

SUPPORT TO THE SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROGRAMME

Update on Major Activities in September 2009

Output 1: Equity and Access (EA) (Action Aid)

This is the last month of the EAP contract, during which the team has completed all planned central level activities, including documentation of learning and achievements, preparation for hand over to partners and working with the Valley Research Group (VaRG), the contracted consultancy company, to finalise the end-line KAP report. Key activities for the month were:

- The EAP team worked with SSMP to organise a final dissemination meeting, which was attended by representatives from MoHP and Social Welfare Council, national (civil society) and international organisations.
- EAP finalised a briefing sheet about Reflect, Emergency Funds and Voice for Action.
- EAP prepared a final project report and submitted to SSMP.
- VaRG submitted EAP end-line (KAP and Service utilisation) survey report to SSMP.
- SSMP provided technical and financial support to Safe Motherhood Network Federation to for organisation of a visit by Duchess of York, Sarah Ferguson. During this visit SSMP supported public campaigning for SMNH and an exhibition stall at an open air event in Kathmandu and the Duchess visited the Maternity Hospital and a rural health facility and met the Prime Minister.
- The SSMP EA Adviser worked with the Safe Motherhood Adviser to plan an evaluation of the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) review and planning process.
- The EA Adviser contributed to design of the BBC Trust formative research on maternal and neonatal health.
- The EA Adviser participated in thematic working group meetings (communication and gender and social inclusion) for the new DFID supported Nepal Health Programme under development.

Output 2: Service strengthening

- Terms of reference for the AI evaluation were finalised and discussed with the national consultants contracted to do the work. The required documents were provided to the consultants, their CVs were shared with Options technical adviser for EA, Deborah Thomas and a meeting held. Evaluation tools developed by the consultants were reviewed by SSMP advisers and Deborah and feedback incorporated. Sites were selected and plans made for field visits.
- The Remote Area Guideline was translated into Nepali and shared with the Director of FHD.
- A presentation on: SMNH activities undertaken in response to the issues identified in last year's DoHS regional reviews; policy changes in the Aama Programme; and budgeted plan of activities for this fiscal year for regions and districts was prepared for FHD to share at the next round of regional and national reviews.
- ToR and tools were prepared for onsite assessment and coaching on standard practice for SMNH services. Visits were carried out at Makwanpur and Pyuthan district hospitals by SBA trainers. Around 15 staff nurses and ANMs in Makawanpur and 12 in Pyuthan received updating and coaching.

- ToR were prepared for collection and verification of information on the usefulness of CDMA phones in supporting provision of SMNH services and referral in Solokhumbu district, including discussion with peripheral health workers and hospital staff.

United Mission to Nepal (UMN) (2 districts)

Rupandehi

All eight supported health facilities are providing 24-hour delivery services with utilisation.

Mugu

- 24 hour services continued at the hospital with increased utilisation
- 14-hour services continued in two health posts (Sreekot and Natharpu), but Dhungedada Health Post HFMC was not able to continue to provide additional staff salary. Staff at Kimri Health Post provide home delivery service.
- A district emergency fund has been established.

UNICEF

- **Infection Prevention Support:** Ongoing support for good infection prevention practices in all birthing centres of the 8 supported districts
- **Support for creating enabling environment through A/MNH approach:** No new activities were organised during September, but regular community mobilisation activities have continued in all eight districts, such as monthly breakthrough team meetings, community based watch group awareness raising, working with FCHVs for social mobilisation for MNH services
- **Support to birthing centres/ BEOC sites:** Continuous technical support provided to birthing centres in all eight MNH districts to ensure provision of 24-hour services
- **Sharing of Aama Programme information:** The revised Aama programme guideline was shared with the staff at Katari hospital, Udayapur DHO and district hospital. Technical updates for SMNH (revised schedule of ANC and PNC) and details of Aama programme were shared during the Village Facilitators' meeting in Saptari.
- **Support to strengthen MNH recording and reporting:** Technical support and feedback was provided on SMNH service record keeping and reporting to the staff at Katari Hospital, Udayapur district. The annual HMIS review was completed in Saptari district. This is GoN supported. VDC data of all the SMNH indicators will be available from now onwards.

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

- Compiled a report of the SBA post training follow up pilot with critical review of the findings. The follow up was carried out under GoN systems, confirming the practicability of future scaling up under GoN programming
- Reviewed and updated the post training follow up tools and questionnaire
- Provided continuing technical support to SBA training at different SBA training sites.
- Provided telephone follow up to advanced SBA training site (C/s for MMMS doctors).

Output 6: Information

- Met Mr Joe Elms, Options to discuss future SSMP programme
- Met Ms Rebecca Calder, DFID to discuss the gender based violence. Shared preliminary findings of the MMMS on suicide cases and informed her that we are presenting suicide cases.
- Met Mr Sushil Baral to discuss DFID's comments on the SSMP biannual report.
- Met Ms Geeta Sharma and Mr Tilak Thapaliya to discuss JHPIEGO's support to the addition MMMS activities.

Output 7: Physical assets

- Conducted a meeting with health facilities users and experts to finalise Health Infrastructure Standards
- Prepared draft list of equipment/ instruments for distribution to different level of SMNH facilities arriving through DFID direct procurement and shared it with partners and other organisations for preparation of final distribution list
- Field visit to Nuwakot to monitor recently completed CEOC construction and ensure necessary improvements

Output 8: Finance

Aama Programme

- Supported FHD in advertising positions for six regional coordinators for Aama.
- Finalised the design, methodology and tools for the fourth rapid appraisal of Aama/ SDIP to be carried out by CREHPA.
- Prepared ToR for the review of auditor general's final audit report.
- Finalised the training manual for social auditing.
- Supported FHD in preparation of a presentation for the regional reviews.
- Pre-tested the field monitoring tools in Kakni PHCC and Trisuli hospital.
- Provided technical and financial support to FHD for printing and dispatch of the revised Aama programme guideline.
- Disseminated the Aama programme guidelines to journalists.
- Supported NHEICC in preparing ToR for assessment of existing methods, media and materials related to SMNH.

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