



SUPPORT TO THE SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROGRAMME

Update on Major Activities in May 2008

General

- SSMP advisers and partners attended four of the five regional reviews organised by FHD. The Eastern Region is still pending.
- Preliminary plans were made for a visit by the influential Coogee Beach Group in June, to be hosted by UNICEF
- Adviser work plans were finalised for the year, specifically highlighting the inter-relationship between TA and FA inputs.
- Short term (consultant) TA inputs for 2008-09 were defined and planned within the budget.
- A budget tracking system was introduced, allowing advisers to monitor spend against budget on a quarterly basis.
- Personnel: Sonu Shrestha was appointed as Administrative Officer, replacing Resham Gurung. Selected advisers participated in a report writing workshop. Drivers attended RMO training.

Output 1: Equity and Access (EA) (including AAN and JHU/CCP)

- Terms of reference were received for the MoHP social inclusion unit
- The EA Advisory Group meeting was held, now including a representative from the NHEICC
- The EA team participated in a discussion meeting on "taking the health/ social inclusion debate forward" organised by DfID.
- The EA programme Participatory Review and Reflection Process was held in Chitwan for four terai districts with the EA team and partners. Achievements, problems, and learning from the second year were reviewed and analysed and plans prepared for the third year.
- EA district partner plans for April 2008 to March 2009 were finalised and agreements made.
- District partners were orientation on completion of the questionnaire for Rapid Assessment of Free Health Care Policy. After translation into Nepali this was sent to district coordinators.
- Voice Capturing Organisations completed selection of key informants and began KIM training on collecting voices from the community.
- Four episodes of *Aama* radio magazine were produced and aired through local FM and Surkhet regional radio stations.
- The EA programme participated in ActionAid's project consolidation meeting to discuss AAN projects at senior level (AAN Country Director, senior staff and project staff)
- EA programme printed 825 wall calendars and 4,615 pocket calendars with SMNH messages and distributed to stakeholders at community, district and national levels.
- Regular interaction meetings with community groups and networks on SMNH and social issues were conducted in all EA districts, facilitated by the social mobilisers. BCC materials were disseminated and discussed with mothers groups. Community groups are raising money and managing their emergency funds and transport facilities.
- SSMP/JHU/CCP worked on development of the SDIP brochure, a flex chart for health facilities and flier for FCHVs, pre -tested in Kabhre and Rupandehi districts; also worked on the implementation and mass media plan. Newborn care images (photographs) were pre-tested in the community and with health workers as part of materials development for postnatal care and SDIP promotion.
- JHU/CCP offered technical support to Child Health division for the community-based newborn care programme strategic design
- JHU/CCP reviewed mini drama scripts for the *Aama* radio programme and forwarded to districts for production.



- JHU/CCP made a contract with EA partners in selected districts to produce and air the *Aama* radio programme and other mass media activities.
- In response to partner requests, JHU/CCP reproduced and distributed BCC/IEC materials: SMNH technical content book and *Asal Logne* tele-drama serial.
- Conducted 3-day interpersonal communication skill development training for health workers from EA working areas in Myadgi, Dadeldhura and Morang districts.
- Supported preparations for joint monitoring visit with NPC, MoHP and DoHS to EA districts
- Prioritised recommendations from Ben and Deborah (Options) for future planning; drafted ToR for Mary Manandhar (voice capturing support), and for the NGO to be contracted for implementation of EA activities in two selected districts under FA next year.
- In Dailekh, Narayan municipality and the DDC contributed Rs.100,000 and Rs.50,000 respectively to the district emergency fund. SMNH orientation was provided to 150 staff of the Nepal Army, and participants committed one day's salary to the district emergency fund
- Nirmala Adhikari, EA District Coordinator for Rupandehi resigned and Rekha Ghale, District Coordinator of Nawalparasi, was given the additional responsibility of Rupandehi.
- EA team members attended training as follows:
 - Bindu Gautam: training on women's health rights assessment organised by Aim for Human Rights in South Africa.
 - Prakash Koirala and Santosh Ghimire: ToT on Safe and Effective Development (SED) organised by Risk Management Office (RMO).
 - Purna Shrestha: project management training (33 hours) Kathmandu Academy. Dhan
 - Hom Nath Subedi: 5-day professional writing training organised by ELD, the empowerment and learning development centre.

Output 2: Service strengthening

- Assisted with interviews for district coordinators of the maternal mortality and morbidity study
- Discussed with NFHP provision of national standards for SMNH, third volume, as required for SSMP supported districts
- Participated in the Child Health Division Technical Working Group meeting on Community Based Newborn care for briefing on IEC/BCC and training subcommittee progress
- Attended preparatory meeting for the Nepali team participating the UNICEF South Asia Network meeting for reduction of maternal and newborn deaths
- Coordinated with Management Division for incorporation SMNH orientation for health workers and HFMC members in the five decentralised districts (Parsa, Dadeldhura, Doti, Surkhet and Dhankuta)
- Coordinated with NSI and NFHP regarding possible coordination and collaboration to facilitate implementation of the FHD SMNH plan in their supported districts.

United Mission to Nepal (UMN) (2 districts)

Mugu

- One day SMNH update workshop organised for all health facility in-charges to improve their support for the programme
- Liaised with Regional SMNH Coordinator and RH supervisor for hospital review workshop
- Continued support for SMNH activities at the hospital
- Management orientation provided for HFMC members of Dhungadada Health Post
- Infection prevention training carried out at Dhungedada Health Post
- Visited Kimri Health Post and met with local communities
- Supported partner (MCDC) to complete their proposal for community mobilisation activities for SMNH in three VDCs



Rupandehi

- Completed needs assessment
- Organised a one-day SMNH update workshop for all health facility in-charges to improve their support for the SMNH programme
- Supported a five-day action planning workshop at Ryapur PHCC
- Parroha Health Post review and planning workshop carried out
- Attended a meeting of the HFMC of Rudrapur SHP, the DPHO, local political leaders, social workers to discuss the SMNH programme at Rudrapur. The decision was made to establish a birthing centre, and forwarded to the Regional Health Directorate
- Supported Suryapura SHP to start 24-hour SMNH services once the nurse has completed her SBA training.

UNICEF (8 districts)

Central level

- Developed drafts for two radio spots with JHU/ CCP (out of a planned four).
- Prepared presentation of knowledge attitudes and practices survey report and disseminated to district MNH consultants to use for district annual review and planning workshops in June
- Gave a presentation on strengthening 24-hour birthing centre services in low resource settings, based on experiences in Jumla and Panchthar districts at a meeting organised by FHD on facilitating synergies to scale up Maternal and Newborn Best Practices.
- Coordinated with NHTC, FHD and LMD for SBA training site development in UNICEF areas
- Finalised Client Exit Interview document and disseminated to regional/district colleagues.

Districts

- **Saptari:** New MNH Consultant recruited and oriented; orientation on EOC monitoring organised at zonal hospital and PHCC; 24-hour birthing centres at three facilities monitored.
- **Udayapur:** Planning workshops for SBA enabling environment and 24-hour delivery services completed in six health posts.
- **Panchthar:** Training for local HFMC - total 1050 participants from 30 VDCs
- **Humla:** Supervision visit to district hospital and one SHP (where 24-hour birthing centre planned); participated in integrated district planning meeting to discuss strengthening and expanding SMNH services; supported DHO in organising breakthrough team meeting and reviewed progress of district plan; collected EOC service utilisation data to analyse caste and geographical distribution; explored with DHO and local NGO possibilities for establishing a maternity waiting home to serve women from remote areas.
- **Bheri Zonal Hospital, Banke:** Organised follow-up meeting on drafting EOC fund guidelines with the committee and hospital team; coordinated with hospital team to plan minor repairs of the hospital and SBA training of doctors and nursing staff.
- **Dang:** Supervision visit to the hospital and one health post; collected EOC service utilisation data for caste analysis and DAG mapping; discussed with DHO plans for strengthening health posts as birthing centres and DHO support for minor repairs.
- **Jumla:** HMIS second quarterly review meeting at DHO; monitoring visits to 6 health posts and SHPs with DHO; second quarterly review meeting of VDC level SBA micro planning workshop in one PHCC; meeting with HFMCs at one health post and one SHP to plan establishment of 24-hour services; meetings with radio drama management committee about monitoring system and production of further episodes.
- **Achham:** Participated in District Council meeting and agreed to jointly prioritise development of birthing centres; shared training manuals for staff nurses, ANMs and MCHWs; SBA and devolution training with SBA workshop at health facility level.



TCIC (Abortion)

Training

- 1 batch of nurse providers trained at Maternity Hospital, 8 participants.
- 1 batch of ob/gyn received seven-day training at MSI, 5 participants
- 1 batch of Medical Officers (private) trained at FPAN, 4 doctors and 4 nurse assistants
- Supported FPAN in facilitating a Providers Network workshop at Pokhara (28 participants)
- Worked on preparations for second trimester abortion workshop
- Participated in COFP counselling training manual review meeting organised by NHTC

IEC/BCC

- Conducted four district RHCC meetings to orient on site listing process, legal provisions, integration of safe abortion with family planning (Parbat, Magdi, Baglung and Kaski)
- Provided capacity building for staff of local NGO (CYC) on safe abortion service in Baglung
- Oriented 25 journalists from the western region on safe abortion services in Baglung
- Conducted an orientation on safe abortion for community women in Baglung district
- Provided orientation on safe abortion for 60 female community mobilisers and counsellors, organised by WOREC.
- Recorded and aired five episodes of radio drama.

Listing and Equipment

- Listed four new private sites
- Linked safe abortion trainees to the distributor of MVA sets (Atlas Trading Concern) for promotion of MVA
- Coordinated with LMD to provide MVA sets for government safe abortion trainees and coordinated with Atlas for action on the tender published by LMD. Met with the Director of LMD to discuss distribution process for MVA for government health institutions.

Monitoring

- Provided HMIS orientation for nurse focal persons in central, mid-western and far-western regions.
- Follow up of trainees being maintained at 3-4 weeks post training.
- Site follow up interviews being taken and entered into the database.
- Data collection from all the listed sites is in progress
- Conducted training site assessment at Seti Zonal Hospital.

Output 3: Public Private Partnerships

No separate activities under this output, which cuts across the work of other outputs.

Output 4: Decentralisation

No separate activities under this output, which cuts across the work of other outputs.

Output 5: Human Resource Development

- SBA Forum meeting was conducted to update NHTC about progress of organisations involved in the SBA programme.
- A consultant team from IntraHealth (USA) visited for two weeks to meet key people involved in the SBA work, gather data for further work and familiarise themselves with the situation and training materials. They met trainers, government officials and non-government partners and visited two SBA



SSMP/NEPAL

Support to the Safe Motherhood Programme

training sites, Baglung Hospital and Maternity Hospital in Kathmandu. The team, Martha Carlough and Cathy Murphy (IntraHealth Headquarters in USA) and Robert McPherson (Kathmandu based consultant), have been contracted to provide technical inputs over the next year. At the end of their trip they made recommendations for improving the quality of SBA training, including systems and training materials, and planned further inputs to the programme.

- A two-day trainers interactive meeting was organised at Nagarkot to help improve training quality and systems. Trainers came from six of the training sites to share their experiences. NHTC presented letters of appreciation to trainers who had contributed to starting up new training sites and developing the SBA training courses. Key points raised included the recommendations that ANMs should be trained in separate groups (not with staff nurses), using materials in Nepali, and four trainers should be assigned to each training rather than three, to ensure services do not suffer during training.
- TUTH has completed preparations for becoming an SBA training site. An SBA programme orientation and skills update was provided for all nursing and medical staff working in the maternity unit and a 15-day SBA training given to MDGPs and ob/gyn specialists, who will now be able to provide training. This brings the number of functioning SBA training sites to eight (Maternity Hospital in Kathmandu, Koshi Zonal Hospital in Biratnagar, Bharatpur Hospital in Chitwan, Seti Zonal Hospital in Dhaghadi, Lumbini Zonal Hospital in Rupandehi, Baglung District Hospital and Amda (NGO) Hospital in Jhapa).
- Coordinated with UNICEF and NHTC for SBA and CTS training, especially from the four UNICEF supported proposed SBA training sites.

Output 6: Information

- Conducted pre-testing of the tools for the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Study 2008/09 in Kavrepalanchowk and Chitwan (4 deaths).
- Participated in a meeting to incorporate changes in tools for the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Study based on the pre test and international technical advisory group inputs.
- Met with the Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Study international technical advisory group Dr Harshad Sanghvi (JHPIEGO) to discuss the district selection and other methodological issues. The meeting was also attended by Ms Stephanie Suhowatsky and Ms Geeta Sharma from JHPIEGO and the study staff
- Supported Maternal Perinatal Death Review activity in Lumbini Zonal Hospital.
- Attended the preparatory meeting for Reproductive Health commodity security semi-annual meeting.

Output 7: Physical assets

- Supported LMD in conducting training of district store keepers, DHOs and computer operators from all districts in the eastern region and three districts of the central region on the web based Logistics Management Information System and inventory, including support for procurement and handover of computers to all the trained districts.
- Worked with Management Division and DUDBC to organise and conduct orientation on basic concepts, construction and operation of incinerators and health infrastructures for DHOs and DUDBC district engineers/architects, with exposure visits to two Kathmandu hospitals and the DUDBC central office
- Conducted monitoring and supervision visit (with DUDBC official) to CEOC and BEOC sites and Birthing Centres completed and under construction in the eastern development region.

Output 8: Finance

- Submitted to DfID the audited report of fiscal year 2005/06, un-audited report of 2006/07 and first trimester's financial monitoring report of 2007/08



- Supported FHD to prepare 2065/066 (2008/09) annual budget plan and submitted to MoHP, NPC and MoF.

Safe Delivery Incentive Programme (SDIP)

- Prepared ToR, financial proposal and programme plan for SDIP two-day national workshop organised by RTI, with SSMP support, in Pokhara. Presented a paper on the SDIP monitoring mechanism and supported FHD director, D(P)HOs and medical college in preparing their presentations. JHU/ CCP and the EA team also participated and assisted NHEICC in preparing the SDIP promotional plan progress presentation.
- Prepared a checklist and circulated to SSMP partners to outline local SDIP promotion activities to be carried out by partners and local media
- Prepared the SDIP budget to be released for third quarter and sent to all 75 districts
- Prepared and disbursed SDIP additional budget requested by some districts
- Worked with Wilda and Louise (visiting from Options London) to finalise the summary of SDIP monitoring and technical support activities and a summary of findings from SDIP independent evaluation studies
- Supported DfID in reviewing and updating a graph of use of institutional delivery care based on HMIS data
- Reviewed SDIP impact evaluation report and provided comments to Tim, including comments from Dr Suvedi
- Supported JHU-CCP in selection of a firm for the development of SDIP promotional activities
- Supported FHD in providing training to field researchers of the health service supply environment study
- Worked on the SDIP communication materials with NHEICC and JHU-CCP-SSMP.



List of Acronyms

AAN	ActionAid Nepal
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
BEOC	Basic Emergency Obstetric Care
BPP	Birth Preparedness Package
CEOC	Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care
CFUG	Community Forest User Group
CHD	Child Health Division
CREHPA	Centre for Research in Environment Health and Population Activities
DACAW	Decentralised Action for Children and Women
DoHS	Department of Health Services
D/PHO	District/ Public Health Officer
DUDBC	Department of Urban Development and Building Construction
EA	Equity and Access
EASO	Equity and Access Support Organisation
FA	Financial Aid
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteers
FHD	Family Health Division
FP	Family Planning
HMIS	Health management Information System
HSR-SP	Health Sector Reform- Support Programme
IEC	Information Education and Communication
JAR	Joint Annual Review
JHU/CCP	Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health/ Centre for Communication Programs
LMD	Logistics management Division
MD	Management Division
MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MSI	Marie Stopes International
MVA	Manual Vacuum Aspiration
NDHS	Nepal Demographic and Health Survey
NESOG	Nepal Society for gynaecologists and Obstetricians
NFE	Non Formal Education
NGO	Non Government Organisation
NHEICC	National Health Education Information Communication Centre
NHTC	National Health Training Centre
NSI	Nick Simons Institute
PHN	Public Health Nurse
PNC	Post Natal Care
RH	Reproductive Health
RHCC	Reproductive Health Coordination Committee
SAS	Safe Abortion Service
SBA	Skilled Birth Attendant
SDIP	Safe Delivery Incentives Programme
SEDC	Safe and Effective Development in Conflict
SHP	Sub Health Post
SMNF	Safe Motherhood Network Federation
SMNH	Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health
SSMP	Support to the Safe Motherhood Programme
TC	Technical Cooperation
TCIC	Technical Committee for Implementation of Comprehensive Abortion Care
TUTH	Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital
UMN	United Mission to Nepal
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VDC	Village Development Committee