



INSIGHT

National Maternal Newborn & Child Health Program (MNCHP)

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Volume 1

Issue 1



MNCHP
Community Midwives CMWs Serving Right to Life at Doorsteps

National MNCH Program - Critical to Achieving MDG 4 & 5



MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



It is a matter of great pleasure for me to write for the first Issue of MNCHP Newsletter. Information sharing is a sine qua non for professional growth of organizations. It creates opportunities for learning new ideas, sharing experiences, enhancement of knowledge and help avoid reinventing of the wheel. Besides, it harnesses coordination and cooperation.

Publishing an official Newsletter to host and spread information on maternal, newborn and child health in Pakistan is a worth appreciating initiative of the National Maternal, Newborn and Child (MNCH) Program of Ministry of Health (MoH). It will augment the leadership role of MNCHP in the national set up. I wish it a great success and hope to receive valuable and benefitting information through it.

(Mr. Makhdoom Shahab uddin Gillani)

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY



The year 2015 is not far away, when the signatories of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be adjudged by global community for their achievement and progress against agreed goals. National Maternal Newborn and Child Health (MNCH) Program is geared towards addressing the health issues of mothers, newborns and children embodied in

the MDG 4 and 5. In its umbrella role for MNCH development in Pakistan, timely and appropriate sharing of information is essential to keep stakeholders of MNCH updated. MNCHP Newsletter is a step which is deemed to substantially strengthen the networking, advocacy and information dissemination aspects. Its feature of hosting key information from all key stakeholders of MNCH will definitely foster the linkages of the Program by creating synergies and good will.

(Mr. Khushnood Akhtar Lashari)



Farzana Sarki:

A CMW-Handled 237 Deliveries without a single Mortality

It was in the first week of December 2008, when a Community Birth Home was established for Farzana Sarki. The Community Birth Home was established inside the premises of the redundant building of the residence of Medical Superintendent of Rural Health Centre (RHC), Garhi Hassan. The building is located in the centre of the village. The catchment area of this RHC is Union Councils Garhi Hassan, Misripur and some parts of Tajo Khoso of district Jacobabad. Prior to setting up of this Community Birth Home, no skilled birth attendant has been available to the population of this area. The catchment population of the RHC is nearly 67,671. Ms. Farzana Sarki passed her diploma from CMW School Jacobabad in the 1st batch in 2008. She had been a brilliant student in her course and was also a position holder in final examination. Farzana belongs to a poor family of the same village Garhi Hasan. When she passed out she did not have spare room in her house to establish her Community Birth Home. **(continued page 8)**

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Program News



National MNCH Program

Editor's Note

2010: A Year of Change



Organizations witness ups and downs in journey to reach their objectives. National MNCH Program is also passing

through a critical phase in these times. The towering task of achieving of MDG 4 and 5 by 2015 brings with it to the Program some daunting challenges also. Financial constraints, human resource limitations, absence of synchronization in efforts are some of the key issues the Program management is trying to cop up with. In its efforts to take Program forward and make up for backlogs, the Program management is embarking upon 3Cs i.e Coordination, Conflict Management and Coherence. With strong belief in partnerships, coordination, collaboration and sharing the credit, the Program is revitalizing its existing networking and establishing new partnerships. All key players are being encouraged and facilitated to cut across their organizational boundaries and join cause of improving MNCH in Pakistan. Along with this the system and structural constraints are being addressed through Program's own resources and eliciting assistance from donors and partners. Office refurbishment is taking place to provide a work friendly environment to employees. Donors and partners are supporting Program for this. A host of thanks to all those who are supporting

the Program in its Progress. The year 2010 will be witnessing a high momentum at MNCHP.

The newsletter (Insight) in hand is also one of the fresh initiatives of the Program. It will serve as a link amongst the MNCH stakeholders and keep all posted about the developments at MNCH Program in particular and in MNCH field in general. It will also be a place where readers would be able to share the information through their contributions as well. The Newsletter team has made all efforts to make it informative, interesting and useful for you. The primary theme of the first Issue of Newsletter is to acknowledge the Program supporters and partners and champions of maternal, newborn and child health in Pakistan. It is first effort and we cherish improvement. Our

improvement efforts will be guided by your feedback/comments/suggestions. Share your thoughts...we will process.

Long Live Mothers, Newborns and Children of Pakistan



Where Are We Now

Performance Indicator	Targets	Progress
Health Facilities Strengthening	899	379
Health Care Providers Training	15000	4500
Community Midwives Training	12000	6263
Midwife Tutors	600	250
Midwifery Schools Establishment/ Renovation	114	98
District Management Units	134	51
Post Graduate Training of Doctors	150	30
Post Graduate Training of Nurses	150	30



Mr. Jim Butler
Program Manager,
Basic Services Group,
DFID, Pakistan



Maternal and Newborn Health is inextricably linked to development, poverty reduction, and social

inclusiveness. Access to basic services for mothers and their newborn babies is not equitable across the population and all too often is based on class, caste, custom, wealth and power. Mother and child health in poor families suffer from inferior services to those enjoyed by wealthier families.

In Pakistan, UK's Department for International Development (DFID) is determined to expand on its role as an influential donor in creating an 'enabling environment' to make a speedy progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Our commitment to supporting health systems, governance and improving basic health services in Pakistan will remain a priority as long as the poorest do not have access to quality maternal and child health care services they deserve. I appreciate the efforts of the National MNCH Program for sharing

information and strengthening network between stakeholders.

Dr. Nabeela Ali
Chief of Party,
JSI Research and Training Institute,
USAID | PAIMAN, Pakistan



I congratulate the Editorial Board on publishing the inaugural Issue of the National Maternal,

Newborn & Child Health (MNCH) Program Newsletter. This effort will be instrumental in providing all the partners and stakeholders the latest information on different health issues besides the much needed programmatic updates.

National MNCH Program is testament to the commitment the Government of Pakistan (GoP) to improve the MNCH services. Working in unison with GoP, Pakistan Initiative for Mothers and Newborns (PAIMAN), a six years USAID funded project, is supporting National MNCH Program at all tiers of its implementation. One of examples of a collaborated effort with National MNCH Program to improve skilled attendance at community level is PAIMAN's support for training of community midwives and establishing

them in their communities. With such strategic initiatives in place there is also a need for concrete effort by all partners to ensure that we reach out to all the mothers and newborns in Pakistan.

Mr. Peter Miller
Team Leader,
Research and Advocacy Fund,
Pakistan



The launch of the National Maternal, Newborn and Child Health programme (MNCH) in

2006 was an indication of the Government of Pakistan's commitment for not only achieving the MDGs but also for improving access and provision of health services for saving the lives of mothers and children. The Maternal and Newborn Health Research and Advocacy Fund (RAF) was launched with the same purpose of improving maternal and newborn lives, with an increased focus on the poor and the disadvantaged. We are hopeful that through research based evidence and effective advocacy initiatives, RAF will help identify and promote valuable policy and practice changes in the MNH sector, and contribute to the overall goal of the MNCH.



Dr. Assad Hafeez,
Chief Health Systems Strengthening
Unit (HSSU) and Director
Health Services Academy
Islamabad

Maternal and Newborn Health has been a long standing challenge in Pakistan. An important element of the recipe to tackle this challenge is enhanced coordination and information sharing amongst the stakeholders. The newsletter of MNCH Program is a handy effort in this regard. I wish it a great success.



National MNCH Program

Partners' Page

Dr. Amanulla Khan
Senior Director Health
and Nutrition, Save the
Children USA, Pakistan



Save the Children is proud to be a partner of MNCH Program in the noble cause to save the lives of mothers and newborns. The

efforts of the National MNCH Program under the MoH and GOP are truly admirable. This newsletter will prove to be instrumental in enhancing the collaboration between the partners. We look forward to strengthening partnership with MNCH and promise our sincerest of efforts for supporting this.

Dr. Mobashir Malik
National Program Officer,
UNFPA,
Pakistan



It is very inspiring to see MNCH making sincere efforts to collaborate and build strong bridges with its partners. This

newsletter is proof of extending a hand towards all the stakeholders of MNCH in an effort to jointly move forward. UNFPA is a proud associate of MNCH in the noble cause to save mothers and newborns across Pakistan. This audacious endeavor of the Ministry of Health under the GOP is truly commendable. Let us all join hands and save more lives.

Dr Khalif Bile Mohamud
World Health Organization (WHO)
Representative
in Pakistan



Pakistan's commitment and efforts are epitomized by the development of National

MNCH Program addressing the specific needs of mothers, newborns and children. In order to achieve its desired results, the National MNCH Program need to produce functional integration with the vertical programs that directly contributes to its results, district health system and ministries of population and social welfare at the operational level. Moreover, the biggest challenge for the program will remain to address gross inequities in access and quality of services that results into disparities in maternal and child health indicators in urban and rural settings.

WHO commends the role of the Program in addressing key MDGs and assuming greater roles in coordination and in the setting technically viable operational norms and standards that are taken up by public, private and Community Support Organizations (CSOs) who are committed to this vital field of public health.

It gives me immense pleasure to write these few words in support of the National MNCH Program, the flagship program of the Ministry of Health to address Millennium Development Goals 4 & 5. Pakistan has made significant progress in developing plans to integrate Maternal Newborn and Child Health and is currently undertaking on strategies to scale up interventions in health system. The role played by the MNCH program will be critical in enabling Pakistan to reach its MDG 4 & 5 Targets.

Dr. Zulfiqar A. Bhutta

Division Head,
Women and
Child Health,
Aga Khan
University (AKU)
Karachi



Pilots on Community Midwives (CMWs) Deployment

CMWs is a key intervention of the National M N C H

Program. Different pilots have had been done for drawing out mechanisms of the CMWs deployment. Some key initiatives in this regard are as follows:

UNICEF – MNCHP Community Midwives Pilot in Punjab

UNICEF and National MNCH Program Punjab have piloted deployment of 32 Community Midwives in Sheikhpura and Kasur. Over a period of 9 months, this batch has reported 1640 ANC visits, 256 deliveries and 147 referrals. A one day meeting with key stakeholders was held at Islamabad to share the mapping exercise for field deployment, linkages with Lady Health Workers and referral facilities, recording and reporting tools and a comprehensive communication strategy. The knowledge generated through CMWs deployment pilot with UNICEF will facilitate National MNCH Program in devising a national strategy for CMWs deployment so that the dividends of the Program start reaching the actual beneficiaries.

Accelerated Education- An Intervention to address the Availability of CMWs in remote areas- PAIMAN Pilot

PAIMAN has piloted a tripartite Public Private Partnership initiative for accelerated education for CMWs of the National MNCH Program. A third partner Idara –e- Taleem –o- Agahi, a Pakistani educational sector NGO with Allam Iqbal University and supported MNCHP in identification and education of the women from the uncovered

remote districts of NWFP and Balochistan. The lessons learnt through this initiative would definitely contribute to the Program is addressing the issue of CMWs availability in the uncovered districts.

Establishing Community Birth Home in the Centre of the Village is a key to CMWs Success – UNFPA –MNCHP Model

UNFPA and MNCHP together are piloting a project in 10 districts of Pakistan in four provinces and Azad Jammu and Kashmir. The linchpin of this pilot is that CMWs need to be supported in establishing their Community Birth Homes. The Homes should be established in Centre of the Village for the effective delivery of services envisaged through this intervention. The pilot is expected to generate some key evidence for MNCHP in implementing its CMWs component.

UNFPA and MNCHP -Training of Community Mobilizers and Public Private Coordinators



National MNCH Program with UNFPA organized a seven days Training for Community Mobilizers and Public Private Coordinators of 10 districts where UNFPA and MNCH Program are working together. The deployment of Community Mobilizers and Public Private Coordinators is an innovative model being piloted to address the gaps with respect to community participation and private sector involvement for

communities. The Community Mobilizers will strengthen the linkages between communities and health facilities whereas Public and Private Coordinators will create linkages between Public and Private Sector health services providers for improvement with respect to data availability on morbidity and mortality. Through the training the participants acquired the understanding of district health system, social mobilization and advocacy.

PRIDE and MNCH Program tests Standards-Based Management and Recognition (SBMR) Tools in Primary Health Care Facilities



An Orientation Workshop on Standards- Based Management and Recognition (SBMR) was held at hotel Avari, Lahore on February 10, 2010. The workshop was a joint venture of PRIDE project and UNICEF and was held to introduce SBMR tools to different stakeholders and also test application of these tools in settings other than the pilot districts. The infection prevention tools were tested at Lady Aitchison Hospital, Lahore. The Medical Superintendent of the hospital Dr Shagufta appreciated the development of these tools and eagerly listened to the results of the assessment. The visiting team included

the National Program Manager of MNCH Program, Mr Mohamad Cisse (Chief of UNICEF), Dr Nabeela Zaka, (Maternal and Child Health Specialist UNICEF), and Ms Shelton from PRIDE.

Finalization of Six months TA Plan of TRF for MNCH

Besides, direct budgetary support of DFID, the National MNCH Program is also receiving technical assistance through DFID funded Technical Resource Facility (TRF) project being managed by HLSP in Pakistan. The first six months Technical Assistance (TA) plan has been finalized by the TRF executive committee headed by Federal Secretary Health. The TAs being provided to MNCH Program are deemed to strengthen the capacity of program and facilitate its systems strengthening for enhancing Program implementation, efficiency and effectiveness.

Training Advisors deployment at National and Provincial Offices of the MNCHP

In its efforts to recover from the lags and expedite its progress, the MNCH Program

is being supported by its different partners through provision of human resource. Recently, upon request of MNCHP, the PAIMAN Project has provided five training advisors to MNCHP Program's national and provincial offices. these advisors will devolved the trainings strategies and data bases for trainings. This technical assistance is being managed by Save the Children.

Ministry of Health approves the Unified Health Messages on MNCH

Along with the services provision, the National MNCH Program also endeavors to improve the behaviors of communities for advancing demand creation and creating an enabling social environment for health of mothers, newborn and children. The Program employs the strategy of behavior change communication in this regard. To this end, a National MNCH Communication Strategy Framework has already been developed and disseminated.

The last quarter witnessed some important progress in this regard. With the efforts of Core Group on MNCH Communication, a set of unified health messages got notified by Ministry of Health. This notification will help bring uniformity in the content of the different BCC messages and thus positively affect the reinforcement. Besides, as a result of three exhaustive meetings of the Core group a consolidated work plan of the communication activities has also been developed.



Streamlining of National MNCH Trainings in Pakistan

One of the key implementation strategies of the National MNCH Program is MNCH Trainings in different categories. The key trainings include Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (EmONC), Integrated Management of Newborn and Childhood Illness (IMNCI), Essential Newborn Care (ENC), IMPAC. Whereas, all different efforts are deemed to contribute to national improvement, a challenge has been the streamlining of these trainings with respect to curriculum, methodology, content, monitoring and databases. The National MNCH Program has taken these trainings into February 23 -24, with the support of a two days workshop to seek recommendation participants of the representatives PAIMAN, DFID, Save the Children, National LHW Program, EPI, PIMS, UNFPA, UNICEF, PRIDE, JHPIEGO, AUSAID and TRF. The provincial offices of National MNCH Program also participated in the workshop. Different organizations working in the area of MNCH Trainings shared their training strategies and through group work a consolidated set of recommendations were put forward.



Special Advisor on Social Sector to Norwegian Prime Minister visits MNCH Program



On Jan 24, 2010, Mr Tore Godal (Senior Adviser to Norway Prime Minister) visited National MNCH Program.. He was accompanied by Mr Wang Cliff, Dr Sverre Lie and Mr Terje Thodesen of Norwegian Pakistan Partnership Initiative (NPPI). Dr Farooq Akhter (National program Manager) MNCHP gave a presentation to the delegation about the National MNCH Program. Dr Farooq informed the visitors about the goal and strategies of the Program. The issues and challenges in the implementation were also discussed at length. Dr Salim Wali (Technical Advisor to MNCHP) shared the budget flow mechanisms of the Program and presented a comparison of LHW and MNCH Programs in this regard. The delegation assured all kind of support to Program for meeting the challenges in the implementation.



Join EVERY ONE and Play your Part: MNCHP and Save the Children join hands for - Newborn Child Survival- EVERY ONE Campaign

The National MNCH program is making all out efforts to play a catalytic role in the expediting the country's progress towards achievement of MDG 4 and 5. Important in this regard is its joining hands with Save the Children for implementation of Newborn and Child Survival – EVERY ONE Campaign in Pakistan. The EVERY ONE Campaign is a global Initiative of Save the Children to mobilize global action to reduce the number of preventable deaths of children under the age 5. The campaign has four pillars i.e dramatically increase health and nutrition programs on the ground, political and policy change, popular mobilization and income generation to be used to fund newborn and child survival programs. National MNCH



Program of MoH would serve as the focal office for this Campaign and The campaign is being co-branded with MoH during its different activities.

RAF-Stimulating relevant and accessible research on Maternal and Newborn Health

An important support to MNCH Program is coming through £18.3 million five-year Research & Advocacy Fund (RAF) programme, supported by DFID and AusAid. RAF is trying to play an important role to ensure research-based evidence contributes to policy-making on MNH by supporting research and advocacy on key issues. RAF's first

round of call for proposals is in process, in which it received a combined 303 proposals for small and large grants on research and advocacy related to MNH. A total of 173 proposals are being assessed for their research focus in both these categories. RAF will be offering applicants from both, public and private sectors the opportunity to acquire support, twice a year, for evidence generation on MNCH and its subsequent use by policy and decision makers through concerted advocacy.

Launch of "Opportunities for Newborn Survival in Pakistan" in Karachi

Save the Children on January 16, 2010 launched its report titled 'Opportunities for Newborn Survival in Pakistan'. The report presents analysis of MNCH situation in Pakistan and brings forward the key areas which need to be focused for achieving MDG 4 & 5 in Pakistan. The authors have dwelled upon newborn centered maternal and child health development activities for achieving MDGs. The speakers emphasized MNCHP as a key program for Pakistan's progress towards achievement of MDGs. At the end of ceremony shields were given to Dr Zulfiqar A Bhutta, Dr Nabeela Ali, Dr Farooq Akhtar, Dr Arshad Chandio for recognition of their efforts in improving MNCH situation in Pakistan.



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Jacobabad: CMW Farzana Sarki conducting ANC checkup at her Community Birth Home



Farzana Sarki: (Continued...)

National MNCH Program with UNFPA assistance supported Farzana to establish her CBH in the RHC building. The CBH was established in that part of the building which was almost redundant and was not in use for any purpose. Starting in December 2008, by end of January 2010, Farzana had provided significant number of MNCH services to her community. She conducted 229 Normal Deliveries without any maternal death has occurred at her CBH since its establishment. Her services delivery glimpses are given in the table below:

Total Cases Treated by Farzana (Dec 08 to Jan 10)												
ANC	PNC	NVDs	NVDs with Epi	D & Cs	PAC	FP	IUCD	MVA	OPD	Referred In	Referred Out	
1147	125	229	8	57	75	198	9	2	1898	292	25	

These details show that CMWs is a key intervention of the National MNCH Program which would be instrumental in expediting the progress in averting maternal deaths due to preventable causes and expedite Pakistan's progress towards achieving MDGs.



Program in Pictures

