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Directorate General of Family Planning
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Bangladesh
Population Clock

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DGFP eBulletin

News from the Field



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

National Mourning Day (15 August) 2017 observed at DGFP



Directorate General of Family Planning observed the National Mourning Day (15 August)-2017 with befitting manner. The remembrance of the brutal killing of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members started early hours of the morning of 15 August with

the recitation from the Holy Quran and by paying respect of floral wreath to the memory of Bangabandhu at the premise of Dhanmondi 32. The big procession of DGFP personnels was led by Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, Director General, Directorate General of Family Planning. Mr Mohammed Nasim, MP, the hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare graced the Discussion Meeting



and Doa Mahfil Ceremony as the Chief Guests at DGFP. Mr Md. Sirajul Islam, Secretary, Medical Education and Family Welfare, MOHFW, Mr. Md, Serajul Huq Khan, Secretary, Health Services Division attended the meeting as the Special Guests. The Chief Guest quoting Bangabandhu as the “ Best Bangalee of Thousand Years” remarked that the defeated enemies of the country will not be able to stop the progress and the development of the country even at the absence of Bangabandhu. He added, Bangabandhu is omnipresent in the minds of all the Bangalees. The ideology of



Bangabandhu will be ever luminous in this country, he added. Mr Md. Sirajul Islam, Secretary, ME & FW, MOHFW, Mr Md. Serajul Huq Khan, Secretary, Health Services, MOHFW, Director (Administration) Mr Sheikh Md. Shamim Iqbal, Director (MCH Services) Dr. Mohammed Sharif and Mr Salimuzzaman Selim, Executive President, Bangladesh Family Planning Directorate Employees Welfare Association also highlighted the

different portions of the revolutionary and colourful life of Bangabandhu in their speeches. Director General, DGFP Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar presided over the meeting. The Discussion and Doa Mahfil ended with special prayer to Almighty Allah for granting Jannatul Ferdous to Bangabandhu and all his family members who sacrificed their lives on 15 August, 1975.

World Population Day-2017 observed

The World Population Day (WPD)-2017 was marked with due honor and festivity on 11 July all over the country elsewhere other countries of the world. The theme of WPD-2017 was fixed by the UNFPA globally as **Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nations**

The inauguration ceremony of WPD-2017 was celebrated centrally at the Osmani memorial Auditorium, Dhaka with the kind presence of Mr Mohammed Nasim, MP, Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as the Chief Guest of the



inaugural session. Mr Zahid Maleque, MP, State Minister, MOHFW graced the occasion as Special Guest. The Chief Guest reinforced the importance of empowering people by translating the population in the skilled workforce so that they can contribute in making the country a developed one. He expressed his optimism that if this process of development can be ensured, we will become middle-income country by 2021 and developed country 2041. The Minister, MOHFW also distributed



the prizes among the best Family Planning Service Providers and Institutions for their achievements in the relevant fields. He also handed over the Family Planning Media Award to the best media personalities for their role in the media highlighting Family Planning issues. After the closing of the program, the chief guests along with the other dignitaries visited the stalls erected by the various GO-NGOs demonstrating the IEC



and other materials. Besides, a colorful rally escorted with couples of horse-carts with banner and festoons started from the premise of National Museum, Shahbagh and ended at Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the morning before the inaugural session. Hon'ble Secretary, Health Education and Family Welfare

Division, MOHFW led the rally.

Minister inaugurates MCWCs at Sirajganj



Ensuring quality Family Planning and Health services to the marginalized people is one of the mottos of the present government. In a view to ensuring it, new Family Planning and Health infrastructures are being established gradually. Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Mr Mohammed

Nasim, MP inaugurated three Maternal and Child Welfare Centres (MCWCs, each 10 bedded) at Natuapara, Nishchintapur and Monsurnagar at Kazipur, Sirajganj recently in a gala inauguration ceremony. The minister reinforced the commitment of the Government in ensuring the health and family planning services to the courtyards of the people. He added, the opening of these 3 new MCWCs will surely help in reducing maternal and child mortality in Kazipur upazilla and surrounding locality. The inauguration ceremony was also attended by DG, DGFP Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, Civil Surgeon, ADC (Revenue), Addl SP, DD Family Planning of Sirajganj.

Launching Ceremony of ADOHEARTS held



Honorable State Minister Mr Zahid Maleque, MP has graced the occasion of the Launching Ceremony of ADOHEARTS and Logo of Adolescent Friendly Health Services as the Chief Guest at Pan Pacific

Sonargaon, Dhaka on 23 May, 2017. ADOHEARTS (Adolescent Health & Rights Enhancement Through Innovation and System Strengthening) is a project of MCH Services and MCRAH Unit of DGFP technically supported by UNICEF and the Royal Embassy, Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The objective of the project is to render services through facilities and communities of four districts of Gazipur, Jamalpur, Tangail and Khulna regarding adolescent friendly health services. Mr Md Sirajul Islam, Secretary, HE & FW, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare attended as the Special Guest. Prof Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, DG, DGHS, Ms Martine van Hoogstraten, Deputy Ambassador of the Netherlands Embassy, Mr Edouard Beigbeder, Representative, UNICEF Bangladesh graced the occasion as the Guests of Honor. Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, DG, DGFP presided over the meeting while Dr Mohammed Sharif, Director (MCH Services) rendered the welcome speech.



Secretary exchanged views at FWVTI, Azimpur, Dhaka.



Mr. Md. Sirajul Islam, honorable Secretary, Health Education & Family Welfare, MOHFW recently visited Family Welfare Visitor Training Institute (FWVTI), Azimpur, Dhaka. Exchanged views with "FWV Basic Trainees (18 month)" as Chief Guest. The chief guest also inaugurated of a renovated Class Rooms of FWVTI, Dhaka & handed over of Cheques of Increased Jibon Dharon Bhatta among the trainees. Dr. Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, Honorable Director General of DGFP & Additional Secretary & Begum Rounaque Jahan, DG, NIPORT & Additional Secretary also increased the importance of the programme with their kind presence as the special guests.



The Chief Guest motivated the trainees by saying that the trainees should strictly maintain the discipline and conduct rules of the Government Employees. He added, proper knowledge and training make a man or woman skilled in his/her profession. Principal of the FWVTI, Dr Jebunnessa Hossain presided over the meeting. Mr. Shamim Ahmed, P/S to Secretary & Mirza kamrunnahar, DDFP, Dhaka were also present in the ceremony.

Press Briefing of World Population Day-2017 held at MOHFW.

The Press Briefing Session on the eve of the observance of World Population Day-2017 was held successfully at the conference Room, Ministry of Health and family Welfare on 10 July with the mentionable presence of print and electronic media. Mr Zahid Maleque, MP State Minister, MOHFW graced the session as the Chief Guest. Secretary, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, MOHFW was present as the special guest. Mr. Sarder Abul Kalam, Addl.



Secretary, ME & FW Division, MOHFW, DG, DGFP Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, Addl. Secretary, high level officials of the both Divisions of the MOHFW increased the importance of the



Press Briefing session with their presence. Highlighting the theme of WPD-2017 **“Family Planning: Empowering People, Developing Nations”** Chief Guest expressed commitment of his Government for the ultimate development of the nation by empowering the people. He

added that the demographic dividends we are enjoying now will have to be maximized with all our effort by empowering the people of our country. The media men raised various questions on the eve of the observance of the day which were rightly answered by the State Minister and officials of the Ministry and DGFP as well.

Steering Committee Meeting of WPD-2017 held at MOHFW

The Steering Committee Meeting of World Population Day-2017 was held at the Conference Room of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on June 20, 2017 with Mr. Sarder Abul Kalam, Additional Secretary (Administration), ME & FW, MOHFW and Convenor, Steering Committee, at Chair. High level officials along with DG, DGFP Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar also attended the meeting. Steering Committee considered to be a high level body comprises of officers of various ministries who work together for smooth observance of the World Population Day on 11 July every year. Director IEM, DGFP Mr Md Ferdous Alam with the permission of Chair of the meeting presented the activities of World Population day-2017 which will be observed nationally and field level all over the country. After a fruitful discussion over the issues, the chair took various decisions on Rally, Inaugural ceremony, Discussion meeting, Decoration of Roads, Foot-over bridge and Islands of various important points, Prize giving ceremony, Publication of Souvenir and

special supplements, Developing IEC materials on Theme, Theme song, TV Spot, RDC, Media Award, Talk Show, Press Briefing and Direct Telecast of the Ceremony. The Chair wrapped up the meeting wishing a successful observance of WPD-2017 on 11 July as there were no other issues left for discussion.

IEM Unit conducts Preparatory Meeting of WPD-2017



IEM Unit conducts the preparatory meeting for World Population day-2017 at IEM Conference Room, DGFP. Director General, DGFP Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar graced the meeting as Chief Guest. Directors

of DGFP and Directors from various divisions increased the importance of the meeting with their presence. Deputy directors from all other Units of DGFP also attended the meeting. Director IEM, Mr Md Ferdous Alam with the permission of the Chair presented the various activities of the world Population Day-2017 that would be implemented nationally and at field level. The Directors of Divisions marked that budget for division, district and upazilla level should be reasonably increased as the marking of the day 11 July with befitting manners faces budget constraint. Director IEM added that for the first time in last few decades DGFP will celebrate the day with GOB funding, UNFPA isn't providing assistance this year. Proposals for increasing the budget in Division, District and Upazilla will be placed to Ministry, he added. Thanking Director IEM for organizing the meeting in time, the Chief Guest hoped that that this year WPD-2017 will be a fruitful one with the concerted effort from all the corners of GO-NGO collaboration.



Planning and Monitoring Checklist Workshop held at IEM, DGFP



IEM Unit, DGFP conducted two important workshops in July 2017. The objective of the Planning Workshop was to enrich the IEC OP2016-17 with the recommendation from all other Services units of DGFP (MCH, CCSDP & FSD) and support services units (MIS, Planning, Logistics, Audit unit) so that the IEC OP can reflect

the stronger coordination and collaboration with the other OPs of DGFP. Director General, DGFP graced the opening ceremony as the chief Guest of the 4 daylong workshop with two batches each with 25 participants each in the workshop. Hon'ble Dg, DGFP in his speech thanked IEM Unit, DGFP to initiate the unique culture of sharing the OP activities with the services units of DGFP so that the implementable activities will be have a good outcome in the long run. Director IEM Mr Md. Ferdous Alam, the Chair of the Workshop shared with the participants that this is the beginning of this type of workshop but, of course, not the ending as the sharing with the other units can harvest a good result in the future.



The objective of the Monitoring checklist workshop was to include the SBCC/BCC monitoring determinants in the MIS of DGFP so that the activities done in this arena can be mainstreamed. This will surely strengthen the evaluation and documentation process of the SBCC activities. Deputy Directors of 23 AV Van Zone districts, Officers from MIS and other units of DGFP participated in this workshop. USAID UJJIBAN SBCC Project provided technical support in implementing both the workshops

Advocacy meeting held at B'baria of FSD Unit



Field Services Delivery (FSD) Unit of DGFP recently signed a MOU with icddr,b for a piloting which aims to reducing adolescent pregnancy by enhancing awareness among the newly-wed couples. In this piloting at the very first day of starting the conjugal life, the couples will be given a gift box, a booklet and a certificate so that they are

motivated for various FP methods. The marriage registrars and the FPIs of Family planning are also important stakeholders in this piloting. In a view to orienting the implementation process of the piloting, FSD Unit, DGFP has successfully conducted day long advocacy meeting at Brahmanbaria with all the officers of Family Planning district with the technical support from icddr'b and UNFPA. Officers from FSD Unit, DGFP and icddr'b, UNFPA shared with the participants about the implementing process of the piloting. They shared that dates for the upazilla level orientation would be fixed in the advocacy meeting and soon after that Union level advocacy meeting will be followed. The participants are also updated that the preparation of the booklet is in the final stage. After finishing all these formalities, DGFP, icddr'b and UNFPA will jointly initiate the implementation process soon.

CCSDP Conduct basic training for newly recruited Doctors

CCSDP Unit Conduct basic training for newly recruited Doctors Clinical

contraceptives Services Delivery Unit, DGFP has recently conducted basic training course on Long Term Reversible Contraceptive (LARC) and Permanent Method (LAPM) for the newly recruited MO(MCH-FP)s at FPCST-QAT Regional Training Centre, Barisal. CCSDP, DGFP with the technical support from MaMoni HSS, Save the Children. The major objective of the training



sessions was to optimize the potentiality, skills and competence of the newly recruited doctors of DGFP. Dr. Mahmudur Rahman, Programme Manager (Services) and Deputy Director of CCSDP Unit, DGFP, Dr Tayebur Rahman, Deputy Director, Barisal attended the sessions as the resources persons.

National Vitamin A plus Campaign Starts on August 05, 2017

The 'Vitamin-A plus' campaign has begun across Bangladesh with children between six months and five years being fed a life-saving capsule. The government is running the campaign with a view to prevent childhood blindness and night blindness, reduce child mortality, and strengthen their immunity. The campaign was opened at 8 am and



continued up to 4 pm without any break.

At least 120,000 permanent health outposts and 20,000 more mobile centres at different points remain operative to reach the target of 21 million children. Children between six months and 11 months will get one blue coloured capsule while those

between 12 months to 59 months will get one high-powered red coloured dose. Bangladesh has cut night blindness to 0.04 per cent in recent years from 3.76 per cent in 1982 through this campaign. Health Minister Mohammad Nasim, MP inaugurated the campaign feeding on August 05, 2017 at Shishu Hospital in the city's gargaon area.

Launching was addressed by the Minister, MOHFW, Mr. Mohammed Nasim, MP as Chief Guest, State Minister, MOHFW Mr. Zahid Maleque and Mr. Md. Sirajul Islam, Secretary, Health Education & Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as special guest and Dr. Kazi Mustofa Sarwar, DG, Directorate General Family Planning, Prof. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Directorate General of Health Services were present as guest of honor. Launching ceremony was chaired by Mr. Md. Serajul Islam Khan, Secretary, Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Dr. A.B.M. Muzharul Islam, Director, IPHN and Line Director, NNS was also present in the occasion. Earlier, several meetings were held there in union, upazila, district and division levels in this regard to make the campaign successful

The Minister, Mr. Mohammed Nasim MP, marks that Vitamin A-plus not only

prevents night blindness, but also strengthens immunity and reduces child mortality. The minister adds that the rate of children's night-blindness in the country has come down below one percent following the distribution of Vitamin A-plus capsules regularly.

Besides, an additional 20,000 mobile centres will be set up at bus stands, railway stations, launch terminals, airports, ferry terminals, bridge toll centres and kheyaghats, and these remained open from 8am to 4pm to make sure that all children are fed the capsules, said State Minister ,MOHFW Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP.

DG, DGFP, visits Habiganj to see eMIS work

Dr. Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, Director General, Directorate General of Family Planning, visited Baghasura Union Health and Family Welfare Center on 14 June in Habiganj's Madhabpur Upazila to see the electronic Management Information System (eMIS) work. Habiganj is one of the four districts where MaMoni



HSS project has been supporting the government implement eMIS.

The service providers at the facility demonstrated how the e-registar works. Dr Mustafa expressed his satisfaction and appreciated the progress so far achieved in implementing eMIS work. He commented that record-keeping and reporting would be revolutionized when the entire health systems would be covered by eMIS. He added that the government is committed to digitalizing the way information is collected and managed.

Joby George, Chief of Party, MaMoni HSS Project, accompanied the DG during the field visit.

Ensuring Universal Access to 24/7 Normal Delivery Services through Strengthened Union Health and Family Welfare Centers

The Population Council provided technical assistance to the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) to implement an Operations Research (OR) study in 24 Union Health and Family Welfare Centers (UHFWCs) of Chittagong and Munshiganj districts to test the effectiveness of a model to strengthen UHFWCs so that they can provide 24-hour normal delivery services. Six UHFWCs from Comilla district served as control sites. Broadly, three interventions, namely, human



resource strengthening, community participation, and referral linkage strengthening were implemented for 12 months. A separate sample pre-test and post-test control group design was used to evaluate the impact of the interventions.

Findings in terms of outcomes of the project suggest that, Strengthening the capacity of Union Health and Family Welfare Centers (UHFWCs) combined with community mobilization could be a key approach to ensure universal access to 24/7 normal delivery services in rural Bangladesh.

On November 22, 2016, the Population Council has released these research findings at a dissemination seminar held in Spectra Convention Center, Gulshan, Dhaka. The Population Council team was led by Dr. Ubaidur Rob, Country Director and Mr. AKM Zafar Ullah Khan, Senior Policy Advisor described the implementation of the project and Md. Noorunnabi Talukder, Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor presented the research findings.

The seminar was attended by over 110 participants from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), DGFP, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), development partners, international and national NGOs, and professional bodies and representatives from print and electronic media.

The chief guest of the ceremony, Mr. Mohammad Wahid Hossain, Director General, DGFP, MOHFW appreciated the effort of Population Council and suggested that this study would serve as a key part of understanding how to best support UHFWCs to ensure universal access to 24/7 normal delivery services and reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in rural Bangladesh. As a special guest at the seminar, Dr. A.E. Md. Muhiuddin Osmani, Joint Chief, Planning, MOHFW highlighted the importance the evidence generated through Population Council's study to guide programs on strengthening the capacity of UHFWCs for 24/7 delivery services.

Besides, speakers and experts recommended to improve the capacity UHFWC providers (Family Welfare Visitors) for delivery complications management. Overall, there was a common agreement at the seminar that community contribution is needed to improve the physical facilities of UHFWCs. The necessity of intensive awareness promotion activities in the community so that every pregnant woman can be informed about UHFWC's 24/7 normal delivery services was also emphasized.

Dr. Mohammed Sharif, Director, MCH services and Line Director, MCRAH, DGFP chaired the seminar, steered the discussion, and concluded the seminar reckoning the importance of new evidence from Population Council's research to improve programs on UHFWC's 24/7 normal delivery services.

The Power of Networking through Springboard for Improved SBC Programming

In closing, Susan persuaded the audience to be vocal advocates for SBC at the individual, organizational, country and global levels. She called for attendees to register for Springboard, be part of the global CoP as well as engage at the country level, and to encourage their colleagues to join.



Susan highlighted Springboard as a vibrant example of the power of networking. Springboard is an interconnected and growing

community of SBC professionals linked through their participation in active country-

led Communities of Practice (CoPs) that meet face-to-face as well as online to strengthen the global field of health communication.

Susan stated that public health professionals are lagging behind in understanding the power of good communication while the rest of the world is reaping the benefits. She stressed the need for more compelling, evidence-based communication so that the global community – and donors – can grow in their understanding of the power of good SBC.

Susan’s keynote focused on the power of SBC and creating a network of SBC professionals, opportunities for strengthening capacity and sharing related tools and resources, and the recognized need of quality SBC as “a crucial investment, not a cost!”

More than 100 stakeholders across many sectors attended, from Bangladeshi government agencies, donors and development partners, media groups, INGOs, NGOs and representatives from both public and private universities. Mohammad Shahjahan, Director and CEO of BCCP, welcomed participants and introduced Susan Krenn, Executive Director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP) and keynote speaker for the event. The



Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP), with support from USAID, held a Springboard Learning Forum on July 16, 2017, at the Spectra Convention Center in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The theme was “Global Social and Behavior Change (SBC) Community and Springboard: Prospects and Challenges.”

Thanks to the following contributors:

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