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News from the Field



Minister, MOHFW inaugurates and wraps up FW Service Week-2017

Mr Mohammed Nasim, MP, Minister, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare formally inaugurates the Family Welfare Service and Campaign Week-2017 being the Chief Guest at Gandhail Maternal and Child Welfare Centre (MCWC), Kazipur, Sirajganj on 31 December, 2017. Deputy Director (FP) Sirajganj Mr Md Tariqul Islam presided over the meeting. The wrapping up of the Service Week -2017 was held at Enam Medical College Auditorium, Savar, Dhaka at a workshop on 'Strengthening 24/7 Normal Delivery Service at UHFWC' of MCH Services Unit, DGFP. Mr Mohammed Nasim, MP, the Minister, MOHFW graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Dr Md Enamur Rahman, MP of Savar Constituency presided over the workshop. Mr Faiz Ahmed, Secretary, Medical Education & Family Welfare Division, MOHFW, Mr Kazi AKM Mohiul Islam, Addl Secretary (Population, FW & Law), ME& FW, MOHFW, Prof. Dr Abul Kalam



Chief Guest. Dr Md Enamur Rahman, MP of Savar Constituency presided over the workshop. Mr Faiz Ahmed, Secretary, Medical Education & Family Welfare Division, MOHFW, Mr Kazi AKM Mohiul Islam, Addl Secretary (Population, FW & Law), ME& FW, MOHFW, Prof. Dr Abul Kalam

Azad,DG,DGHS, Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, Addl Seretary and Director General ,DGFP were among the Special Guests.Dr Mohammed Sharif,Director,MCH Services,DGFP, Dr Md Moinuddi Ahmed,Director,CCSDP,DGFP, Civil Surgeon,Dhaka,DDFP,Dhaka also attended the workshop.Dr Sharif delivered the welcome speech.The objective of the workshop was to aware the various level stakeholders about the unique initiatives taken by MCH Services Unit,DGFP for the normal delivery round the clock at Union Health & Family Welfare centres (UHFWCs).The Minister thanked DGFP for arranging the workshop which aims to reduce the MMR all over the country.He praised his Government's initiative to uphold Health and Family Planning Services to the doorsteps to the commoners.The Minister added that he is traveling extensively all parts of the country to motivate the people so that we can reduce the MMR to 70 per 10000live births.UFPO,Savar,Dhaka Mr Mesbah moderated the ceremony.

Best Performing Districts of Service Week-2017 Awarded

Recognition orally, verbally or any other way acts as a catalyst for increasing services to the clients with utmost care by the service providers.The declaration at the preparatory

meeting by the hon'ble Director General, DGFP prior to the Service and Campaign Week about awarding the Best Performing Districts boosted the DGFP personnel along with various other unique directives given by Director General, DGFP with Ministry monitoring teams. The Post-Evaluation Meeting and prize Giving Ceremony of the Service and Campaign Week-2017 was



held at IEM conference room at DGFP with the presence of the Deputy Directors,Division Directors and Directors of DGFP.DG,DGFP Mr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar,Addl Secretary graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.Director IEM Mr Md Ferdous Alam presided over



the ceremony.The Chief Guest thanked all the 7 Best performing Districts from the 7 representative Divisions along with the other districts.The 7 districts are :

Bagerhat (Khulna Div),Banderban (Chittagong Div),Dhaka(Dhaka Div),Sunamganj (Sylhet Div), Dinajpur (Rangpur Div), Joypurhat (Rajshahi Div),Barisal (Barisal Div). Apart from these,the Chief Guest also declared Bagerhat, Banderban and Dhaka as the best 3 districts according to the highest number of marking they obtained respectively. The Chief Guest also gave a patient hearing to the award winning DDs' answers about their high performance in the Service and Campaign Week-2017.

Press Briefing of FW Service and Campaign Week-2017 held at

MOHFW

The Press Briefing ceremony on the eve of observing the Family Welfare Service and Campaign Week-2017(30 Dec 2017-4 Jan 2018) was held at the conference room of MOHFW on 26 December,2017.Mr Zahid Maleque, MP, State Minister, MOHFW graced

the press briefing ceremony as the Chief Guest.Mr Faiz Ahmed,Secretary, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division,MOHFW presided over the ceremony.Director General, DGFP Mr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, Addl Secretary ,high officials of both the divisions of MOHFW, Directors of DGFP and a mentionable number of media personalities attended the



ceremony.Highlighting the theme of the Service Week '**Parikalpito paribar gori,matrimrittu rodh kori**' the Chief Guest briefed the journalists that in the last decade



MMR has been decreased to 40 percent in the country in which the contribution of Family Planning is 25 percent.Mr Maleque then briefed the journalists the diverse activities taken by DGFP as well as the Ministry to mark the week with success.He hoped that the reporting both by the print and electronic media will surely help the DGFP and the Ministry to point out the

challenges of decreasing the MMR in the country.At the end of the ceremony ,the mediemen asked some questions regarding the observance of the Service Week-2017 which were responded by the State Minister,Secretary and Director General, DGFP nicely.

Minister visits the Rohingya Camp

Mr Mohammed Nasim, MP ,Minister, MOHFW visited the temporary medical camps built for the ousted Myanmar citizens at various locations like Balukhali-1,Kutupalong-1, Balukhali-2 and temporary new hospital of MSF (*Medecins Sans Frontiers*).Later Minister attended a meeting for exchanging views with the high officials at HillTop Cicuit House, Coxsbazar regarding the humanitarian assistance and Health –Family Planning services to



the homeless Rohingya people .Deputy Director, Family Planning Coxsbazar shared the various activities taken by DGFP so far to address the needs of the Rohingya people.DDFP,Coxsbazar also informed the Minister about the advantages as well as the challenges of DGFP services at the camps.The Minister gave a patient hearing to the discussions of the meeting .The Minister gave directives to the concerned officials to prioritize the needs of the distressed Rohingya people.

State Minister inaugurates vaccination program at Rohingya Camp

Mr Zahid Maleque,MP , State Minister, MOHFW inaugurated cholera vaccination program for the shelterless Myanmar people at Jamtoli,Ukhiya,Coxsbazar.The State Minister expressed his satisfaction with the cholera vaccination program as it will protect the vast refugee Rohingya community from the contamination of the fatal disease.Professor Dr Abul Kalam Azad, DG, DGHS, Line Director(EPI), DGHS,Director,Health,Chittagong



Division,Civil Surgeon,Coxsbazar/Chittagong, DDFP,Coxsbazar attended the vaccination ceremony there.The State Minister also visited the temporary shelter at Kutupalong . Later the State Minister discussed the various issues regarding the humanitarian assistance and Health/Family Planning services among the vast Rohingya community in Coxsbazar in a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's Conference room , Coxsbazar.



Smart MCH Services Card and Software inaugurated at Gazipur

Reducing Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) are some of the top priorities of Government .In a view to reducing the MMR and IMR, DGFP officers are in the process of innovating more MCH friendly digital service management all over the country. Recently in the Victory month of December 2017, such an innovation 'MCH Card' and "Smart MCH Service Management Software" by Md Abdur



Rahim,UFPO,Kapasia,Gazipur was successfully inaugurated at 10 bedded Syeda Johra Tajuddin MCWC at Dardaria,Kapasia, the birthplace of one of the National Four leaders of Bangladesh BangaTaj Tajuddin Ahmed. Ms Simin Hossain Rimi, MP, President, Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Ministry of Cultural Affairs and daughter of BangaTaj Tajuddin Ahmed graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest while Mr. Sohel Taj,former State Minister,Home Affairs and son of BangaTaj Tajuddin Ahmed attended as the Special Guest. Both the Chief and Special guests hailed the Smart Health Card and



Software as the unique and pragmatic tool in addressing the needs of mother and child.Director General,DGFP Mr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, Addl secretary Special Guest of the ceremony shared the importance of Health Card and Software and promised to promote this innovation all over the country in a view to expediting the MCH services. Director(MCH Services),DGFP Dr

Mohammed Sharif thanked the young officer to come up with the latest ideas which will surely impact the MCH Services of the program.DDFP, Gazipur Ms Lazu Shamshad Haq presided over the meeting.The ceremony was also attended by Civil Surgeon, Gazipur,AD(CC), Gazipur.

Workshop on Strengthening 24/7 Normal Delivery at UHFWC at Mirsarai

Revitalizing the Union Health & Family Welfare Centres (UHFWC) for normal delivery round the clock is a priority of DGFP to address the needs of MCH activities.MCH Services Unit, DGFP has been implementing orientation workshops to disseminate Local Representatives and other



stakeholders .Engineer Mosharraf Hossain,MP, hon'ble Minister,Ministry of Housing and Public Works graced the occasion of an orientation workshop at Mirasarai,Chittagong recently.Prof. Dr Md Ismail Khan,Vice Chancellor,Chittagong Medical University,Mr Md Nurul Alam,Division Director,Chittagong,Dr Mohammed Sharif,Director(MCH services),Dr Shahanara Chowdhury,Head,Obs and Gynecology, CMC, Dr Md Azizur Rahman Siddiqui,Dr U Khi Win, DDFP, Chittagong were among the special guests.Mr Hossain,the Chief guest thanked MCH Unit, DGFP for implementing round the clock normal delivery services to the UHFWCs in the country.He hoped that the initiative will surely help in reducing the MMR in the country.

Service and Campaign Week-2017 successfully observed all over the country

Service and Campaign Week is a special occasion to render the services with quality among the clients by the service providers. DGFP successfully observed the Service and Campaign Week-2017-18 from Dec30,2017 to Jan 04, 2018 all over the country. Couple of preparatory meetings with DDs and GO/NGO by Director General and Director,IEM prior to Service Week, timely dissemination of IEC materials to the field,commitment of the DGFP personnels and strong monitoring team both from the Ministry and DGFP with unique directives played a very important role in making the Services and Campaign Week-2017 a success all over the country.Almost all the service centres all over the country were found decorative,the



Divisions,the Districts and the Upazillas had separate preparatory meetings and advocacy meetings, involvement of District Administration and Local Representatives also contributed in performing the week successfully all over the country. Overall 1229515 client received services in the Service Week. Number of Implant and IUD top the list in the performance scale with 44959 and 29099 respectively. Tubectomy and NSV with 7448 and 3534 respectively are seemed to be reasonably satisfied for the cold weather and harvesting season. It has been evident from the critical analysis both from the clients and service providers that the festive mood of this years' Service and campaign Week will pave a pathway of success for the future Service and campaign Week of DGFP.

Monitoring Workshop held at FSD with Division Directors and DDs

Expediting the Family Planning activities at the grass root level is a continuous process of DGFP. Monitoring and supervision at the various stages play a pivotal role in increasing the FP performances.In a view to strengthening the monitoring performances, FSD Unit of DGFP implemented a daylong workshop with the presence of Division Directors and Deputy Directors at IEM



Conference room,DGFP.The workshop discussed the various issues regarding the monitoring activities of FP-MCH issues at the field level. Director

General ,DGFP Mr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar ,Addl Secretary graced the workshop as Chief Guest.Mr Pronob Kumar Neogi, Director, FSD Unit presided over the meeting.

Director General, DGFP attends Workshops at Banderban

Director ,DGFP Mr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar ,Addl Secretary motivated various group of stakeholders participating couple of workshops at the remotest Banderban Hill District.Mr Sarwar graced the workshop of IEM unit with the Upazilla level School and Madrasha

Teachers on preventing Child Marriage,Empowerment of Woman,Birth spacing,Maternal and child Health and Family Planning in the light of Islam as the Chief Guest.Mr Md Nurul Alam,Division Director,Family Planning,Chittagong,Zakia Akhter,Deputy Director(IEM),DGFP, Dr Aung Shai Pru Marma,Civil Surgeon,Banderban Mr Abdus



Salam,Chairman ,Sadar Upazilla Parishad,Banderban attended the workshop as the special guests.Dr Aung Tha Loo,DDFP ,Banderban presided over the meeting.

Later Director General ,DGFP visited a LARC/PM Camp at Kuhlalong UHFWC,Sadar,Banderban.He attended a Mother Gathering there as the Chief Guest.He reinforced the importance of institutional delivery among the mothers.He added," In case



of home delivery,despite the skill and sincerity of the Birth Attendant, the emergency situation can not be managed.So considering the better safety of both the child and mother,delivery should be conducted at the institutions".Blood grouping,ANC,PNC Safe Delivery services were provided in the mothers' Gathering.

Mr Sarwar ,later, unveiled a Documentary made by Banderban FP Office on 'Family Planning Activities of Banderban: Development & Expectations" ,inaugurated the newly decorated MCWC and exchanged views with all the officials of Banderban FP Dept.DG,DGFP requested the officials to erect Billboard on FP activities with the technical assistance from NGOs.He conveyed his gratitude to the State Minister,Chittagong Hill Tracts related Affairs and the Chairman,Banderban Zilla Parishad for providing an Ambulance and conference table for MCWC, Banderban.

IEM Unit disseminates Calendars all over the country

IEM Unit for the first time in the recent past printed 30,000 Wall-Calendars and 20,000 desk Calendars highlighting some of the messages of Family Planning. Director General, DGFP Mr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, Addl Secretary unveiled the printed copies of both the versions of Calendars in his chamber. Mr Md Ferdous Alam, Director, IEM along with some officials of



IEM unit was present at that time. The calendars were disseminated all over the SDPs of DGFP according to the directives given by DG and Director, IEM.

MIS unit implements e-Filing training

Digitization in all Government offices is a priority in all Government offices. In the light of the directives from the Government, MIS

Unit is implementing the e-Filing training for all the officials of DGFP. 25 Officers and Staffs of IEM Unit were given two days the e-Filing hands-on training on MIS Conference room at DGFP.

Director, IEM Mr Md Ferdous Alam, Joint Secretary inaugurated the training session on 24 December, 2017 as the Chief Guest. Mr Ferdous hoped that days are not far away when DGFP will be a paperless office as the technology is advancing at such a rapid speed. He thanked Director, MIS Md Suleman Khan for providing the training to IEM officials. Mr Ajay Aatan Barua, DD(MIS)



and Mr Abul Kalam Azad, LMO conducted the sessions as resource persons.

Mr Faiz Ahmed joins as Secretary In-Charge in Medical Education & Family Welfare Division, MOHFW

Mr. Faiz Ahmed, Secretary in Charge, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh is a career civil servant. He took over the charge of the Secretary in Charge of the aforesaid division on 19 October, 2017. He has been serving the country for the last 30 years in different capacities of both the Field Administration and the Secretariat such as Additional Secretary, Joint Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Deputy Commissioner, Senior Assistant



Secretary, Upazila Nirbahi Officer, Upazila/Thana Magistrate and Assistant Commissioner of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

Mr. Ahmed started his career in Civil Service in 1987. He served as APS and PS of Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Textiles from 1998-2001. He also served as Upazilla Nirbahi Officer (Senior Assistant Secretary) from 2002-2006 in Hossainpur, Kishoreganj District and as Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Rajbari and Chittagong District respectively.

He worked as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Forest. Before joining as Secretary in Charge, Medical Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare he was serving as Additional Secretary of Health Services Division.

Mr. Ahmed was born in a respectable Muslim Family of Patuakhali district. In his personal life he is married and blessed with a son and a daughter.

He furnished his graduation in Agriculture and post-graduation in Government and Politics.

He participated in many training programs at home and abroad. He has visited several countries including German, UK, Austria, Turkey, Switzerland, South Africa, Kenya, Tanzania, Malaysia, Indonesia, Iran, Srilanka, Singapore, Philippines, Cambodia, Nepal, Thailand and India.

23rd BCC WG Meeting Held at DGFP

The 23rd meeting of BCC Working Group was held on January 10, 2018 at the conference room of IEM-DGFP. The meeting was attended by senior and mid-level officials of MOHFW, DGHS and DGFP, representatives from development partners, NGOs/INGOs and community based organization.

Md. Ferdous Alam, Joint Secretary, MOHFW and Director-IEM, DGFP welcomed the distinguished guests and participants and expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude for attending the meeting on time in spite of their busy schedule. Ms. Roxana Quader, Additional Secretary (WH&PH), Health Services Division, MOHFW, in her



opening remarks put emphasis on holding meeting on a regular interval requesting all concerned to avoid unnecessary delay to do so. Mr. Ruhul Amin Talukder, Joint Secretary (PH-2), Health Services Division, MOHFW suggested the BCC-WG members to share their implementation progress depicting the intervention areas along with number of accomplished events/activities and results in terms of success stories, good practices etc.

Five government units (IPHN, BHE, IEM, CBHC, NNHP) and four non-government organizations (SMC, Challenge TB, BNNRC, USAID INCA Projects) shared their key

progress being made in SBCC initiatives over last quarter and upcoming SBCC events/activities highlighting on coordination and collaboration issues across HPN SBCC sector.

Ms. Roxana Quader, Additional Secretary (WH&PH), MOHFW and the Chairperson of BCC-WG applauded all presenters for their good presentations. In order to bring synergy in presentations/reporting of the BCC-WG members, she formed a sub-committee (*Convener-Mr. Ruhul Amin Talukder, three members – one each from IEM, BHE & IEM and one member from Ujjiban as member secretary*) who will develop a template/reporting format by next week to be used by the BCC-WG members in presenting their SBCC implementation progress. She requested all concerned to redouble their efforts to reducing maternal mortality further. The nutrition week will be observed in a befitting manner on 23rd April 2018 as it's a Prime Minister's directive, she added.

NijhumDwip looks forward to a healthy future

On November 1, the remote island union got its first health centre equipped with a range of basic healthcare provisions including normal delivery services. Six weeks later, the NijhumDwipUH&FWC started providing 24/7 delivery services. Now the people of NijhumDwip, one of the hardest-to-reach areas in Bangladesh, have the option to avail safe and free delivery services by trained service providers round-the-clock.

Dr. Md Sharif, Director, Maternal and Child Health, DGFP, inaugurated the 24/7 delivery service while Dr. Sukumar Sarker, Senior Technical and Policy Advisor, OPHNE, USAID and Joby George, Chief of Party, MaMoni HSS Project.



The establishment of NijhumDwipUH&FWC represents a novel initiative undertaken by the District Family Planning and Local Government Departments with MaMoni Health Systems Strengthening (MaMoni HSS) Project playing the facilitation role. Instead of constructing a new building, they converted part of a shelter center to house this health facility.

Consultation meeting on ways to reduce discontinuation of LARC methods

A consultation meeting around held in Habiganj on October 14, 2017 discussed ways to decrease the discontinuation of LARC methods. Dr. Moinuddin Ahmed, Line director CCSDP and Dr. Nurunnahar Begum, PM-CCSDP Unit, the MOs-MCH, UFPOs of Upazilas and MOs-Clinic from the district took part in the consultation. Findings from a formative research carried out by



MaMoni HSS project was shared in the meeting.

The study emphasized the clients' perspectives for withdrawal of LARC methods and highlighted the reasons behind reporting gaps and status of follow-up visits of LARC users. The recommendation from the study underlined the importance of follow-up visits with proper counselling to decrease discontinuation of both Implant and IUD. The upazila managers and MOMCHs shared their experiences and challenges around LARC retention. It also recommended ways to improve record keeping system with active follow-ups, improve counselling messages with common complications and treatment of complications. The Line Director and managers acknowledged the research findings. As a follow-up MaMoni HSS is working for the utilization of electronic platform system which is already in place for other MCH services at Habiganj.

Thanks to the following contributors:

Md. Ferdous Alam, Zakia Akhter, Mohammad Badsha Hossain, Md Mahfujar Rahman

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Questions, comments or suggestions?



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