretary should be invited to next UPIC meeting.

- Based on the situational assessment DGFP officers and JICA will discuss how to ensure the instruments necessary for the conduction of ANC and PNC in the field.
- UPIC will review maternal and neonatal deaths occurred in their locality.

2-6. In Country Study Tour 2008

SMPP has a plan to organize In-County Study Tour in February 2008. The objective of this activity is to learn good practices of other districts to improve Safe Motherhood related service delivery in Narsingdi. In consultation with Health and FP officers SMPP identified Jessore for Health and Pabna for FP as a visiting site. The SMPP JICA team made a preparatory visit to those selected districts and discussed with host district managers about program and logistic arrangements. SMPP hopes that this exchange visit will nurture the continuous relationship between Narsingdi and host districts to learn from each other for improvement of performances and services.