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Directorate General of Family Planning
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Bangladesh
Population Clock

157,329,068

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DGFP eBulletin

News from the Field



IN THE SPOTLIGHT

State Minister visits Regional Ware House (RWH), Chittagong



Honorable State Minister, MOHFW Mr. Zahid Maleque MP paid an auspicious visit to Regional Ware House (RWH), Family Planning, Chittagong on February 15, 2016. He was briefed about warehouse and supply chain management of RWH, Chittagong by Mohammed Abul Kalam, Assistant Director (Port Clearance). He scrutinized manufacturing & expiry date of some items like OCP, Condom, Injectables etc. He expressed satisfaction of warehouse management and also emphasized on shelving and cooling system for better warehouse management. Distinguished Director General, DGFP Mr. Mohammad Wahid Hossain, NDC, Director (MCH) Dr. Mohammad Sharif, Div. Director, FP, Chittagong Mr. Muhammad Nurul Alam and other officials from DGFP as well as

DGHS were present. The State Minister graced the occasion as the chief Guest in a meeting organized by Divisional Director, FP at the conference room of newly built FP Building, Chittagong later on. The Chief Guest wished that the DGFP officials will work hard for achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as we achieved Maternal and Child Health related goals of MDG. He assured all out support of the present Government of Honorable PM Sheikh Hasina to FP & MCH services. He also added that Chittagong Division must do better in the coming days as she is lagging behind in various determinants of FP-MCH issues. DG, DGFP Mr. Mohammad Wahid Hossain assured State Minister on behalf of the division that they will try their best to to overcome all the challenges hindering better performance. Director, Chittagong Division showed his gratitude to the honorable State Minister, MOHFW, Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation Mr A.Z.M. Nasir Uddin, DG, DGFP, DGHS officials and others guests for making the gathering a success with their kind presence.



MOU signed among BGMEA, EngenderHealth (EHB) & DGFP



In the readymade garment sector around 5.4 million population work where 70% of them are women of reproductive age and a good number of them are married and young couple but their awareness of and access to FP services particularly long acting reversible contraceptive and permanent method (LARC & PM) uptake is very low. So it is justified to reach those low earning female workers for helping them get information and access to LARC & PM services for better health care and prevent unwanted pregnancy.

In a view to ensuring family planning commodities particularly oral pill, condom, injectables and implant services and improving knowledge on family planning information and services among the garment workers of the BGMEA member readymade garment factories, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed among Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and EngenderHealth Bangladesh. According to the MOU, DGFP will supply FP logistics and commodities to the selected garment factories based on the requirement. EngenderHealth Bangladesh will provide basic and refresher training to clinical service providers working at garment factories. BGMEA will provide organizational support and coordinate DGFP and EHB for achieving the objectives of the program. Mr Mohammad Wahid Hossain, DG, DGFP, Mr Md. Siddiqur Rahman, President, BGMEA and Dr Abu Jamil Faisal, Country Representative, EHB signed the MOU on behalf of the respective organizations. The MOU will be valid and effective for the period of 1 December 2015

to 31 November 2017.

MOU to Promote the Use of Digital Resources at UH&FWCs:

On March 2, 2016, an MoU was signed by Dr. Mohammed Sharif, Director, MCH Services and Ms. Rebecca Arnold, Project Director, Bangladesh Knowledge Management Initiative (BKMI). The purpose of the MoU is to promote the use of digital resources produced by BKMI with funding support from USAID. Digital resources include an [eToolkit](#) containing print and audio-visual SBCC materials for use during



counselling activities, as well as an [eLearning](#) course to refresh field workers' knowledge on family planning, maternal and newborn health, IYCF, interpersonal communication and integrated messaging. The MOU between MCH and BKMI opens up new avenues to work together to prevent maternal, neonatal and child mortality in Bangladesh through the efficient use of Digital Resources for field-level staff developed by BKMI. The eToolkit and eLearning course will enable service providers at UH&FWCs to do their jobs better and make visible changes in their work place. MCH Unit and BKMI will jointly organize an orientation for UH&FWC-level providers as soon as possible on the use of Digital Resources, initially in Dhaka and Khulna divisions. In this connection, Dr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, Asst. Director of MCH Unit has been assigned as focal person to expedite the work

World Autism Awareness Day 2016 Observed

The eighth annual World Autism Awareness Day is April 2, 2016. Every year, autism organizations around the world celebrate the day with unique fundraising and awareness-raising events

- Autism now affects 1 in 68 children and 1 in 42 boys



- Autism prevalence figures are growing
- Autism is one of the fastest-growing developmental disorders in the U.S.
- Autism costs a family \$60,000 a year on average
- Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism
- There is no medical detection or cure for autism



The eighth annual World Autism Awareness Day on April 2, 2016 was duly observed with respect and honor at the Maternal and Child Health Training Institute (MCHTI), Azimpur, Dhaka. A discussion meeting was held at the MCHTI with the presence of all employees of the Institute, autistic children, guardians of the autistic children. The speakers discussed the symptoms, signs, prevalence, diagnosis, treatment of the autistic child in the meeting. Dr. Ishrat Jahan, Director (MCHTI) emphasized about the awareness of the day in respect to child rights. She added that



autistic children need special care. She urged all the employees of the MCHTI to handle the autistic children related treatment issues with special care as it is related with the children. Souvenir gifts were distributed among the autistic children at the end of the program. As a part of the observance of the day MCHTI building was decorated with blue colorful lights from 2nd to 4th of April, 2016.

Training Program on EOC and Midwifery successfully conducted at MCHTI

Closing ceremony of six month long special training program on Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC) and Midwifery was successfully wrapped up at MCHTI, Azimpur, Dhaka. Two group of FWVs from different unions of various districts attended the training session. The major objective of the EOC and Midwifery Training program was to infuse up-to-date knowledge of the EOC and midwifery with the FWVs so that they can render better service at the Union Health and Family Welfare Centres (UHFWC) at Upazilla level and Maternal and Child Welfare Centres (MCWC) at the district level. Mr Md



Wahid Hossain, Director General, DGFP graced the closing ceremony as the chief guest while Dr. Mohammed Sharif, Director (MCH services) attended as the special guest. The special guest marked that the participants with the basic and updated learning will surely assist the doctors

with more confidence which will scale up the service standard of delivery cases. The Chief Guest showed his optimism about the training program of EOC and midwifery by saying that the participants will contribute a lot in reducing the maternal and child mortality in their respective workplaces. Dr. Ishrat Jahan, Superintendent, MCHTI, Azimpur, Dhaka wrapped up the ceremony with special thanks to the chief guest.

HPN SBCC Safollo Gatha 2016 held



A Health, Population and Nutrition SBCC Share Fair was branded as **Safollo Gatha** was held on March 24, 2016 in Dhaka to showcase the best practices for Health, Population and Nutrition (HPN) sector Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) in Bangladesh. Every year the Bangladesh Behavior Change Communication Working Group organize and host the Safollo Gatha event to showcase the best practices of member-organizations in HPN SBCC.

The Safollo Gatha 2016 was jointly inaugurated by Dr. Ehteshamul Haq Chowdhury, Director(Admin), DGHS; Dr. ABM Mujharul Islam, Director, IPHN & LD, NNS; Ms Sharifa Begum, Chief, BHE & LD, Health Education & Promotion; and Dr Md Sharif, Director MCH Services by cutting a ribbon and flying balloons thus unveiling the floral bouquet inscribed Safollo Gatha in Bangla. Around 180 people, including SBCC practitioners, policy-makers from government and nongovernment organizations, media professionals, and development partners attended the event.

This year the event featured twelve selected presentations from eleven members on successful HPN SBCC practices in an innovative and festive mood. The presenting organizations were (in order of presentations) MCH Unit DGFP, BCCP, NHSDP, SHIKHA, IPHN, IEM Unit DGFP, CBHC, SPRING, BKMI, BHE DGHS, SMC.

Besides enthusiastic presenters who were eager to share their piece on SBCC practices, the guests and audience were awaiting with more interest and excitement to learn some new and effective solutions to SBCC issues and problems. The presentation modes included role-play, enter-educate, drama, folk-songs and power point presentations. The participating organizations also had their nicely decorated stalls to provide additional information.

The shared successful interventions were selected following a set of criteria.

This was the second year of Safollo Gatha. The first one was held in March 2015 that created huge interest among the communication practitioners, policy-makers and development partners.

The Bangladesh Behavior Change Communication Working Group, a forum for harmonizing and coordinating HPN SBCC activities in Bangladesh, organized the event with technical assistance from BKMI. BKMI is a USAID-funded project jointly implemented by Johns Hopkins Center for Communication Programs (CCP) and Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP).

Aponjon Launches Two New Mobile Apps

Aponjon, a mobile health messaging service for mothers and newborns, launched two new services —*AponjonShogorva* and *AponjonKoishor*— to cater to the needs of expectant mothers and adolescents.

Zunaid Ahmed Palak MP State Minister, ICT, attended the launching event held on 7 April, 2016 in Dhaka as chief guest while U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat addressed the ceremony as a special guest.

AponjonShogorbha is the first mobile app in Bangla language with comprehensive information for expecting mothers. The app will help expecting mothers to get week by week

information on development and conditions of her and the child growing inside her womb. She will also get other general health information and a few useful tools such as the one for calculating the expected date of delivery.

AponjonKoishor is a mobile app in Bangla for adolescents that helps create awareness among adolescent boys and girls about physical and mental changes that they go through as well as about adolescent reproductive health. The app contains topic wise information on physical and mental changes adolescents commonly experience, their interests and curiosities, and issues such as how to deal with relationships and information about sexually transmitted diseases, HIV, family planning etc.

Aponjon, a maternal and child health mobile messaging service, is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), was launched in September 2011 and is implemented by Dnet, a social enterprise, in partnership with MaMoni HSS project among others. In September, 2015, Aponjon acquired 1.5 million paid subscribers, a remarkable feat for a mobile messaging service in Bangladesh.



Sharing results of the “District Level Assessment of Pharmaceutical Management of Lifesaving RMNCH Commodities: Lakshmipur, Bangladesh” and technical update on electronic Logistics Management Information System (e-LMIS).



Systems for Improved Access to Pharmaceuticals and Services (SIAPS) in partnership with MaMoni HSS project has completed assessment of pharmaceutical management of lifesaving RMNCH commodities at Lakshmpur district. A meeting was held on 4th April, 2016 at MIS Conference Room, DGHS, Mohakhali organized by SIAPS to disseminate the results of the assessment and to give an update on plans to scale up e-LMIS for tracking

priority MNCH medicines within DGHS. The session was Chaired by Prof. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad, Additional Director General (Admin) & Director- MIS, DGHS and Chairperson of Technical Working Group (TWG) for logistics reporting and tracking systems for MNCH priority commodities. Prof. Dr. Md. Shahidullah, President Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council (BMDC), President Bangladesh Pediatric Association (BPA) & Chairperson of National Technical Working Group (NTWG) for Newborn (NB) Co-Chaired the session while Dr. Habib Abdullah Sohel, Director, PHC and Line Director, MNC&AH, DGHS was present as special guest.

Agenda of the meeting included sharing of results of district level assessment of pharmaceuticals management of life saving RMNCH commodities at Lakshmpur district; and lessons learned from introduction of e-LMIS for tracking priority MNCH medicine with a demonstration on DHIS2 and the Supply Chain Management Portal(SCMP).

The recommendations made included dissemination of the maternal and newborn health Standard Operating Procedure(SOP)s at all levels of the system, improve the capacity of staff members at the local level to manage pharmaceutical management processes including procurement, supply, distribution and logistics management, strengthening pharmaceutical information systems to provide the data needed for forecasting and supply planning, documentation of the expiry date, provide facilities with the infrastructure necessary to maintain cold chain storage conditions for oxytocin and ensure that magnesium sulfate is available in facilities wherever women give birth etc.

In closing remarks, Prof. Dr. Md. Shahidullah, emphasized on the importance of e-LMIS specially for DGHS. He mentioned that the data generated from the system would help to avoid the over flow of medicines at facilities that might be unutilized and also, generate the demand of life-saving medicines where there are no supplies. Finally, the Chair of the session, Prof. Dr. Abul Kalam Azad advised SIAPS, the members of the TWG, the MOH officials and all representatives from various UN bodies, INGO's and development partners to work together on common goals avoiding duplication of work and give recommendations to the government so that all can contribute towards ending preventable child, maternal and newborn deaths. He thanked USAID for their continued support for establishing an e-LMIS for DGHS.

Strengthening UH&FWC for better birth outcome

MaMoni HSS project has been supporting the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOH&FW) to accelerate the strengthening of the Union Health & Family Welfare Centers (UH&FWCs) to improve access to skilled birth attendants. As part of this initiative the project is assisting the DGFP to assessing more than 4,300 UH&FWCs dotted across the country. The assessment of the UH&FWCs is over and the project is now organizing advocacy and dissemination meeting in different divisional headquarters. The latest one was in Khulna on 27 March, 2016.



The advocacy meeting in Khulna is the fifth in a row after Barisal, Sylhet, Chittagong and Rangpur divisions that the DGFP organized with support from MaMoni HSS. Results of the assessment were shared in the meetings. More importantly, through these meetings the project is seeking to engage the local and regional level health managers and health sector leaders, and enhance their ownership of this initiative – strengthening the UH&FWCs to improve birth outcome.

Mohammad Wahid Hossain ndc, Director General, DGFP chaired the meeting while Harun-ur-Rashid Khan, Additional Secretary, MOHFW, was present as the Chief Guest.

Dr Farzana Islam, Deputy Director, Health Systems Strengthening, MaMoni HSS, presented the results of the assessment of Khulna Division. A total of 569 union level facilities have been assessed in Khulna Division. About 11% of the facilities were found to be of 'A' category, 64% of 'B' category and only 25% of 'C' category.

Dr. ABM Shamsuddin Ahmed, Assistant Director, MCH Services Unit, DGFP, made a presentation on the background of the assessment of the UH&FWCs being carried out by DGFP.

Mr. AKM Mahbubur Rahman Joarder, Joint Secretary, Director, Family Planning, Khulna Division, provided welcome address. Dr. Mohammed Sharif, Director (MCH Services) and Line Director (MCRAH), DGFP, Selina Amin, Senior Advisor, MaMoni HSS, Md. AbdusSamad, Commissioner, Khulna Division, Dr. MD. Masum Ali, Director, Health, Khulna Division, Nischinta Kumar Poddar, Director, LG, Khulna Division spoke at the meeting as special guests.

Around 100 participants represented by officials from the DGFP, DGHS, local administration, media, local government, development partners took part in the event.



NHSDP News Brief

MAYER BANK AND ANGEL MODEL IN 'SAFOLLO GATHA'



On 24th March, 2016, USAID-DFID NGO Health Service Delivery Project (NHSDP) participated in 'Safollo Gatha' (success stories), a share fair event on best practices for Health, Population and Nutrition Social and Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) in Bangladesh; hosted by the BCC Working Group, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW).



The event was designed to be interactive, participatory and festive. The best practices/success stories from Govt. and USAID funded projects had the opportunity to present in front of GOB ministries, international and national NGOs and electronics and print Medias. In addition, each best practice had a booth or stall to share the works/practices behind the successes.



Mayer Bank Booth in Safollo Gatha

Among twelve Safollo Gatha's, two were from NHSDP; the **Mayer Bank** and **ANGEL model**. As best practice the Mayer Bank was presented through a display mode booth and the ANGEL model through oral presentation. Both the Safollo Gatha's from NHSDP were highlighted in the printed booklet published.

Mayer Bank Saves Lives in Emergencies

NHSDP has taken a number of strategic steps to improve the access to and deliver quality maternal health services across Bangladesh. Antenatal Care (ANC) is provided from all Surjer Hashi (SH) static as well as in satellite clinics. In addition, NHSDP introduced a Birth Preparedness Card for identifying danger signs, reducing three delays and encouraging birth planning, including the distribution of 'Mayer Bank' as an NHSDP icon to empower pregnant mothers with saved money to facilitate seeking pregnancy related routine and emergency services.



The purpose of the Mayer Bank is to create awareness among pregnant women on the importance of ANC visits, which are available in SH satellite and static clinics. Clinic staff motivated women and her family that the money saved in the plastic bank can save the life of a mother and her newborn as it can be used for transportation, hospital fees and to arrange blood transfusion, lifesaving medicine. If any emergency arises at postnatal period, that money can be used for emergency referral, transportation, fees for services, etc. (Photo: Mayer Bank Brochure)

This NHSDP's icon is used by 388 Surjer Hashi clinics and all satellite clinics and in all community areas served by the network. Requests are coming from the government sector to provide the banks via public facilities.



USAID-DFID NGO Health Service Delivery Project



ANGEL Model Promotes Health Care for Adolescent and Youth



The ANGEL model is a life-stage based approach that integrates adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH) in the Essential Service Package (ESP), and addresses gender and social norms that drive early marriage and pregnancy.

NGOs, 25 of them, under NHSDP provide Essential Service Package (ESP) throughout Bangladesh via 388 SH clinics in 64 districts, including clinical services to approximately 7,400,000 adolescents and youth aged 15-25 years through their static and satellite clinics and school and college based satellite presence with counseling and clinical

services. Four selected target groups are taken into consideration which includes unmarried adolescents, newly married couples, currently pregnant and first-time parents and mother-in-law.

To reach unmarried adolescents and youth, the clinics reach educational institutions (schools, colleges and madrasas) in their catchment areas to communicate with the adolescents. In schools adolescents are informed about child marriage, puberty, nutrition, relationships between boys and girls, gender equality, hand washing, and other topics. Health leaders provide information to pregnant mothers and first-time parents in their communities and encourage them to seek services. The comprehensive information given via the ANGEL



Model increases the capacity of the adolescents and youth to make healthy decisions regarding their reproductive health and rights. It also helps to improve communication with their parents, peers and other gatekeepers.

Comprehensive information on ASRH is provided by organizing Newly Married Couples' Ceremony in SH clinics. In NHSDP catchment areas, more than 20% of the population in 15-25 years old receives ASRH services through the ANGEL Model, representing a 19% increase from the previous year.



Photo captions: 1) Mr. Md. Ferdous Alam, Joint Secretary and Director-IEM, DGFP visiting Mayer Bank booth where Dr. Roushon Ara, Maternal Health Specialist, NHSDP is describing the intervention 2) Dr. Nahid Ahmed Chowdhury, ASRH&FP Advisor, NHSDP presenting ANGEL Model and 3) COP, NHSDP among the audience.



USAID-DFFID NGO Health Service Delivery Project



Thanks to the following contributors:

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