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**Directorate General of Family Planning**  
**Ministry of Health & Family Welfare**

Bangladesh  
Population Clock

**157,329,068**

January, 2017

## DGFP eBulletin

### News from the Field



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Minister launches SDP Dashboard through e-LMIS to Strengthen DGFP Supply Systems



More than 2900 SDPs (Service Delivery Points) including FWAs, FWVs, UHFVCs, NGO Clinics, MCWCs work under DGFP and distribute contraceptives in the community. It was noted that before 2011, sporadic stock-outs of contraceptives at the SDP level often occurred due to lack of accurate and

real-time logistics data, limited access to data and poor feedback mechanisms, thereby increasing the risk of unwanted pregnancies and endangering women's and children's right. Dashboard Module reduces Contraceptive Stock-outs at SDPs in Bangladesh by providing SDP stock status information through the Upazilla Inventory Management System (running in 488 upazillas) with an SMS alert system for action reminders, tracking report submissions against

timeline and potential stock imbalance/stock-out of the contraceptives. It has an interactive dashboard presenting easy to understand charts, GIS maps and tables on stock levels of individual SDPs.

Mr Mohammad Nasim , MP, Minister, MOHFW formally inaugurated the SDP Dashboard Module into the MOHFW's Supply Chain Management Portal ([www.scmpbd.org](http://www.scmpbd.org)) in a local hotel on 30 november,2012. Minister in his speech hailed the inception of the automatic tracking system of supply chain management in the DGFP. Secretary, MOHFW Mr Md. Sirazul Islam expressed his satisfaction as the SDP dashboard provides variety of informations like the retirement date of the employees apart from its main purpose of tracking the stock-outs of logistics. He added that the dashboard can even benefit the HRM system of DGFP. Prof. Abul Kalam Azad, DG, DGHS remarked that the transitioning from mammoth paper-based tasks to automation will surely benefit the activities of DGFP by avoiding unwanted procurement. The chairperson of the ceremony Mr. Mohammad Wahid Hossain, DG, DGFP expressed his optimism about the steady progress of digitization of the Supply chain Management of DGFP. Md. Abdul Mannan Ilias, Director (L& S), DGFP) earlier welcomed the



guests and highlighted the objectives of the ceremony. Mr Zahedul islam, Country Project Director, SIAPS/MSH presented an overview of SIAPS.

## Minister Visits the construction of Coxsbazar Medical College Hospital



Hon'ble Minister, MOHFW Mr Mohammad Nasim, MP visited the construction site of Coxsbazar Medical College & Hospital on November 5, 2016. He expressed his satisfaction about the progress of the construction of almost finished Coxsbazar Medical College & Hospital. Earlier Minister visited Coxsbazar Sadar Hospital and attended a discussion meeting there. Secretary, MOHFW Mr Md. Sirazul Islam also attended the meeting. Later both

the Minister and Secretary met in a meeting with the Member of Parliaments of the constituencies of Coxsbazar. They expressed different political issues of Coxsbazar in the meeting.

## MOU signed between BRAC

## and DGFP to strengthen FP-MCH activities

An MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) has been signed between BRAC and DGFP to strengthen Family Planning-MCH activities all over the country. The major objective of the MOU is to supplement the Government with the LARC (Long Acting Reversible Contraceptives) and PM (Permanent Method)s along with other family planning methods. BRAC has 5500 Community Health Workers (popularly known as

*Shaystho Sebika*) who will refer clients for different FP methods to different Government facilities and also to BRAC's 40 Maternal Centres all over the country. As a result of the MOU, FP-MCH activities is expected to have a momentum in the grass root level as vast DGFP frontline staffs will be supplemented by the BRAC staffs.



Director General, DGFP Mr Mohammad Wahid Hossain and Director, Health Nutrition & Population of BRAC Dr. Kaosar Afsana signed for the respective organizations with the presence of all the Directors of DGFP and BRAC officials.

## Refreshers Training for the Projectionists successfully completed

Awareness building campaign by showing FP-MCH cinemas with the AV Vans has been showcased as one of the best practices of IEM Unit. It has been acclaimed by various GO/NGO organizations previously. IEM Unit, DGFP successfully completed a daylong refreshers training for the projectionists at the conference room of IEM Unit, DGFP on 19 January, 2017. Mr Md. Ferdous Alam, Joint



Secretary, MOHFW and Director, IEM graced the workshop as the chief guest. A total number of 34 projectionists of all the AV Zones of country attended the workshop. All the officers of IEM Unit, DGFP with their presence supplemented the strongest and the weakest sides along with the challenges of AV Van Shows. The projectionists as the participants were refreshed with their previous knowledge about the methodology of conducting AV Van Shows successfully in various sessions. The Chief guest showed his optimism by saying that the number of zones are being increased and in the near future we will have 64 zones in 64 districts with 64 AV Vans. He reinforced the importance of maximising the Government resources with the AV Van Shows with

utmost sincerity, honesty and devotions. In the open discussions, the Chief guest also paid minute attention to the various problems raised by the projectionists. Director, IEM convinced



them by saying that the issues raised by them would be properly addressed. Deputy Director(PM) Mr Taslim Uddin Khan thanked the projectionists to express their views in the open forum for the betterment of the programme. Deputy Programme Manager Mr Mohammad Badsha Hossain moderated the workshop. BBC

Media Action was acknowledged by the Chief Guest with thanks for providing technical assistance in the workshop.

## Clinical Camps visited by Director IEM in Services and Campaign Week-2016

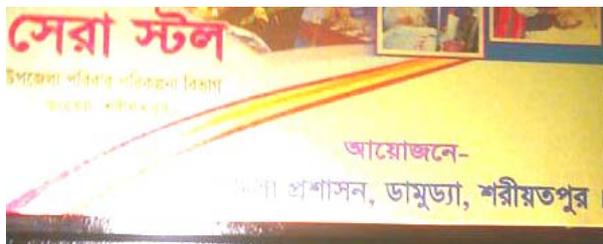
Family Welfare Services and Campaign Week-2016 was observed successfully all over the country from 12-17 November, 2016. The clinical performances of various methods of FP is found to be increased during the Services and Campaign Week as high officials from DGFP make frequent field visits to expedite the clinical performances of the programme. Mr Md. Ferdous Alam, Joint Secretary, MOHFW and Director, IEM visited Keraniganj upazilla in Dhaka. The officers and field level staffs were motivated as Director IEM expressed his satisfaction with the performance of Keraniganj upazilla. He visited couple of FWCs there where he talked to the waiting clients. He also advised DGFP officials to upgrade the quality services to the clients because this will create trust among the clients about the service. DDFP Dhaka Ms Mirza Kumrunnahr, ADP-2 Mr Md Taslim uddin Khan and officers of Keraniganj FP office were also with him during the visit.



## Stalls of family Planning accoladed in Unnayan Mela (Development Fair)



Access to Information (a2i) of Prime Minister's Office all over the country successfully conducted the *Unnayan Mela* (Development Fair) from January 9-11, 2017 with pomp and splendor. The main objective of the fair was to display the unique achievements of the Government from 2009 to 2016. Like other Government organizations, officers of DGFP all



over the country actively attended the fair. They displayed the various attainments like MDG Award 2010 which was given to present Prime Minister for being on track to achieve MDG 4 (by reducing IMR9 Infant Mortality Rate) along with South South Award of 2011. The stalls erected by DGFP officials all over the country also demonstrated other achievements in the field of FP-MCH. Upazilla Family Planning offices of Madhabpur, Hobiganj, Sadar, Narail, Companyganj, Damuddya, Shariatpur are few to mention which have been rewarded in various categories.



## 485 Workshops/Campaigns successfully organized by IEM Unit, DGFP



Various group of stakeholders who directly or indirectly expedite the FP-MCH activities need to be sensitized and motivated. The issues that challenge FP programmes in various regions vary also regionally. To combat the various regional variations of various determinants of Family Planning programme, IEM Unit, DGFP has launched 4 types of campaigns among the Female School Teachers (120 workshops of 1 day with 40 participants), Adolescents of Secondary Schools (120 workshops of 1 day with 100 adolescents in each program), Newly Wed Couples (100 workshops of 1 day with 40 participants in each program) and DGFP

Frontline Staffs (115 workshops of 2 days with 25 participants in each program). More than 26675 participants attended the workshops which have been implemented in 2 months time.

Divisional Directors, DDs, Upazilla officials (Upazilla Chairmen and UNOs) and DGFP officials performed the role of Resource Persons in these workshops. Workshops with Female School Teachers and Adolescents Boys and Girls were implemented in all the upazillas of Chittagong and Sylhet Divisions as the various determinants of FP-MCH issues are very low here at these regions of the country.



## Addressing Challenges to Increasing

## the Uptake of LARC and PM services

### Expanding Access to Injectable Contraception: Family Welfare Assistants (FWAs)



and trained Community Skill Birth Attendants (CSBAs) were previously not allowed to provide the first dose of injectable contraception, and **Community Health Care Providers (CHCPs)** were not permitted to provide second and subsequent doses. Due to successful advocacy efforts by MH-II, the National Technical Committee (NTC) of the MoH&FW permitted CSBAs and FWAs to provide first doses and CHCPs to provide second doses of injectable contraception. The MH-II has been working in collaboration with the Field Service Delivery Program (FSDP), Clinical Contraceptive Service

Delivery Program (CCSDP), and the DGHS in three districts to strengthen the capacity of CSBAs, FWAs, and CHCPs to provide injectables. Throughout implementation of this important intervention, the following challenges emerged:

- Lack of blood pressure (BP) measuring instruments;
- Lack of consent forms for recording the initial screening of clients for their first dose;
- Shortage of injectable contraceptives at community clinics (CCs); and
- Lack of information for tracking of the first dose of the injectable by CSBAs.

Due to advocacy effort from MH-II, DGFP ensure uninterrupted supply of injectables at the facility level. To better ensure sufficient record tracking of the first dose of injectables administered by CSBAs, the project helped to streamline the reporting system through FWA registers by requiring the placement of a stamp to track when the first dose was provided, as well as a stamp to track the second dose provided by CHCPs. Finally, Family Planning Inspectors (FPIs) were engaged to ensure the availability of injectables, medical instruments, record keeping and forms.

### Support Obtained from the Highest Level Policy Maker:

On October 18, 2016, the OGSB hosted a dissemination meeting organized by RH & FP Training Center, which is funded by USAID supported MH-II project implemented by EngenderHealth Bangladesh. Dr. Zahid Maleque, the Honorable State Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) graced the meeting as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Rowshan Ara Begum, the President of OGSB presided the meeting as the Chair. Representatives from the DGFP, DGHS, United



Nations agencies, World Health Organization (WHO), development partners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other professional bodies were present in the meeting.

Prof. Dr. Salma Rouf provided an overview to the guests of the meeting on the training courses that the RH & FP Training Center is offering, how the training center has been supporting to

enhance the human resource capacity, and the suitability issues. Since its establishment in 2017, a total 459 participants received training on long acting reversible contraceptives (LARC), counseling and infection prevention issues, noted by Prof. Dr. Salma Rouf. A trainers' pool composed of OGSB, DGFP, DGHS and NGOs resource person provided the training.

In the dissemination meeting, Prof. Dr. Farhana Dewan, Secretary General of OGSB discussed how Standard Labor Room Protocol, developed by OGSB, would help to improve the quality of safe delivery, thus reduce the maternal morbidity and mortality. The State Minister appreciated the contribution of OGSB run RH&FP Training Center in strengthening capacity of service providers to deliver high quality reproductive health services, particularly clinical contraception services. He also thanked OGSB for developing the protocols for improving the quality of safe delivery services. He informed participants that he would be establishing a standard labor room at the Manikganj District hospital with help from the government and would like to see the same happens in other health facilities.

Dr. Mohammad Sharif, Director of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Services with the DGFP, assured the audience that he would provide support implementation of the protocol across the country. In addition to the honorable State Ministers and current and senior government officials, gynecologists Prof. Dr. ShahlaKhatun, Prof. Dr. Ferdousi Begum, delivered supportive speeches. Dr. Abu Jamil Faisal, Project Director of the MH-II project, EngenderHealth Bangladesh, appreciated the initiative of OGSB RH&FP Training Center for starting 'Hands on training on Clinical Family Planning Methods' for the final year students of the private medical colleges. He also noted that offering LARC and PM training will not only improve the quality of Family planning services, but also help the training center to be financially sustainable. He also emphasized the importance of developing a home delivery protocol, as 62% of deliveries are conducted at home.

## World Prematurity Day 2016 observed



According to 2016 estimates, Bangladesh had 438,800 preterm births and 23,600 deaths from preterm complications in a year and is ranked seventh among countries with the highest burden of preterm births. Speakers at a roundtable discussion held on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2016 stressed

the need for greater investment on interventions around prevention and management of preterm births to significantly cut down numbers of preterm births and deaths.

The Saving Newborn Lives program of Save the Children and USAID's MaMoni Health Systems Strengthening (MaMoni HSS) project collaborated with the Daily Star to organize the roundtable at Azimur Rahman Conference Hall in the Daily Star center to mark World Prematurity Day, 2016.

A full-term pregnancy lasts between 37 and 42 weeks, and "prematurity" describes when a baby is born earlier than 37 weeks (gestational time). Prematurely born babies face many problems,

which can include breathing difficulties, feeding difficulties, and low birth weight.

Dr Sayed Rubayet, Director, SNL Program, Save the Children, presented the keynote paper to initiate the discussion. Premature birth accounts for over one million deaths worldwide and South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa together share 60% of those deaths. World Prematurity Day represents an opportunity to call attention to the heavy burden of death and disability, not to mention the pain and suffering that preterm birth causes. The day also offers a scope to talk about innovative solutions in terms of prevention, diagnosis and management of preterm birth.

Speakers in the roundtable also discussed ways to contain preterm birth. They called for greater investment in programs that reduce risks of preterm birth associated with lifestyle, infections and malnutrition during pregnancy and lack of contraception. Also were highlighted ensuring Essential Newborn Care (ENC), Kangaroo Mother care (KMC) and advanced care. If the global goal of ending all preventable newborn and child deaths by 2030 has to be attained there is no choice but to work towards reducing preterm births.

Dr. Mohammad Shahidullah, President, Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council and Bangladesh Pediatrics Association, Shamim Jahan, Director, Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS, Save the Children, Joby George, COP, MaMoni HSS Project and Dr Sayed Rubayet, Director, SNL Program, Save the Children, spoke on different aspects of prematurity birth in the context of Bangladesh.

## First Asia Regional Meeting on Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Held

The Saving Newborn Lives (SNL) Program, USAID supported the Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP) and USAID supported MaMoni HSS Project jointly organized the first Asia Regional Meeting to promote Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) intervention in the region. KMC has emerged as an effective intervention to manage newborns with low birth weight, one of the leading causes to newborn death.



The three-day long meeting on Kangaroo Mother Care, Community of Practice was held in Dhaka from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2016. The objectives of the meeting were to develop a platform for the KMC community in the region to share knowledge and implementation experiences, potential and challenges for KMC practice, and to promote and facilitate the uptake of KMC within countries and across the region.

A total of 22 delegates from India, Bangladesh, and Indonesia took part in the meeting.

Participants included neonatologists and representatives from the Ministry of Health and family Welfare, UNICEF, WHO, SNL, MaMoni HSS Project, MCSP and Save the Children.

A field visit was organized on the second day at four KMC facilities in Dhaka and Kushtia districts to let the participants have first-hand experience of KMC intervention and practice.

Prof. Mohammad Shahidullah, President of Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council, Bangladesh Perinatal Society, and Professor, BSMMU was present as the Chief Guest at the inaugural session and Dr. Md Altaf Hossain, Program Manager, IMCI, DGHS chaired it.



December 13, 2016



**Surjer Hashi Network**

USAID-DFID NHSDP (Commonly known as Surjer Hashi Network (2012-2017) funded by USAID-DFID, which aims to provide technical assistance and capacity building to NGOs to provide a quality essential services to the poor and underserved population in Bangladesh.

**Network Coverage**

- 26 NGOS
- 406 Static Clinics
- 10,754 Satellite Clinics
- 8,316 Community Service Providers
- 40 million service contact per year
- 25 million populations covered per year

Surjer Hashi network organized  
**Regional Workshop on GOB -Surjer Hashi Coordination**



Secretary -MoWCA, DG -Mass Communication, Director -MCH of DGFP and COP & PDs of SH Network

Surjer Hashi network convened a workshop on GOB-Surjer Hashi coordination in Chittagong division on 12th December, 2016 in a hotel at Chittagong. The workshop was graced by Ms. Nasima Begum ndc, Secretary, Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, as the Chief Guest. Ms. Kamarun Nahar, Additional Secretary & Director General of Mass Communication, Ministry of Information and Dr. Mohammed Sharif, Director (MCH-S) and LD-MCRAH of DGFP were present as the Special Guests. The event was chaired by Dr. Halida Hanum Akhter, Chief of Party, USAID-DFID NHSDP and Senior Country Representative, Pathfinder International/Bangladesh.

Apart from chief guest and special guests' GOB correspondences from different disciplines from Chittagong division respectively Divisional Director, FP and Joint Secretary Mr. Nurul Alam, Civil Surgeon Dr. Md. Azizur Rahman and so on.

The event brought together the GOB's high officials, eight Surjer Hashi network NGOs like IMAGE, NISHKRITI, SUS, SOPIRET, FDSR, PROSHANTI, BANDHAN and Green Hill, other national and local NGOs and media professionals of Chittagong division to discuss the approach taken by NHSDP's Smiling Sun health clinics – in reaching poor communities with basic healthcare. The event also provided a platform to talk about Chittagong division's status and progress in improving overall health and identify the various roles of government, NGOs and media in addressing continuing health challenges.

"To improve health status of people particularly for the women, children and adolescent Surjer Hashi network significantly contributed to GOB to achieve MDG target by 2015."  
 – Ms. Nasima Begum ndc, Secretary, MoWCA





**NHSDP News Brief**

**Inauguration of ‘Midway Homes’ to ensure Maternal, Neonatal & Child Health in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) areas**



Mr. Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura, Secretary, Ministry of CHT Affairs, GOB spoke as chief guest in the “Inaugural Ceremony of Midway Homes” in Chittagong Hill Tracts areas.

Surjer Hashi network expanding GOB’s Essential Service Packages (ESP) services in hard to reach CHT areas through static clinics providing Basic Emergency Obstetrics Care (BEMoC) services titled “Midway Home”. USAID-DFID NHSDP supported local implementing NGO Green Hill organized the inaugural ceremony of Mid Way Homes in CHT held on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2016 at Khudra Nri-Gosthi Cultural Institute, Bandarban.

The program brought together the Govt., NGOs and Development Partners’ high officials, political leaders, local level elites. Mr. Naba Bikram Kishore Tripura, Secretary, Ministry of CHT Affairs, GOB graced the ceremony as chief guest. Mr. Dilip Kumar Banik, DC, Bandarban Hill District, Dr. Mohammad Sharif, Director (MCH) and Line Director (MCRAH), DGFP, Dr. Uday Sankar Chakma, Civil Surgeon, Bandarban Hill District and Dr. Sanjib Ahmed, Clinical Services Technical Specialist, OPHNE, USAID were present as special guests. The chairman of Khagrachari Panchari, Rangamati Kaptai, Bandarban Sadar and Alikadam upazilla along with Chairman and Headman of three hill districts were also present there. The program was chaired by Dr. Halida Hanum Akhter, Chief of Party, USAID-DFID NHSDP and Senior Country Representative, Pathfinder International.

Honorable secretary, MOCHTA thanked USAID, DFID and Pathfinder International for supporting this CHT expansion. He also said, “Although CHT lags behind in its development indicators, expansion of 18 SH static clinics (Midway Homes) would help GOB to improve maternal and reproductive health indicators in this area.” The Director (MCH) and Line Director (MCRAH) Dr. Mohammad Sharif mentioned that, “SH network is now much well-known to GOB than never before. We, although were very close but couldn’t achieve MDG-5 on reaching MMR of 143/100,000 live births. Ensuring institutional delivery through SH clinics will play significant role to reduce maternal mortality in CHT areas.” Dr. Sanjib Ahmed of USAID asserted that “USAID always recognizes investing for development of CHT; expansion of SH network is the most important initiative among other ongoing projects in CHT.”

The chairperson of the ceremony, Dr. Halida said, “We projected to ensure 16,000 institutional deliveries through 18 Midway Homes in CHT areas. It’s a lifesaving initiative but challenging as most areas are hard-to-reach which requires firm dedication and passion.”

*Chittagong Hill Tracts is the home of 11 ethnic groups, comprising three hilly districts of Chittagong Division of Bangladesh. About 1,650,000 peoples (1.1% of National Population) reside in these three districts, Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachari.*

*NHSDP already has presence in all three districts with 7 Surjer Hashi static clinics and 303 satellite clinics serving nearly 378,000 populations (currently being implemented by Surjer Hashi NGO, FDSR). Expansion of 18 clinics (Midway Homes) in eighteen additional upazillas will ensure MNCH services to all 25 upazillas of CHT.*



Honorable Secretary, CHT inaugurating the 18 midway homes in CHT through media conference

Written by: Md. Nadim Reza, DCS/PI



USAID-DFID NGO Health Service Delivery Project



## Thanks to the following contributors:

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### Check Us Out



### Questions, comments or suggestions?

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DGFP Supply Chain Information Portal [www.dgfplmis.org](http://www.dgfplmis.org)

DGHS [www.dghs.gov.bd](http://www.dghs.gov.bd)

MOHFW [www.mohfw.gov.bd](http://www.mohfw.gov.bd)



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