



## SUPPORT TO THE SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROGRAMME

### Update on Major Activities in January 2008

#### General

- The core team and partners participated in the Third Annual National Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health Review meeting organised by Family Health Division. SSMP assisted with preparations for this important event
- The core team and partners also participated in the annual PESON (Perinatal Society of Nepal) conference
- The core team SEDC analysis, risk assessment and action plan review was carried out to briefly review the current security situation and ensure programming and planning of core team activities, especially field trips, minimises both the personal risk for staff and programmatic risks.
- Preparations were made for the planned DfID annual review of SSMP's activities and achievements, with particular attention being paid to progress against the logframe indicators.
- The SSMP biannual report for the period July to end of December 2007 was drafted and submitted to DfID, again with a focus on progress against indicators.

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

##### Central level

- The EA team SEDC analysis and risk assessment workshop was carried out at Butwal. The risks at district and community levels were analysed and risk reduction strategies developed. Orientations on SEDC were also conducted for the staff of partner NGOs in Nawalparasi and Morang districts.
- The EA Programme Team Leader presented the EA achievements and learning at the ActionAid Participatory Reflection and Learning Meeting.
- JHU/CCP, the EA team and NHEICC jointly conducted an assessment of the radio programme *Aama* and disseminated the preliminary findings, which were very positive, to the SSMP BCC working group.
- Field work was initiated for the assessment of emergency funds, transport schemes and social mobilisation.
- The external annual financial audit was commissioned for the EA programme.
- Support was provided to NHEICC for the formation of a BCC Technical Working Group for Postnatal Care for Mother and Newborn, including representatives from FHD, CHD, SSMP partners and other key stakeholders in SMNH.
- JHU/CCP provided technical support to UNICEF for re-airing the drama serial *Jeevanko Jimmewari* from Jumla and Kavre
- JHU/CCP developed a concept note on:
  - Interpersonal communication training for health workers using NHEICC Curriculum,.
  - Radio promotion, in view of assessment findings that this should be increased.



- Follow-up of the parliamentary advocacy work and planning for SMNH advocacy activities on International Women's day with SMNF.
- Preparations were made for rights based social inclusion training EA programme district and government partners and for KIM training for voice organisations.
- Contributed to workshops run by community based health organisation networks.

#### Districts

- **Morang:** Local partner *Nari Bikas Sangha* organised exposure visits for women's group leaders to other district partner working areas. A neonatal child contest was organised to increase awareness about SMNH issues and services among community groups.
- **Chitwan:** journalists of Gorkha Patra and Kantipur national dailies visited the EA Programme VDCs and published news about their activities. Orientation on the importance of SMNH and emergency funds was given to Health Post Management Committee. Rights based training was given to VDC level SMNH network members. Nine suggestion boxes regarding services were installed.
- **Nawalparasi:** Rights based training was given to local partner staff. Social mobilisers supported National Immunization Day by helping women in the community to take their children to health centres for immunisation.
- **Myagdi:** The EA Programme contributed Rs.10,000 to the DHO to fund a prolapse camp. Seed money was provided to 31 mothers' groups. Orientation on SMNH for *katwal* (messengers) was provided in one VDC.
- **Parbat:** One HFMC was reformed by including poor and excluded representatives. Two district partners provided seed money of Rs.39,000 total to 26 groups for emergency funds. VDCs contributed Rs.25,000 for emergency funds to women's groups in one VDC. The EA Programme contributed Rs.15,000 for running a stall to display SMNH materials and organising a folk song programme, and Rs.1,700 for district level SMNH networking. Local partner staff went on exposure visits to Nawalparasi, Rupandehi and Chitwan. One partner organised exposure visits for women's group leaders to the working areas of other district partners.
- **Rupandehi:** SMNH networks were formed in an additional nine VDCs and network meetings were held in 12 VDCs. EA Programme activities were organised during celebration of the *Moharam* festival. Seed money for emergency funds was distributed to 50 mothers' groups and 11 cycle ambulances were distributed for emergency transport.
- **Dailekh:** mothers' group members contributed their training allowances (Rs.3,540) to emergency funds. The EA Programme contributed Rs.46,500 seed money for emergency funds to 31 mother groups. District partner staff went for exposure visits to Myagdi, Parbat and Rupandehi.
- **Dadeldhura:** Three wards of 2 VDCs declared themselves as "No home delivery wards" The women group leaders have committed to make this slogan reality. Nine VDCs allocated Rs.171,050 for emergency funds.
- **Baglung:** Episodes 13 to 20 of the radio magazine *Aama*, prepared by Chartare Youth Club, have been reviewed and approved by the DHO, ready for airing.

#### **Output 2: Service strengthening**

- Worked with FHD to follow up and refine group work from the National Safe Motherhood and Newborn Health review workshop



- Participated in infrastructure standardisation workshop and SBA curriculum development for MBBS in-service training
- Assisted with interviewing of 18 candidates for the six SMNH regional coordinators posts
- Prepared consultant terms of reference for facilitation of an appreciative inquiry workshop for mid level managers, in order to develop a pool of facilitators for SMNH appreciative inquiry approaches
- Inputted to safe motherhood part of DOHS annual report of 2006-07
- Met with Ipas (Sarah Stucke) and Options to discuss the need for further extension of SSMP support to the Safe Abortion programme. Discussed the need for these activities to be funded under financial aid rather than direct technical assistance and Ipas, in order to institutionalise safe abortion within the GoN system.
- Initiated preparations for induction /orientation of newly appointed SMNH regional coordinators.

#### ***United Mission to Nepal (UMN) (2 districts)***

- All health facilities continue to provide 24-hour services, with increased utilisation
- SEDC analysis carried out for the UMN/ SSMP programme

#### Rupandehi

- Dhakdai PHCC began providing laboratory services
- Parroha Health Post received one extra member of staff from the government quota
- Meeting held with Motipur PHCC management committee to plan initiation of 24-hour delivery services

#### Mugu

- Infection prevention training carried out at Shreekot Health Post
- Review and planning workshop held at Dhungedada Health Post
- Supported one NGO (MCDC) to write a proposal for work to increase access to SMNH services in three VDCs within the catchment area of Shreekot Health Post
- Provided updates on SMNH for FCHVs in two VDCs.

#### ***UNICEF (8 districts)***

- Community Based Social Mobilisation: Institutional and VDC level FCHV training with supervision and monitoring to ensure quality training was conducted in Jumla, Achham, Kabhre, Saptari, Udayapur and Panchthar
- Monthly and quarterly review meetings carried out using the appreciative inquiry approach to ensure implementation of planned activities for achieving shared vision: Jumla District Hospital second quarterly review meeting, monthly breakthrough team meeting and RHCC meeting; first quarterly review meeting in Hatsinja Health Post and Kalikakhetu PHCC.
- 24-hour delivery services established with birthing centres after planning workshops conducted in Kabhre (Dhulikhel PHCC, Taldhunga health post), Panchthar (Memeng and Mauwa SHPs) from January 2008
- DHO, Humla and NHTC for SBA training for ANM at Seti Zonal Hospital.
- Exploration of SBA training site development in Bheri Zonal Hospital - assessment planned.



- Annual Work Plan for 2008 outlined and prepared, based on various meetings.
- Capacity building and coordination activities in Achham, including: Watch Group orientation and capacity building of in-charges to run this in 4 VDCs; development and sharing of PMT CT brief linked with SMNH messages for DHO; District Planning Workshop and CB-IMCI technical support visit; development and sharing of new facts/practices relating to SMNH with NTAG facilitators; sharing of results with concerned line agencies; discussion with journalists about health journalism and reporting; support for 3-day HMIS training for health facility in-charges.
- Monitoring and Supervision visits for strengthening SMNH services to Lamahi PHC, Sishniya HP, Mahendra Hospital, Tulsipur PHC and Hapur SHP, including discussion with in-charges further strengthening the services
- Coordinated exchange visit for staff from three birthing centres in Jumla to Sishaniya health post/ birthing centre in Dang

### ***TCIC (Abortion)***

**Note:** It has been agreed that the term CAC (comprehensive Abortion Care) should be replaced by SAS (Safe Abortion Service)

- Ms Sarah Stucke, Programme Associate for Asia Region (based in Chapel Hill, US head office) visited TCIC for orientation on the Nepal programme

### Training

- Follow up on second trimester abortion by international trainer, Dr Saraha Betstadt to eight providers from four sites.
- One batch received SAS first trimester training at MSI, Satdobato (5 government providers and 3 nurse assistants).
- Nurse provider training plan approved by Family Health Division
- Facilitated organisation of Effective Training Skills Workshop for Asia Region. The participants were from Pakistan, India and Nepal.

### Advocacy/Policy

- Generated a high level of interest on introducing medical abortion among policy makers and key partners
- Ensured supply of drug required for medical abortion through DDA and an NGO (Concept Foundation)
- Created advocacy for training mid-level providers (nurses) at PESON conference and supported 100 participants (journalists, providers, partners and key stakeholders)

### IEC/BCC

- Attended the orientation programme for journalists in Dhulikhel, organised by the "Beyond Beijing" Committee. Supported FHD presentation.
- Erected billboard containing message about the availability of SAS (days, time and fee) at District Hospital, Chitwan
- Pre-tested existing IEC materials (leaflet and poster) for revision
- Drafted a leaflet containing a simple message for community people
- Prepared a pre-test tool for radio programme
- Recorded a radio drama for pre-testing



#### Equipment

- Standardised an equipment package for first and second trimester abortion care and agreed for SSMP to procure
- Printed leaflet on MVA Plus and distributed to relevant personnel
- Updated the cleaning process, assembly, dis-assembly of MVA plus for the staff at the SAS unit at Maternity Hospital

#### Monitoring

- Trained two public health nurses in on-site monitoring (Rupandehi, Nawalparasi)
- Monitoring visits to 11 districts, govt and non govt sites
- Site assessment of four private sites for listing
- Visited Model Hospital, Pokhara, Damauli Hospital, Bandipur Hospital and Gorkha Hospital to follow up on HMIS.

### **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**

- Supported a workshop for developing the SBA course outline for medical officers and staff nurses
- Developed terms of reference for a working group to develop a human resource strategic plan for MoHP.
- Supported selection of appropriate participants and management of the 42-day OTTM training for service providers at TUTH.
- Supported SBA training for pre-service teachers and service providers at Maternity Hospital
- Supported initiation of SBA training at new training sites where AMDA Jhapa private hospital will provide SBA training.

### **Output 6: Information**

- Attended the “Pipeline” meeting at Logistics Management Division to assess the situation for various supplies
- Coordinated finalisation of the further analysis of the Nepal Demographic and Health Survey on the maternal mortality ratio.



### **Output 7: Physical assets**

- Initiated the development of a standard list of health equipment for different levels of health facility
- Contract was signed with David Potter for the health infrastructure standardisation work
- Supported FHD in revising specifications and grouping equipment and instruments, to support LMD in procurement of quality equipment through SSMP FA in 2007/08, for birthing centres, BEOC, CEOC and CAC service sites and SBA training sites
- Provided an analysis of health infrastructure development in Nepal during the last 15 years for Options as requested
- SSMP support was initiated for a student for the Bio Medical Equipment Technician Training, starting from January 2008.
- Attended a workshop organised by GTZ on fund flow mechanisms for small infrastructures in GTZ supported districts
- Finalised designs of incinerators for different levels of health facility

### **Output 8: Finance**

- Supported FHD in preparing the quarterly programme report

#### ***Maternity Incentives Scheme / Safe Delivery Incentives Programme (SDIP)***

**Note:** At FHD's request, the Maternity Incentives Scheme will henceforth be known as the Safe Delivery Incentives Programme (SDIP), to more clearly reflect the focus on promoting safe delivery.

- SDIP orientation was organised for 40 participants (doctors, nurses, medical recorders and accountants) in Patan Hospital.
- Supported Institute of Child Health (London) by providing information on SDIP for research supervisors and enumerators and managing training and logistics
- Visited Makawanpur DHO to facilitate district level orientation programme on SDIP
- Facilitated the selection process for SMNH/ SDIP regional coordinators
- Visited Sankhuwasabha district to monitor the SDIP and free health care services
- Shared the report of the MIS/ SDIP rapid assessment by the NGO CREHPA with core advisers
- Reviewed proposals from research agencies for a pro-poor health financing survey called by HSR-SP.



## List of Acronyms

AAN	ActionAid Nepal
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
BEOC	Basic Emergency Obstetric Care
BPP	Birth Preparedness Package
CEOC	Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric Care
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
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 Programmes
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
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
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



**SSMP/NEPAL**

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
VDC	Village Development Committee