



Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery
Midwifery Newsletter in Bangladesh

Ongoing activities for development capacity for midwives, Supervisors and Coordinator

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) Master's Programme:

An orientation programme was held for 31 (thirty-one) new students who have enrolled in SRHR master's programme under the Dalarna University. New course introduction was held for the selected participants by the faculty from Dalarna University distantly. These activities will ensure availability of the dedicated SRHR midwifery faculty in rapidly expanding midwifery institutions to provide quality midwifery education.



Participants of (SRHR) Master's Programme

Disciplinary Training of Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery officials (DGNM)

In order to increase the capabilities to deal with the disciplinary issues related to midwifery services a two days training programme was organized for the officials of the disciplinary unit of DGNM. The participants commented that they did not have any particular orientation regarding this issue before getting assigned in the concerned section. This particular activity enhanced the knowledge of the DGNM officials on Government Service Rules, handling procedure of the complaints from the fields and avoiding harmful practices in the midwifery services. The pre and post-test were conducted and showed improvement from 45% to 85% respectively.

Midwifery higher education

In-service Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in midwifery will be started in 2 nursing colleges under the University of Dhaka and the University of Rajshahi from July, 2021 session. A two-day's orientation session for the 23 (Twenty-Three) midwifery faculties was organized on the newly approved curriculum of BSc. in Midwifery to strengthen their capacity for better understanding of the curriculum and effective implementation of upcoming BSc. programme in 2 educational institutions.

Quarterly progress review and monitoring



Quarterly progress review and monitoring

Quarterly progress review meeting (Q4-2020) was held at the DGNM among the Implementing Partners (IPs) which was chaired by the Director General, DGNM. A total of 52 (fifty-two) participants attended from DGHS, DGNM, BNMC, BMS, Save the Children International, OGSB, RTMI, IPAS, AYAT education limited and UNFPA in the training. This activity helped to update the quarterly progress of the activities, identify the gaps and challenges, overlapping the activities among the different IPs including way forward.



Monitoring visit at unsupported district

The monitoring, mentoring and supervision visits were conducted by DPHNs at 28 (twenty eight) Upazila Health Complexes (UHCs) from 09 (nine) unsupported districts and continuation of follow-up in 19 districts. A structured checklist was developed, updated and used for monitoring and supervision for the midwives and midwifery services to ensure the enabling environment to practice as per job description and scope of practices. The activity was also supported to functionalize existing supportive supervision and monitoring system and continued capacity building for institutionalization of EBMP to improve maternal, newborn, and adolescent health services

DGNM Officials' Visit at the Midwifery Institutions

A monitoring team from the DGNM visited the 07 (Seven) midwifery institutions and 05 (five) midwifery led care model sites. The officials observed different areas of the institutions including midwifery lab, availability of the books in the library, personal safety issues due to COVID pandemic and environment of clinical sites for practicing midwifery skills. The identified gap was the inability of the students to attend the clinical practices due to closure of institutions. The team observed the faculty organize lab practices and theory classes sharing the virtual platform.

Orientation programme for (DPHN) on management and mentoring support for midwifery services



Participant practice on programme

3 days orientation programme was held for 25 District Public Health Nurses (DPHN), nursing supervisors from 09 unsupported (Natore, Nilphamari, Chuadanga, Chapainawabgonj, Magura, Meherpur, Norail, Panchogor, and Thagorgaon) districts on management and mentoring support for midwifery services to deliver full scope of midwifery practices based on experience on the Midwifery Led Care (MLC) model from other districts.

Clinical Mentorship under Strengthening the National Midwifery Program (SNMP) through Save the Children.

Save the Children through its Clinical Mentorship approach is supporting to the Government's initiative 'Strengthening the National Midwifery Program (SNMP)' to strengthen midwifery pre-service education and establishment of Midwife-led care (MLC) at selected Upazila Health Complex.

In 2020, mentor's activities mainly focused on supporting the government to respond to Covid-19 aiming to ensure safe maternity care as well as to protect maternal health workforce at targeted facilities. However, since beginning of 2021, mentors turned their attention to their original goal of supporting to the midwifery education and establishing Midwife-led model of care, while continuing their support for responding to Covid-19.



During first quarter of 2021, Clinical mentors collaborated with the faculty members and guest lecturers for maintaining the standards of theoretical learning such as



complying with curriculum, lesson plan and academic calendar. They supported for developing class

schedule, lectures, and appropriate use of teaching aids and learning methods. Since the skills lab and computer lab could not be used most of the time in last year, Clinical mentors supported the faculty members to revive these labs and ensured their effective utilization by the students of different batches maintaining schedule and proper documentation

Clinical Mentors coordinated with the clinical education sites to ensure the quality of internship for those who have recently completed the third-year final examination. They also provided on site extensive coaching to them on different evidence- based practices to minimize the skill gaps caused by pandemic situation.

Since the beginning of this year, mentors reinforced their mentoring efforts at MLC sites to institutionalize the evidence-based practices such as practicing respectful maternity care, using of Partograph, maintaining continuous labor support, hydration and nutrition, non-lithotomy birthing position, delayed cord clamping, Skin to skin etc. Considering the upcoming clinical placement of midwifery students at MLC sites, the Clinical Mentors strengthened their advocacy with the hospitals managers particularly to ensure student's accommodation facilities. In the next quarter, clinical mentors in collaboration with UNFPA will extend their support to capacitate the faculty members on teaching methodology and skills lab practices.

Bangladesh Midwifery Society (BMS)



Bangladesh Midwifery Society (BMS) is a professional association of midwives in Bangladesh. BMS is registered by department of women's affairs of Bangladesh and member of International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). BMS has a twinning Project with Royal College of Midwives (RCM) UK funded by UNFPA. The main objectives of the project are – strengthen BMS, advocate for midwifery profession and create demand for the midwifery services. The project was nominated for the Times Higher Award 2020 under the International Collaboration of the year category. This was a prestigious academic award of the Times newspaper.

Mst. Karima Akter, Secretary of BMS received award from the Asia-Pacific Action Alliance on Human Resources (AAAH), for Health as a Midwife. The AAAH award established in 2010, is to recognize the outstanding performances and contributions of health professionals in the SRH field. Mrs. Karima is one of the first cohort of professional midwives in Bangladesh, deployed in 2018, and a graduate of the first

national Young Midwife Leader (YML) Programme of BMS, implemented by the twinning project. During the COVID-19, pandemic Mrs. Karima has worked tirelessly to coordinate a helpline for midwives.



Bangladesh Midwifery Society (BMS) is trying its best to provide midwives all sorts of technical and financial support through the twinning project. During the Coronavirus pandemic BMS distributed three-layer cloth masks, face shields, gloves, sanitizers to all 342 UHCs where midwives are working. BMS distributed cloth masks to all 3rd year student of 41 government midwifery institutions and BRAC students. BMS also distributed infra-red thermometers to 145 UHCs. Apart from them, BMS prepared a list of midwives affected by coronavirus, keep regular communication with them and provided them support as per their need.

In the year 2020 BMS completed revision of its constitution through stakeholder's workshop, national and international expert's analysis.

BMS distributed 28 training grants to 28 midwives in 2020. BMS provided continuous training and coaching support to 7 midwives in the year 2020 under the Young Midwife Leadership Program.

BMS tried to encourage and motivate midwives to renew and enroll with BMS through providing prizes. Though it is very unfortunate that registered midwives are enrolling with BMS but not renewing every year. It is essential for the sustainability of the professional association BMS that midwives renew with BMS every year.

We thank - Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM), Bangladesh Nursing and Midwifery Council (BNMC), Royal College of Midwives (RCM) UK, UNFPA, BRAC, TMSS, Michigan Midwives, Harold Mondal (an individual donor), BHDI, all nursing Colleges/Institutions and all our stakeholders for their support and cooperation. We also highly appreciate and acknowledge the contribution Mrs. Halima Akhter, Founding President and previous committee members of BMS during 2010 to 2018.

