

SUPPORT TO THE SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROGRAMME

Update on Major Activities in September 2007

General

DfID

- The UK Development Minister Shahid Malick visited Biratnagar including clinic to observe the Maternity Incentives Scheme (MIS) in action
- The SSMP Team Leader and Deputy met with the DfID new head of Effective and Inclusive State - Nick Leader
- At a meeting with Susan Clapham and Purushottam Acharya, management arrangements were discussed following Purushottam's departure

Personnel and planning

- The new SSMP core team MIS Adviser, Dr Suresh Tiwari, was appointed
- Staff job descriptions and work plans were aligned to log frame indicators
- A process for monthly review of progress against log frame indicators was introduced
- A time management training session was run for core team advisers

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

- Five FM radio stations from five districts (Baglung, Chitwan, Sunsari, Rupandehi, and Palpa) and one regional radio station (Surkhet) began airing a 15-minute weekly radio magazine "*Aama*" to deliver SMNH messages using localised materials. Rupandehi is airing in the local language (*Awadhi*). Already many letters have been received from listeners. A central team from ActionAid, JHU/CCP, SSMP core team and NHEICC jointly visited districts to support programme design and implementation.
- Drama scripts were produced for four radio episodes and sent to EA programme districts for localisation. A guideline for use of the materials was disseminated to UNICEF and EA programme staff and partners.
- Technical assistance was provided to NHEICC for development of technical presentations for district level BCC orientations during the Regional Review Workshops. This was the first such regional BCC review and orientation for five years.
- A concept note was developed for revision of newborn and postnatal care materials and shared with stakeholders, including NHEICC, Save the Children US, UMN and UNICEF.
- Technical assistance was provided to N-MARC (USAID-funded Social Marketing Programme) on the clean Delivery Kit, with feedback on research tools, facilitator orientation and fieldwork. The research includes specific questions on newborn naming practices, which will inform SSMP's future BCC programme planning.
- A BCC working group meeting held, chaired by NHEICC.
- Technical and financial support was provided to Safe Motherhood Network Federation for safe motherhood advocacy with political parties and parliamentarians. An advocacy evening was organised, with over 150 participants (government staff, politicians, parliamentarians and development agencies), and an advocacy information booklet (developed with technical assistance from JHU/CCP) distributed. The event was covered on television and in at least eight Nepali and English language newspapers. As a result, SMNH has been included the Congress party and RPP manifestos, and is under consideration by other parties.
- The MoHP has provided desk space for the SSMP equity and access adviser, where he

will work for two days a week. The MoHP also nominated a desk officer for gender and social inclusion.

- A training was organised in Chitwan on the voice capturing tools, as part of capacity building for Voice Capturing Organisations for the second round of voice capturing.
- Final draft report of the first round of voice capturing was received and circulated for comments. A dissemination plan was drafted for the final report (expected in October).
- KIM baseline study report received from ActionAid
- Four EA programme districts organised VDC level network meetings to advocate for VDC funding for SMNH and to strengthen HFMCs.
- Two members of the Equity and Access Advisory Group (Shibesh Regmi, Actionaid Country Director, and Yogendra Prasai, New ERA Executive Director) with the EA programme Team Leader, visited four EA programme districts (Dadeldhura, Rupandehi, Nawalparasi, and Chitwan) to observe progress.
- An external audit of the EA programme was carried out, including a visit to two programme districts (Parbat and Myagdi) for observation of partner organisations and the District Coordinator's Office.
- Filming was undertaken in Myagdi district and around Kathmandu for the SSMP film being produced for the Women deliver conference.

Output 2: Service strengthening

- Support was provided for preparations and presentations for the FHD regional RH reviews. At least one member of the SSMP core team attended each review. It was noted that FHD has provided Rs.20 crore for the FCHV endowment fund (Rs.50,000 per VDC) to increase their motivation. FHD also provided a budget for drugs and supplies for PHCC outreach clinic. Each DHO is expected to undertake micro-planning exercises for PHCCs, health posts and SHPs to ensure they are functional. They were asked to report maternal deaths in the district.
- Coordinated with the National Public Health Office and Blood Transfusion Centre for workshop on development of a National Blood transfusion guideline and worked on the guideline with national and international consultants. The draft is now under review.
- Worked with the consultant on the agenda and process for a capacity building workshop for change agents from 13 EA programme health facilities. A district team of one person from each facility, one member of the health management committee and one PHN from the DHO will work as change agents/ leaders to continue the developments initiated for an enabling environment for service delivery. Six of the facilities have begun providing 24-hour delivery services as a result of local efforts.
- Worked with the consultant to prepare the process for an SMNH facilitation workshop using the Appreciative Inquiry approach, involving the managers of MD, NHTC and NHEICC in SMNH related orientation, training and management. MD will orient HFMCs on their role in SMNH in decentralised districts.
- Coordinated a meeting with the Medical Council and FHD to discuss allowing MBBS doctors to do caesarean sections in CEOC hospitals, providing national and international supporting evidence. The Medical Council is convinced and suggested MBBS doctors should be trained to do C/s, resuscitation and spinal anaesthesia.
- Participated in OPR follow up meeting with FHD, DFID and SSMP. It was agreed that progress on recommendations should be documented and recommendations not yet followed up should be prioritised for further discussion and action.

United Mission to Nepal (UMN) (2 districts)

- Action planning workshop carried out in Suryapur Sub-health post, Rupandehi
- Provided support to Suryapur health post for additional staff recruitment

- Coordinated with SSMP core team to supply equipment to Parroha Health Post, Rupandehi
- Management committee meeting at Rudrapur, Rupandehi
- Attended RHCC meeting, Rupandehi district centre
- Provided SMNH update to FCHVs and TBAs in seven VDCs in Mugu
- Followed up action plan implementation at Shreekot Health Post in Mugu
- Management committee meeting held in Mugu hospital and Shreekot health post in Mugu.
- Continued support to all health facilities in implementing their action plans.

UNICEF (8 districts)

- The Safe Motherhood Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) Review of Nepal was carried out as a joint undertaking between the UNICEF, UNFPA and WHO offices, with the UNICEF Country Office taking the lead role, working with a consultancy team from IMMPACT, University of Aberdeen. They reviewed four projects:
 - Nepal Safer Motherhood Project (DfID, 1997-2004)
 - Women's Right to Life and Health Project (UNICEF)
 - Safe Motherhood Innovation Programme of ADRA Nepal and BNMT
 - Men as Partners in Safe Motherhood (NFHP/ USAID).

The UNICEF country office participated in interviews of the agencies involved and courtesy meetings with donors and government. SSMP core team advisers were included in meetings to identify best practices and constraints.

- UNICEF mid year review carried out in Biratnagar.
- Coordinated arrangements for SBA and Anaesthesia Assistant training for two nurses from Kabhre district. Requested AA training for two nurses from Banke and Udayapur.
- Contracted an Appreciative Inquiry facilitator for two workshops, in Banke and Panchthar to support whole site planning workshops for strengthening EOC services in Bheri Zonal hospital and provided technical support.
- Participated in district reviews in Banke, Humla and Dang districts
- Supported quarterly breakthrough team meetings in Jumla and SHP level monthly breakthrough team meetings
- Reviewed Watch groups (23 VDCs) in Dang. Two new groups were formed and further training given
- Supported planning workshops for SBA enabling environment development at health post level in Panchthar (7 health posts) and Kabhre (4 health posts)
- Supported planning meetings in Udayapur and Saptari, to decide how to move forward without MNH coordinators for those districts and collect data
- Two-day review and orientation on SMNH carried out at PHCC, health post and SHP level in Saptari

TCIC (Abortion)

- Assisted NESOG to draft a 3-day CAC curriculum for senior Obstetrician/Gynaecologists
- CAC training provided for private sector at Maternity Hospital (4 providers and 4 nurse assistants)
- CAC training provided for Government and MSI doctors at MSI training site (3 government and 2 MSI providers, 1 government and 2 MSI nurse assistants)
- New technical update received from Ipas for TCIC monitoring and evaluation staff
- Conducted CAC Guideline development meeting
- Assisted with finalisation of NESOG proposal on CAC training/orientation and training follow up
- Continued with pilot for CAC trainee tracking

- Distributed revised participants' CAC training handbook
- Assisted Dr Veena Rani Shrivastava, NESOG President, to prepare and present a paper on second trimester abortion at Maternity Hospital
- Drafted one-day FCHV orientation package on safe abortion
- Drafted second trimester abortion leaflet and translated it into Nepali. This is under process for approval from the BCC/IEC committee
- Site assessment conducted at six private sites for listing
- Monitoring and technical support visits to 18 CAC sites
- Meeting with the MVA distributor, Atlas on monitoring system for stockists throughout the country
- Conducted training/orientation on the MVA kit for 12 salespersons from Atlas
- Drafted an instruction leaflet to include with the MVA kit and sent to Ipas for comment and approval for printing
- Conducted orientation programme for pharmacists in Kathmandu, Rupendehi and Bhaktapur
- Designed a safe abortion billboard for Maternity Hospital and arranged for its display with Ms Shanti Vaidya and Dr Sudha Thapa (Deputy Director)
- Interviewed Dr Sudha Thapa, CAC service provider and trainer/ coordinator at Maternity Hospital for an article in the national newspapers
- Prepared a concept note for a radio programme on safe abortion
- Finalised a consultant study on the effects of the global gag rule on safe abortion programming in Nepal.

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 to 12 pre-service faculties and clinical preceptors for BEOC + SBA training.
- Provided technical support for SBA training for nurses from EA programme districts who previously received midwifery refresher training
- Participated in a workshop for developing a quality assurance tools for SBA in-service training sites, organised by NHTC and ACCESS
- Coordinated and participated in workshop to finalise 42-day Operation Theatre Techniques and Management training package
- Coordinated with NESOG, who are contracted to conduct 15-day in-service EOC training and SBA Programme Orientation for senior obstetrician/ gynaecologists
- Drafted an MoU between SSMP and Institute of Medicine for review and update of the curriculum for pre-service medical training to include SBA
- Supported infection prevention training of trainers for 35 service providers
- Supported and coordinated anaesthetics training at Maternity Hospital and Bharatpur Hospital.
- Participated in international conference in Bangkok (USAID/ WHO/ UNFPA funded) on scaling up best practices in family planning and SMNH services in the Asia region. This

was useful for gaining ideas about how new interventions, such as the SBA programme, can be scaled up

- Attended the dissemination of the National Medical Standard Volume- III (developed by FHD) for SMNH services
- Training equipment distributed by NHTC to Seti Zonal Hospital

Output 6: Information

- Supported HMIS Section, Management Division in projecting/estimating various target populations for planning and monitoring of health programmes. The projections and estimations are for all VDCs, Municipalities and districts.
- Meeting with Dr Harshad Sangvi, JHPIEGO, Baltimore, Dr Prakash Dev Pant, Mr Purushottam Acharya and the FHD Director to discuss maternal mortality further analysis
- Supervised the Maternal Perinatal Death Review Study related key informant interviews in BPKIHS Hospital in Dharan and Koshi Zonal Hospital in Biratnagar.
- Work has continued on the joint SSMP/ SMNH safe motherhood website. A revised design has been agreed, and new materials are being prepared. A meeting was held with SMNF to agree on joint production and uploading of materials from their work.

Output 7: Physical assets

- Supported LMD and UNFPA in evaluation of technical proposals for the preparation of a Master Plan for Strengthening the Central Storage Capacity of Logistics Management Division of Department of Health Services
- Supported DUDBC in the preparation of needs assessment plans for B/CEOC construction planned for the year 2007/08
- Procurement, supply and installation of basic equipment completed for Parroha health post in Rupandehi
- Handed over SBA training equipment to TU, IoM, Pokhara
- Needs assessment carried out for major CAC service site in Pokhara
- Needs assessment carried out for CEOC service site in Syangja district
- Monitoring visit to CEOC training centre construction in Pokhara

Output 8: Finance

- Supported the DoHS in preparing the Joint Annual Workplan and Budget for the fiscal year 2007/2008
- Collected data for from districts and coordinated and downloaded service data from HMIS for all FHD activities
- Supported FHD in preparation of the monthly report for MoHP
- Supported FHD in coordinating with finance section of DoHS and MoHP
- Supported FHD in coordinating with the Planning Division of MoHP and National Planning Commission
- Supported MoHP in preparing the Financial Monitoring Report of DfID supported activities for fiscal year 2006/2007.

Maternity Incentives Scheme (MIS)

- Terms of reference prepared and finalised for a rapid assessment of the MIS.
- Requirements and selection criteria for the six regional coordinators prepared and approved.
- Submission of the MIS revised policy file followed up. It is now with the secretary of MoHP
- MIS expenditure and beneficiaries data collected from 68 institutions.
- MIS analytical report of annual expenditure prepared
- Support provided to FHD to for a presentation on MIS and discussion of district level issues at regional review meetings. At the Central region review, the districts discussed increases in delivery by health workers, particularly home deliveries, which appear to be due to the MIS. It was noted that health workers are receiving dual payment for home deliveries, from the MIS and from the client, and some health workers are filing false incentive claims for home deliveries. Some district managers suggested it would be better to provide incentives to institutions rather than service providers, to avoid these issues. Difficulties were discussed related to charges for delivery services in institutions where the management committee has fixed charges. The FHD director clarified that the DHO and HFMC have administrative and financial authority for the MIS and should check records and systems carefully. A budget has been allocated for district implementation, monitoring and orientation, with guidelines, so districts must demonstrate accountability.
- Supported FHD in coordinating with regions, central hospital and districts to implement the MIS programme and other RH activities.

List of Acronyms

| | |
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| AAN | ActionAid Nepal |
| 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 |
| DHO | District Health Officer |
| DoHS | Department of Health Services |
| DPHO | District Public Health Officer |
| DUDBC | Department of Urban Development and Building Construction |
| EA | Equity and Access |
| FA | Financial Aid |
| FCHV | Female Community Health Volunteers |
| FHD | Family Health Division |
| FP | Family Planning |
| HMIS | Health management Information System |
| IEC | Information Education and Communication |
| JAR | Joint Annual Review |
| JHU/CCP | Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health/ Centre for Communication Programmes |
| LMD | Logistics management Division |
| MD | Management Division |
| MIS | Maternity Incentives Scheme |
| 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 |
| NGO | Non Government Organisation |
| NHEICC | National Health Education Information Communication Centre |
| NHTC | National Health Training Centre |
| NPC | National Planning Commission |
| NSI | Nick Simons Institute |
| PHN | Public Health Nurse |
| RH | Reproductive Health |
| RHCC | Reproductive Health Coordination Committee |
| SBA | Skilled Birth Attendant |
| 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 |
| TUTH | Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital |
| UMN | United Mission to Nepal |
| UNFPA | United Nations Fund for Population Activities |
| UNICEF | United Nations Children's Fund |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| VDC | Village Development Committee |