

SUPPORT TO THE SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROGRAMME

Update on Major Activities in March 2009

General

- The core team helped with preparations and participated in the SMNH annual national review meeting held at Nagarkot
- The Options Managing Director, Mr Todd Peterson, visited Nepal, met with the core team to review future safe motherhood needs and directions. He also met with DfID to discuss programme issues.

Output 1: Equity and Access (EA) (ActionAid)

- In collaboration with UMN and the Mid-western Regional Health Directorate (RHD), SSMP and FHD organised a SMNH sensitisation workshop in Nepalgunj for Airline operators in the mid and far western mountain and hill areas. Participation was encouraging and the airline representatives showed willingness to support pregnant women's improved access to emergency services. They committed to reserving two seats on every mountain/ hill flight for sick persons, especially delivery cases. A detailed report of proceedings has been produced for circulation.
- SSMP/ Options worked with MoHP to facilitate a social inclusion strategy development consultation workshop in the Eastern Region, with participation from RHD, D/PHO, Civil Society, I/NGOs and donors. EAP shared their lessons learned and the participatory voice video was shown.
- In the mid and far west regions, SSMP/ Options supported the RHDs in conducting a two-day social inclusion orientation for D/PHOs. SSMP also shared a draft social inclusion orientation guideline for health workers to roll out at grassroots level, and showed the participatory voice video.
- The EAP team and SSMP EA Adviser visited Gorkha DHO to develop action planning for contracting out EA initiatives to a local NGO, including their capacity building.
- Participated in the 99th international women's day celebration programme organised by NHEICC at Maternity Hospital, at which the participatory voice video was shown to sensitize and influence policy makers. EASOs in Chitwan, Myagdi and Dailekh also celebrated the day.
- Survey questionnaires for the end line KAP survey were finalised and the contract with Valley Research Group signed
- EAP Team Leader, Dr. Bharat Mani Devkota resigned from the post effective from 15th March 09. We acknowledged his contribution to the success of EAP and wished him the best in his future life.
- EAP organised a national PRRP and planning workshop with district coordinators from all EAP supported districts and the central team.
- The draft guideline of Voice for Action is in process for finalisation.
- Journalists from UK visited Baglung and Myagdi to capture women's issues regarding health rights. DFID London Press Officer, DFID Nepal Health Adviser, SSMP Deputy Team Leader, AAN/EAP EA Adviser accompanied them.

District level

- Regular monthly group meetings in all EAP working VDCs The social mobilisers facilitated community/Mother groups, SM networks and co-operatives in all EAP districts.
- Door to door visit campaign organised by EASOs in EAP districts to provide information on free delivery and free health services.
- BCC activities such as family interactions, quiz contests, discussions about SMNH issues.
- HFMC regular meetings
- Some VDC councils contributed to emergency funds.
- ANC Campaign organised in Chitwan, Myagdi and Parbat.
- Interactions between service providers and right holders in different VDCs of Chitwan, Rupandehi and Dailekh. Discussion focused on creating enabling environment among community and service providers, helping to increase downward accountability and maintain transparency while providing health services.

Output 2: Service strengthening

- Discussion and preparation of draft remote areas strategy for SMNH access and emergency referral
- Finalisation of list of standard equipment for CEOC, BEOC and birthing centre sites
- Participatory planning workshop at Nuwakot hospital for CEOC service
- Finalisation of staff nurse/ ANM clinical protocols arranged by FHD
- Assisted FHD fiscal year planning for 2009-10 for safe motherhood programme
- Attended Aama Programme review meeting with district hospital teams
- Participatory workshop with HFMC completed in Aurohi and Golbajar PHCCs in Siraha, Tumling HP in Sankhuwasabha and four HPs in Rasuwa for 24 hr delivery,
- Participated in an annual review meeting of regional coordinators at which list of functional health facilities was updated. Discussed the idea of giving contracted ANMs 15 days' exposure in a hospital before they go to health posts or PHCCs, and of ensuring they receive supervision from SBA trained staff nurses. In summary:
 - In the far western region, the regional coordinator had visited all nine districts, all 20 PHCCs and 70 of the 80 health posts. Functioning 24-hour delivery services were made available in four PHCCs, 45 health posts and eight SHPs. A total of 37 ANMs were contracted to provide delivery services. BEOC service is available all seven hospitals and in 13 of the 20 PHCCs. The major issues preventing provision of BEOC in the other seven PHCCs are lack of SBA training (there should be at least one SBA in each PHCC) and equipment. District level review meeting of MCHWs, ANMs and staff nurses is appreciated and helps to make the PHNs more active.
 - In the mid west, the regional coordinator noted that all 30 PHCCs and 72 out of 129 health posts provide 24-hour delivery services. She visited all districts and provided on-site coaching to increase the confidence of SBAs. 42 ANMs have been contracted.
 - In the western region, the regional coordinator visited 15 districts, 13 hospitals, 16 PHCCs, three health posts and two SHPs. Now 24-hour delivery services are available in 25 of the 42 PHCCs, 15 of the 144 health posts and one SHP (a further six are planning following MCHW/ ANM review meetings). 41 ANMs were contracted, out of a target of 45. Seven staff nurses were recruited (target five). The extra recruited will be maintained by the HFMCs. A circular has been sent to all VDCs to spend 15% of their budget on health.

Summary of services reported by regional coordinators

Services	2007/08	2008/09
24 hr delivery HP	138/699(20%)	244/705 (34%)
24 hr PHCC	154/215 (72%)	166/215 (77%)
24 hr BEOC at PHCC	42 /215 (19%)	78/215 (36%)
BEOC	80 sites	119 sites
CEOC	33 districts (44 sites)	38 districts (49 sites)

United Mission to Nepal (UMN) (2 districts)

Mugu

- Continued supervision and support for BEOC service at Mugu hospital and 24 hour delivery services at Dhungedada HP, Sreekot HP and Natharpu HP.
- Training of FCHV, TBA on essential newborn care - Natharpu

Rupandehi

- Infection prevention training at Rudrapur SHP
- ANM salary support agreement prepared and signed with health facilities
- Regular coordination and follow up with LZH for SBA training and other management
- Supervision support to Dakdhai PHCC, Ryapur PHCC and Majegaun PHCC
- Orientation to and agreement with health facilities for CDMA phone piloting

Kathmandu

- Participation in discussion of remote area strategy
- Presentation of MNH programme (and other programmes) to USAID mission director and health section chief

UNICEF (8 districts)

- **Training:** Infection Prevention training in 8 BCs in Udayapur and Nangin SHP/BC in Panchthar, Bekhsimle HP/BC in Kavre, 8 BCs in Achham and BZH Banke (160 supporting staffs to Matron in BZH) - placenta pit and incinerator constructed by Panchkhal PHCC of Kavre; Review and technical refresher training for MCHWs in Humla; 3 days capacity building training for HFMC in 8 BCs in Achham and 3 BCs in Jumla, including on site coaching for birthing centre staff on recording/ reporting and infection prevention; 3rd batch of 60 days SBA training from Mid-western region in BZH, Banke and 2nd batch of SBA training in Dang hospital started with support of NHTC.
- Essential furniture and materials supplied to 17 BCs in Panchthar under the support of breakthrough innovation planning. Also 25 stretchers to Dang district.
- C/S service restarted in Panchthar by Dr. Surendra Prasad Chaudhary, posted as MDGP.
- UNICEF and the DPHO Saptari visited 12 BCs out of 15. A Japanese team visited to observe a birthing centre in Kavre
- FCHV quarterly review on SMNH started in Kavre.
- **Jumla:** Celebrated International women's day in partnership with the Women's Development Office in Jumla to increase awareness on SMNH; meeting to share results of client exit interviews with staff of hospital and BC; Coordinated to DHO to use redbook budget to air four radio spots on SMNH, birth preparedness etc through Karnali FM.

- **Achham:** Discussed with Baral VDC-VHMC chair person and VDC secretary how to scale up 24 hour delivery services at HPs and local ANM recruitment; inaugural ceremony for new ambulance; discussed BEOC service, 24 hour delivery service and establishment of CEOC services at district hospital, completed compilation of FCHV based additional SMNH indicators Status Report for all 14 HP/PHCCs and district EOC report (hospital, 2 PHCCs, 12 HPs).
- Provided a list of candidates for C/S training, in coordination with SSMP and NHTC.
- Gave a presentation in FHD on the impact of 4 days technical refresher training and the outcomes of whole site IP training in BCs.
- Provided technical support for planning workshop facilitated by Government (red book budget) in Trishuli Hospital, Nuwakot to start C/S services.

TCIC (Abortion)

Training

- Facilitated one batch of private doctors' training at FPAN (6 participants)
- Facilitated one batch of nurse training at MH (9 participants)
- Facilitated one batch of nurses training at Bharatpur Hospital (7 participants)
- Facilitated one batch of GoN doctors' training at LZH (9 participants)
- Facilitated OJT pre-service training at MH (3 participants); TUTH (5 participants); BPKIHS (3 participants)
- Facilitated 2nd trimester training at MH/ KMC (7 participants from four new sites BPKIHS, Bharatpur Hospital, Western Reg Hospital Pokhara and Seti Zonal Hospital)
- Assessed FPAN Kailali and Nawajeevan Hospital for satellite clinic as practicum for Seti Zonal Hospital training site
- Standardised clinical skills of the providers at Seti Zonal Hospital (6 providers)

IEC/BCC

- Conducted FCHV review meeting in Bhaktapur district.
- Celebrated women's day in two districts

Policy/Listing/Drug and Equipment

- 5 new private sites listed as CAC sites
- Orientation on MVA processing for cleaners at private institutions.

Monitoring

- Site visit and support to 5 Government and 2 non-government sites
- Interview of 2 government and 2 non-government sites and 3 providers for global monitoring purpose
- One month post check in of 6 providers.

Medical Abortion

- Conducted MA partners meeting to share the experience of MA services
- Conducted MA trainers meeting
- Revised MA monthly reporting form

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

- Continued technical support for SBA training at three training sites (Pokhara, Surkhet and Dang)
- Finalisation of draft caesarean section training package (advanced SBA) and preparation of trainers (28 service providers)
- Advanced SBA training programme orientation organised for 16 key stakeholders and 28 trainers.
- Coordinated printing of updated SBA training package (in Nepali) from Redbook funds
- Coordinated initiation of post training follow up for SBA graduates.

Output 6: Information

- Worked with Dr. Sarah Barnett on Maternal Mortality Morbidity Study 2008/09 report structure and contents.
- Participated in meeting to discuss the maternal verbal autopsy issues. This was attended by Prof. Lynn Sibley (MMMS TAG member) and obstetricians Dr. Bimala Lakhey, Dr. Meeta Singh, and Dr. Kusum Thapa.
- Participated in the MMMS TAG meeting, chaired by Dr. GP Ojha. Dr. BK Suvedi, Member Secretary, MMMS TAG presented the status of the MMMS and discussed problems and constraints.
- Accompanied the SSMP Team Leader, Prof. Lynn Sibley, and Dr. Sarah Barnett to observe MMMS field work in Baglung district. The MMMS district coordinator reported on the MMMS field activities and gave a progress update. Met with Mr. Mukti Bhandari, Chief of the DPHO, Baglung and Dr. Tarun Poudel, Chief of Baglung Hospital. Met with the FCHVs and discussed identification and notification issues for live births and deaths of women of reproductive age.
- Participated in the remote area service strategy meeting. Prof. Lynn Sibley made a presentation on her experience on this issue in various countries.
- Met with Mr. Dhruva Ghimire, Chief, HMIS Section to discuss activities for the current and next fiscal year under FA. The discussion also focussed on EOC monitoring and the HSIS issues.

Output 7: Physical assets

- Preparation of list of health posts requiring new construction, reconstruction, upgrading and addition of birthing centre.
- Submission of proposal to LMD for establishment of bio-medical equipment repair and maintenance lab

- Organisation of workshop for finalisation of list of equipment, furniture and instruments for different levels of health facility, depending upon their functions (with expert inputs)
- Preparation of ToR for updating HHS to web based, and initiation of work
- Orientation for DUDBC staff from the field on web based HHS, its use, gaps and ToT for them for upcoming data updating, verification and survey work.

Output 8: Finance

- Sent financial monitoring report to DFID
- Supported FHD to finalise annual work plan and budget for the next fiscal year
- Supported FHD to prepare bimonthly and quarterly reports for submission to MoHP

Safe Delivery Incentive Programme (SDIP)/ Aama Programme

- Organised two-day Aama programme national review meeting among central, regional, zonal hospitals, and eight CEOC districts
- Supported FHD preparation of memo for revising the Aama programme guideline
- Prepared presentation on Aama programme, including challenges and way forward to be presented by Dr. BK Suvedi at SMNH Sub-Committee meeting
- Prepared Aama programme presentation for in international women's day (Dr. Shilu Aryal)
- Participated in the social audit grand event in Mahottari district
- Prepared draft funding requirement for SSMP monitoring and evaluation needs.

List of Acronyms

AAN	ActionAid Nepal
AI	Appreciative Inquiry
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
BEOC	Basic Emergency Obstetric Care
BPP	Birth Preparedness Package
CAC	Comprehensive Abortion Care
CEOC	Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care
CHD	Child Health Division
CREHPA	Centre for Research in Environment Health and Population Activities
DoHS	Department of Health Services
D/PHO	District/ Public Health Officer
DUDBC	Department of Urban Development and Building Construction
EA	Equity and Access
EAP	Equity and Access Programme
FA	Financial Aid
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteers
FHD	Family Health Division
FP	Family Planning
HMIS	Health management Information System
HP	Health Post
HSIS	Health Sector Information System
HSR-SP	Health Sector Reform - Support Programme
IoM	Institute of Medicine
JAR	Joint Annual Review
LMD	Logistics management Division
MD	Management Division
MMMS	Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Study
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
SBA	Skilled Birth Attendant
SDIP	Safe Delivery Incentives Programme
SED	Safe and Effective Development
SHP	Sub Health Post
SMNF	Safe Motherhood Network Federation
SMNH	Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health
SSMP	Support to the Safe Motherhood Programme
TCIC	Technical Committee for Implementation of Comprehensive Abortion Care
ToR	Terms of Reference
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