



Safe Motherhood Promotion Project (SMPP)

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

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

January to March 2009



Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

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 at improving health status of pregnant and postpartum women and neonates in the targeted area during four years of implementation and envisages replicating good practices proven in Narsingdi to other districts.

This is a progress report of SMPP in the period of January to March 2008. Under this report the following activities are highlighted:

- Hospital Improvement Activity
- Model Union Activity (TBA Orientation)
- Community Support System (CmSS)
- Community based Skilled Birth Attendant (C-SBA) related activity
- Follow-up activity of Midwifery training in Japan
- Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting
- Visitors

2. Major Activities Implemented

2-1. Hospital Improvement Activities

In order to improve the quality of EmOC services at the facilities, SMPP has earlier developed a quality improvement proposal (including checklist) and got it approved by the district level managers. During this quarter the checklist for quality assessment was introduced at District Hospital, Monohordi, Raipura and Palash UHCs through EOC team meetings. The SMPP staff (technical advisor) oriented the EOC team members and jointly assessed the quality of services. The EOC team members would subsequently assess their own facility using the checklist quarterly to measure the changes.



EmOC data of all the facilities were analyzed for 2008 to assess the changes in utilization of services. The data indicate that ANC (189% increase), PNC (591% increase), intestinal delivery (124% increase), complications treated (219% increase), and C-sections (525% increase) at the facilities have increased substantially compared to 2006.

The project organized two batches of midwifery training at OGSB (Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh) Hospital to train 6 Senior Staff Nurses and 3 FWVs on midwifery from district, Upazila and union level facilities to improve their skills for conducting normal delivery. This was a practical skills-based training with theoretical classes and practical hands on training at the hospital.

The project in collaboration with EngenderHealth developed curriculum for infection prevention practices and organized training (2-day long in 3 batches) at district hospital. The objective of this training was to improve the infection prevention practices at the hospital that includes proper hand washing, decontamination (with 0.5% chlorine solution) and sterilization of equipment and waste disposal. In total 80 hospital staff (doctors, nurses, cleaners, health education officer, ward master, aya etc.) attended the training. Follow-up visit showed some visible changes, such as the staff are using chlorine solution at emergency, OT and delivery room, staff are sterilizing equipments properly and using safety box to dispose syringes.

The project also has taken initiative for renovation of delivery room. By the end of March, renovation of delivery room of Raipura, Belabo and Polash UHCs have been completed. To review the indications for C-section, the project has collected relevant data from the facilities at Narsingdi and has planned to analyze them in the next quarter.

2-2. Model Union Activity

SMPP organized Review Workshop of model union in February to March to review the progress and achievements made by each Model Union and revise the action plan accordingly. At the Review Workshop all Model Unions have reported increasing trend of MNH performance and that was appreciated by the participants. The revised action plan reflects the experiences of the Model union and remaining needs. The outcomes of those workshops will be utilized as a basis of Model Union future plan.

The Safe Delivery Team of each Model Union gets together regularly to discuss pregnancy and delivery related issues with the members. Some Safe Delivery teams initiated a technical session under the leadership of FWV.



TBA Orientation was organized in collaboration with RADDA MCH-FP Center in 9 Model Unions. The well experienced TBA trainers were invited from RADDA for development of the module and conduction of the Orientation. Main topics of the Orientation are on essential neonatal care and harmful practices. SMPP developed education materials (poster and card) on neonatal danger signs and harmful practices and those materials were introduced at this Orientation. In total 186 TBAs attended the Orientation.

2-3. Community Support System (CmSS)

Community Support System is a system by which creates a conducive environment at the family and community level to ensure services to pregnant women during the pregnancy period and timely referral to appropriate facility for emergency obstetric care. At present there are around 120 CmSS already developed in Raipura and Monohordi Upazilas and most of them went through skill development session facilitated by CARE. The char area of Sadar Upazila was decided to get facilitation support

from CARE to develop CmSS from December 08, and completed Upazila and Union level planning workshop based on the situation analysis. Non-CARE intervention areas (Polash, Shibpur and Belabo Upaizlas) also started developing CmSS with the facilitation of respective Upazila Coordinators. The idea of cross visits among the CmSS in different Upazilas was realized between Polash and Monohordi.

The Operational Guideline of CmSS developed by the external consultant is finalized and will be distributed at the National CmSS Workshop in April. SMPP plans to invite CmSS and local government representatives from Narsingdi to share the experiences at the National Workshop and initiated necessary Workshop preparation from February.

2-4. Community based Skilled Birth Attendant (C-SBA) related activity

The training of private CSBA from the Raipura Char has been started from December 2008 and some SMPP personnel visited the training center, LAMB Hospital. At the beginning, although the trainees expressed their excitement to learn new things, they reported the problems related to food, commodities and medical treatment, etc, at the Training Center. In consultation with the LAMB management those problems were minimized. The training program will last until mid of June 2009, and there is a midterm examination in April and after that the trainees will be placed at the community clinic to have practical session in a village setting. If the trainees passed the final examination, they will be registered as CSBA by the GoB.

2-5. Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) meeting

The 6th JCC meeting was held on 11th February 2009. Main agenda was the revision of Project Design Matrix (PDM) in accordance with the recommendations made by the Midterm Evaluation, and progress review. There was also a presentation on prioritized strategies and action plan after the Midterm evaluation. The revised PDM was presented and explanation was given, however, there was not enough time to go through all the changes proposed. The Chairperson suggested develop the list of changes and submit to the Chair for approval. The issue of SMPP expansion was raised and some GoB members requested JICA to consider expansion of SMPP to the remote areas of the country. This issue was proposed to be discussed in another meeting.

In this quarter we did not have DPIC and UPIC meeting due to the turn over of the political Government and transfer of the key officials.

2-6. Follow-up activity of Midwifery training in Japan

The former participants of midwifery training in Japan had worked on necessary preparation for organizing Maternity Class (a group health education session for pregnant women and their family) since June 2008. The preparation, such as developing module and posters, completed and the first performance of Maternity Class was held at the waiting space in MCWC at the end of March. The Maternity Class is consisted of three parts, namely pregnancy, delivery and post-partum period, and each part takes around two hours including Maternal Exercise. The Maternity Class, therefore, was performed on three separate days (15th, 19th, and 22nd March, 2009). Each Class had around 15-20 participants, they particularly enjoyed Maternity Exercise which probably first introduced in Narsingdi. Several participants requested to organize this kind of group health education session regularly at MCWC. Now the former participants of midwifery training in Japan are planning to organize Maternity Class in their own responsible area.

2-7. Visitors



SMPP had received important visitors in this quarter: Joint Chief and Deputy Chief, Planning, DGHS, DGFP and Director MCH, DP Consortium group, UN MNH joint program staff, CARE MNH advisor and regional advisor and WB MCH Advisor visited Narsingdi. Super Model from USA who is the Ambassador of CARE also visited to develop a documentary film in Narsingdi.

3. Next plan

During next quarter SMPP has a plan to implement the following major activities:

- Health Facility Improvement: introduction of quality assurance checklist of EmOC services at Hospitals; complete Infection Prevention Practices Training, Safe delivery training at OGSB clinic (two batches); regularize EmOC team meeting and data update; and setting up information board; organize Quality of service meeting at Dhaka
- Model Union Activity: support implementation of Model Union Action Plan and Safe Delivery team activity; TBA Orientation follow-up; develop the future plan of Model Union activity; and finalization/printing of neonatal danger sign/harmful card and poster; observe the Safe Motherhood Day
- Community Support System (CmSS): expansion and capacity development of CmSS; finalization of CmSS Operational Guidelines; formation of CmSS Federation at Union/Upazila level; organize CmSS workshop in Dhaka
- CSBA related activity: support conduction of CSBA training for Raipura Char, follow-up activity after the completion of the training
- Field Study of potential SMPP expansion areas