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Directorate General of Family Planning
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DGFP eBulletin

News from the Field



Minister Launches eMIS of DGFP

Bangladesh Health sector moved another step closer to digitalizing its information systems. The government is expanding the Electronic Management Information System (eMIS) to another five districts after its pilot run in Habiganj and Tangail. Mohammed Nasim, MP, Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, launched the scale up of eMIS initiative formally at an event held on 11 October 2017 in Dhaka.



The eMIS tool mainly used by the frontline workers of Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) and Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) would dramatically transform the way information is gathered, stored, processed and analyzed. It helps the health and FP workers better manage their work more easily and efficiently. It also facilitates prompt and informed decision making by the health and Family Planning managers. With financial assistance from the US Agency for International Development (USAID), MEASURE Evaluation, icddr, MaMoni HSS and SIAPS are providing technical support to the government in implementing the



eMIS initiative. Under this initiative, comprehensive and interlinked electronic tools have been developed for community health workers with the aim to automate their entire work processes.

“The scale up of the eMIS marks our commitment to building Digital Bangladesh as envisioned by the present government,” said the minister as well as the Chief Guest of the ceremony. Dr. Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, Director General, DGFP, and Chair of the launching ceremony, shared DGFP’s plan over the current HPNSP (2017-2022). There is provision for scaling up the tools in 14 districts of Chittagong and Sylhet division and it would bring some 1,500 UHFWCs under the eMIS initiative, the DG added.

eMIS experiences shared

Humayun Kabir, Senior Advisor, MEASURE Evaluation, shared the experience of piloting eMIS in Tangail and Habiganj. Training and equipment were provided to over 2,000 community workers, service providers, supervisors, and managers as part of rolling out the eMIS. He also highlighted some of the salient features of the eMIS. In the two districts community workers and service providers under the DGFP and DGHS are now performing almost all their work using the eMIS tools. Again, data stored at central servers, could be sent to DHIS2 and other national systems. It is also integrated with Logistics Management Information System (LMIS) of DGFP, so real time picture of distribution status of reproductive health commodities at service delivery points are also available.

Minister MOHFW visits the medical teams for Myanmar people at Teknaf, Ukhiya

Mr Mohammed Nasim, MP, Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare visited the



medical camps and shelter homes at Teknaf and Ukhiya, Coxsbazar established for the hundreds of thousands of Myanmar nationals fleeing from the neighboring Rakhine State, Myanmar to Bangladesh in the recent times. The medical camps of Directorate General of Family Planning were conducted at Baharchara, Shaplapur at Teknaf and Ambagan, Kutupalong of Ukhiya in Coxsbazar. The Minister was impressed to see the services of the medical teams of family Planning. Satisfied with the services rendered by medical teams, he also gave direction

to initiate the Family Planning services to the Myanmar nationals as soon as possible. Member of the Parliament of Sadar-Ramu constituency of Coxsbazar Mr Symoom Sarwar Komol accompanied the minister during the visit. Director, Chittagong Division Mr Muhammad Nurul Alam, Civil Surgeon, Coxsbazar, DDFP, Coxsbazar, UFPOs of Sadar and Ukhiya were also present there.

Secretary, ME & FW, MOHFW Mr Md Sirazul Islam made extensive two days visit at Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilla .DGFP conducted medical teams for all the registered and unregistered shelter camps for the Myanmar residents there and Secretary was satisfied to see the Family Planning Services (Pill, Condom and Injectables), MCH services, 24/7 pregnancy services, counseling services among the Myanmar residents by the FPIs and Paid Peer Volunteers .He gave special directives to the FP medical team so that all the Myanmar people can come under the services and supervision of FP Medical team. Dr. Moinuddin Ahmed, LD, CCSDP ,DGFP and local officials of DGFP and DGHS were present during his visit.



DG, DGFP Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar also passed busy day visiting Kutupalong Community



Clinic, Ukhiya, Kutupalong Registered Camp, UHFWC , Palongkhali, Ukhiya, UHFWC, Howykong, Teknaf, two medical camps of DGFP and one medical team of DGHS. Dr Sarwar talked to the Myanmar people physically and tried to explore the misery of the people sharing various issues of health and family planning . He emphasized on the counseling activities of FPIs and Paid Peer Volunteers of DGFP and provided

directives to strengthen the ongoing activities.

Director, MCH Services, DGFP Dr Mohammed Sharif visited the various medical camps at

Ukhiya and Teknaf in Coxsbazar. He found the medical teams serving at Ambagan, Balukhali, UHFWC , Palongkhali at Ukhiya. He also visited Central BMA medical Team at Balukhali. He talked to the service providers and clients about the quality of services. He thanked the DGFP personnels for taking care of the influx of Myanmar residents by providing timely health and family planning services to the clients. He assured



them that DGFP will be continuing all out support in providing health and FP services to the distressed people here at camps.

State Minister reinforces Govt. commitment in reducing Maternal and Child mortality

State Minister Mr Zahid Maleque, MP reinforced the present Government's commitment in reducing maternal and child mortality in the country. He said, we will minutely examine the reasons why MMR (Maternal Mortality Rate) has become stagnant in the last couple of years though we have mentionable progress in reducing Child and NeoNat mortality rates. He was exchanging his views in a meeting as the Chief guest at DGFP about the Initiatives to reduce maternal mortality



and child mortality in the country. The objective of the meeting was to assess the present situation of MMR and IMR in the country, unveil the reasons of increasing the number of deliveries by caesarian sections in Government and private hospitals and find out the causes active behind the stagnant situation of MMR. Mr Faiz Ahmad, Secretary, ME & FW, MOHFW attended the meeting as the special Guest. Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, DG, DGFP presided over the meeting and welcomed the guests in his speech. He remarked that various diversified MCH activities at the District, Upazilla and Union level will surely help us in reducing the maternal mortality and child mortality in the country. Dr Mohammed Sharif, Director, MCH Services, DGFP, made a descriptive presentation on the "Present situation of MMR and IMR in Bangladesh" where he rightly highlighted achievement of the present government in sharp declining the Infant mortality, Child mortality and maternal mortality. High officials from the MOHFW, Directors from DGFP, INGO/NGO representatives and DGFP Upazilla level personnels participated in the meeting.

Secretary, ME & FW, MOHFW urges to strengthen 24/7 Normal Delivery Services at Chandpur

MCH Services Unit, DGFP has successfully completed a workshop on Strengthening 24/7 Normal Delivery Services at the UHFWCs at Hajiganj, Chandpur. The objective of the workshop was to orient the various stakeholders like, Upazilla level officers, medical officers, UP Chairman, UP Member



(Woman), media personality, NGO representative, DGFP field level personnels so that the on-going 24/7 Normal Delivery Services at the UHFWC can be expedited with the coordination from all the corners of the society. Mr Sirazul Islam, Secretary, ME & FW, MOHFW graced the ceremony as the Chief guest. Director General, DGFP Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar presided over the workshop. Dr Mohammed Sharif, Director, MCH Services, DGFP, Mr Abdus Salam Khan, Deputy Chief, ME & FW Division, MOHFW, Civil Surgeon, Chandpur, ADC (Revenue), Chandpur, DDFP Chandpur, Upazilla Chairman, Hajiganj, UNO, Hajiganj were also present. The chief Guest in his speech rightly pointed out the challenges of low performance of MCH activities at Hajiganj and provided special directives to scale-up the performance of the Upazilla overcoming the challenges. The Chair of the workshop DG, DGFP emphasized on staying at the working place permanently, ensuring home visit and expediting monitoring by the supervisors regularly to improve the performance in FP, MCH.



DG, DGFP visits a Garments with FP services in Narayanganj

Fakir Knitwear Ltd, a garments factory with 12000 employees is located in Narayanganj.



DDFP Narayanganj initiated Family Planning Corner, an innovative service centre inside the garment in a view to providing FP, MCH, Adolescent and Reproductive Health services among the employees of the garment. DDFP, Narayanganj has planned to extend the FP services to 10 RMG industries, though till now, they have started rendering the services in 5 factories. Apart from

supplying pill, condom and injectables, special satellite clinics are conducted to provide sexual and reproductive health care among the employees of the factory. Director General, DGFP Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar was satisfied to see the diversified FP services for the employees of the factory. He thanked DDFP and UFPO, Sadar for initiating this exceptional need-based service activities for the garment employees. DG, DGFP shared various issues about ensuring quality services among the employees. GM of the factory Mr Sultan Mahmud Hossaini welcomed the DGFP team and visited different floors of the factory.

Farewell of Secretary, ME and FW, MOHFW held at DGFP

October,15 2017 was the last working day of of Mr Md Sirazul Islam,Secretary, Medical



Education and Family Welfare Division, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare. Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar, DG,DGFP chaired the farewell ceremony while Sardar Abul Kalam, Additional Secretary, ME & FW Division, MOHFW also attended as the guest. All the Directors and officers of all the Units of DGFP participated in the occasion. The outgoing Secretary expressed his

satisfaction and gratitude to DGFP to provide him all sorts of support.He also added that he tried his best to solve the prevailing problems of DGFP and hoped that the DGFP will surely come out soon overcoming the various challenges.

Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar,DG,DGFP and the chair wished the departing Secretary a peaceful personal and family life.He added that the sincerity, devotion and professionalism of the departing Secretary will be a beacon to the other officers of the republic.



Strengthening union facilities by engaging the local government

Increasing institutional delivery is critical to reducing maternal and newborn mortality



rates and that's where comes in the UHFWCs. As the first service point for delivery in rural Bangladesh the UHFWCs' readiness and capacity to serve mothers need to be strengthened. MaMoni HSS project in its working areas has advocated for and, in many places, successfully managed to engage the UP in the development of the union facilities

The model of local government engagement to strengthen union health facilities has gained great buy-in among key stakeholders, especially the relevant government departments. The Directorate General of Family Planning has actually included an advocacy campaign in its Maternal, Child, Reproductive and Adolescent Health Program

(MCRAHP) Operation Plan for the ongoing HPNSP to encourage the LGIs to participate in strengthening the union facilities. As per plan the DGFP has started organizing advocacy meetings in upazillas. There were two meetings in two upazilas of Lakshmipur, namely Roypur and Sadar Upazila, on 22 and 23 August 2017.

In the Roypur event Dr Mohammad Sharif, Director, MCH and line Director – MCRAH, DGFP, in the opening speech, pointed out that there is already a model of LG engagement and it can be popularized and replicated in other parts of the country.



Sirajul Islam, Secretary, Department of Health Education and Family Welfare, MOH&FW, appreciated MaMoni HSS for coming up with strong evidence of local government's capacity to strengthen the union facility and thereby contributing to increasing institutional delivery.

Joby George, Chief of Party, MaMoni HSS Project, underlined the need for proper planning, allocation and utilization with regard to LG's budget allocation to the development of the health sector.

Ministry coordinates Implementation of Comprehensive SBCC strategy

SBCC (Social Behavior and Communication Changes) activities are some of the communication activities



implemented by the Bureau of Health Education, Institute of Public Health and Nutrition (IPHN) of DGHS and IEM Unit of DGFP –the three BCC units of 2 Directorates along with other functional Services Units of DGHS and DGFP aiming at coordinating and collaborating the aligned activities among the services units to avoid duplication and to maximize

resources. A Comprehensive SBCC Strategy was already produced to guide the SBCC activities with the strong and timely leadership of Additional Secretary (PH & WH), MOHFW. A meeting on the "Implementation of comprehensive SBCC" was held at IEM Conference Room, DGFP with the presence of Ms Roxana Quader, Addl Secretary (PH & WH), MOHFW in the Chair. Officials from the MOHFW, different Units of DGHS & DGFP also were present. Mr Ruhul Amin Talukder, Joint Secretary, PH-2, MOHFW presented the Strengthening SBCC leadership and Coordination mechanism among the audiences. Mr Talukder nicely shared the action plan for Comprehensive SBCC strategy

where he has identified the responsible sectors against the activities with allies and resources. The Chair expressed her optimism in implementing the activities in a coordinated way so that we can avoid the duplication and maximize the resources. USAID Ujjiban SBCC project provided technical support for the meeting.

SMC donates Contraceptives and ORS for the Myanmar (Rohingya) people

Social Marketing Company(SMC)has donated 30000 cycles pill (Femipill),500000 pieces



Condom and 100000 ORS(Saline) for the distressed Myanmar(Rohingya) people who have taken shelter at Ukhiya and Teknaf, Coxsbazr .The contraceptives and ORS were handed over to DG,DGFP Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar by the MD & CEO,SMC Mr Md Ali Reza Khan in an informal gathering at DGFP.DG,DGFP thanked SMC for showing the generosity for the distressed humanity,the Myanmar

people at Coxsbazar in a quick response to DGFP's urge.The brief session was also attended by Director(Logistics) Mr Md Mahbubur Rahman Zoarder,Director(Finance) Mr Pronab Kumar Neogi, DD(Finance) and PD (Lalkuthi) Dr Shamsul Karim ,DD (Foreign Procurement) Ms Sabina Parveen,Mr Md Toslim Uddin Khan, GM(Program),SMC,Dr Salahuddin Ahmed, Head(Training and Services Delivery), SMC .Moreover, SMC has provided a Microbus for one month for the serving medical teams at Coxsbazar.

IEM Unit conducts workshops with AV Zone Managers and Projectionists

'AV-Van Program' of IEM Unit has been expanded throughout the country splitting into 27



zones. The main purpose of introducing AV-Van program was to reach remote population with FP-MCH messages integrating entertainment education such as drama serials, TVC&RDC, short film, folk-song in order to raising awareness, increasing CPR and lowering fertility. In a view to strengthening the effectiveness of the AV Van program, IEM Unit has successfully organized two

workshops for the Zone Managers and the Projectionists simultaneously at IEM,DGFP from 3-4 October,2017.Director General,DGFP Dr Kazi Mustafa Sarwar inaugurated both the workshops as the Chief Guest. The Chief Guest requested the Division Directors and Deputy Directors to ensure the maximum use of the AV Vans strengthening the monitoring system of the AV programs. Additional Secretary, ME & FW Division, MOHFW Sardar

Abul Kalam graced the closing ceremony as the Chief Guest. Director IEM Mr Md Ferdous Alam, Chair of the Workshop thanking the Chief Guest for his presence remarked that IEM Unit has the planning to cater AV Van for each district separately within this sector program so that huge number of intended audiences can be reached which will surely impact on reducing MMR,IMR and other FP issues.

IEM unit hosts HPN Coordination meeting

The 18th HPN Coordination meeting was held at the CCSDP conference room, DGFP with



the presence of the members from IEM,MCH,CCSDP,FSD Unit, DGFP and BHE,IPHN,CBHC,TBL of DGHS. Director IEM chaired the meeting.Dr Mohammed Sharif,Director,MCH Services and Director,CCSDP Unit also attended the meeting.Three officers from three units presented the implemented activities of the previous quarter of the relevant unit among the audiences.It was discussed that the

three Units of DGHS and DGFP will host the HPN meeting by rotation.IEM Unit will initiate the AV Van Sub-Committee meeting.Director IEM Chair of the meeting thanking the Directors of MCH and CCSDP hoped that we will be able to coordinate and collaborate the SBCC activities within the different Units of two directorates.USAID Ujjiban SBCC Project gave technical assistance in the meeting.

CCSDP conducts advocacy workshop on PFP

CCSDP unit, DGFP has organized an Advocacy workshop on Post-Partum Family



Planning including LARC & PM Services at IEM Conference Room recently. The objective of the workshop was to increase the PFP services in the private hospitals and clinics along with the Government facilities. Participants from various private hospitals and clinics, NGOs, midwives, DGFP personnels from various districts attended the workshop.Dr Kazi Mustafa

Sarwar,Director General,DGFP graced the workshop as the Chief guest with his presence.Dr Md Moinuddin Ahmed,LD,CCSDP chaired the workshop.The Chief guest thanked the CCSDP Unit

FSD Unit orients the family Planning Facilitators

Field Services Delivery Unit, DGFP has organized an orientation meeting on Monitoring, Supervision and Utilization of Family Planning Data on October 10, 2017 at IEM Conference Room, DGFP. The objective of the meeting was to orient the UNFPA funded recruited 7 Family Planning Facilitators for 12 low performing districts whose job responsibility was to revitalize various kinds of committees at the upazilla level, to use the MIS system data for programme monitoring ,expedite conducting the satellite clinics etc. UNFPA will be funding the initiative for three years in Sylhet, Sunamganj,Habiganj,Moulavibazar,Rangamati,Banderban, Khagrachari,Noakhali,Bbaria,Coxsazar,Kishoreganj,Netrokona.Sheikh Md Shamim Iqbal,Addl Secretary and Director (Administration),DGFP thanked the Chair of the orientation Mr Pronab Kumer Neogi, Director(Finance) for initiating the FP facilitators to expedite the fP & MCH activities of DGFP.

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