



Strengthening the National Midwifery Programme (SNMP)
through
Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM)



NEWSLETTERfor
PROFESSIONAL
MIDWIVESin
BANGLADESH

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DIPLOMA MIDWIVES DEPLOYED

The Diploma Midwifery Programme has started at 20 Nursing Institutions with 500 Midwifery students and upgraded to 38 Institutes with 975 seats in the Government sector. Beside this, there are 16 Midwifery Institutions in the private sectors with 656 seats. For the very first time in Bangladesh, 1143 professional registered midwives have been deployed at 349 Upazila Health Complexes and 29 Union Sub Centers across the country.

The deployed midwives are working in the labour wards and are intended to practice proper midwifery led care; which includes antenatal care, postnatal care, normal vaginal delivery using evidence based maternal and newborn care as upright position, delayed cord clumping skin to skin care and early breast feeding including appropriate counseling and family planning, adolescent health care and gender based violence, to the women. They are gradually acclimating into their important roles as sexual and reproductive health care providers in different health care facilities and working well alongside the nurses, doctors and other team members.



A large scale event took place at on 30 August 2018, to mark the great achievement of the Government of Bangladesh in adding a new Midwifery profession in the health care system. Around 1200 diploma midwives were present at the event. Mr. Mohammad Nasim, MP, Honourable Minister of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, presided at the event as the Chief Guest. Dr. Asa Torkelsson, UNFPA Representative, congratulated the newly recruited midwives and also thanked the Government of Bangladesh for this amazing initiative and expressed gratitude to the donors and the implementing partners for their continuous support in strengthening the programme.



The Director General, Directorate General of Nursing and Midwifery (DGNM), Ms. Tandra Sikder, presided as the Chairperson of the programme, which concluded with an oath that every midwife took, led by her.



ONGOING TRAININGS OF MIDWIVES

MINIMUM INITIAL SERVICE PACKAGE (MISP):

Midwives from various health care institutions from humanitarian settings and disaster prone areas received training on the MISP for Reproductive Health. A total of 200 Midwives were trained who are on the roster to provide support during crises situations.



COMPETENCY BASED TRAINING (CBT)

CBT is being conducted to enable the midwives to develop confidence, knowledge, skills and attitudes, and gain insights on Menstrual Regulation, Family Planning, Clinical Management of Rape, Adolescent Friendly Care and STI Management. As of now, 340 Midwives and 20 Faculty have received the Competency Based Training.



INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME FOR DIPLOMA MIDWIVES

The DGNM is offering a three-month internship for the midwives. This will provide the midwives the opportunity to maintain/strengthen their professional skills, and allow women, newborn and families to benefit from midwifery care. The objectives of this internship is to allow the midwives to translate theory into practice, strengthen their confidence and competence, support them in



maintaining knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm in preparation for deployment. In addition, this supports the introduction of evidence-based midwifery care into facilities. There are 722 newly licensed midwives who have completed their internships at the Upazila Health Complexes (UHCs).



ORIENTATION PROGRAMME HELD

FOR MEMBERS OF NEW STUDENT COUNCIL AT NURSING AND MIDWIFERY EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

1. An orientation programme was organized in 38 Nursing Institutions (with midwifery education) for the nursing and midwifery student council members who will be responsible for managing and operating the library, computer and skills labs of the 38 Nursing Institutes and Colleges. A total of 18 students from each Nursing Institute and 21 students from each Nursing College received the orientation program.



2. An orientation programme was held for the Principals and Nursing Instructor in charge of all the Nursing Institutes and Colleges. The goal was to discuss the ongoing activities that were being carried out, to share the monitoring template and system (online & offline), and to communicate the Information Communication Technology (ICT) services being provided to Nursing Institutes and Colleges for the nursing and midwifery faculty and students.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMMES

ON MIDWIFERY LED CARE FOR MIDWIVES AT THE UPAZILA HEALTH FACILITIES



There is currently a mentorship programme is going on in 62 Upazila Health Complexes running as Midwifery Led Care (MLC) centers. The purpose of having the mentorship programme is to try and ensure that the diploma midwives have an enabling environment to learn, understand and practice evidence based midwifery services as per their academic requirements.



A MIDWIFE SAVING A LIFE BY MANAGING PPH

Sharifa is a **28-year old** housewife, married to a peasant, from a remote village in Bakshiganj, Jamalpur. They live **40 km away** from the UHC with no other place nearby handling deliveries.

She gave birth in their home at around **10am** with the help of an unskilled birth attendant, after which she got serious complications. With no alternative, her family brought her to the UHC at around **4pm**, semi-conscious, with retained placenta and severe bleeding.

The emergency department immediately called in the labour in charge, **Mahmuda Siddique Sheuli**, a certified midwife and trained on **PPH** management. She instantly arrived at the emergency from the labor ward and called for assistants who helped her manage the patient. The timely and appropriate management of PPH eventually led to a positive outcome.

Within **30 minutes** the patient regained full consciousness. She was astonished to find herself there and see the people around her.



She looked up and asked, **“Where is my baby?”**, to which Sheuli replied, “Do not worry, we are all here for you and all necessary measures have been taken; you are safe now and your baby is also fine.”

The midwife put the baby on the abdomen of the mother, dried and cleaned mouth and nostrils by using penguin sucker, wrapped the back and put her on the mother for **skin to skin care**.

After **an hour**, Sharifa was moved to the ward for postpartum observation where the midwives checked for PPH, blood pressure and other vital signs of the mother, and also checked the baby. **The bleeding was checked for up to 6 hours.**

The following day, a doctor and some midwives checked Sharifa again, found her condition to be good and decided to release her, **but not before prescribing necessary drugs**. She was advised to maintain proper nutrition and be hydrated, and also to make a follow-up visit to hospital if bleeding occurred again, if she had fever, or if white discharge with foul smell was observed.

After Sharifa realized what a great deal the midwives had done to revive her and provide the necessary care, tears were rolling down from her cheeks. **“If it were not for midwife Sheuli’s quick action, I would not be alive today”**. She left the hospital embracing the baby with a big smile on her face.

STUDY

THE STORY AT A GLANCE



SHARIFA, THE 28-YEAR OLD EXPECTING MOTHER FROM A REMOTE VILLAGE IN JAMALPUR



LIVES 40 KILOMETER AWAY FROM NEAREST UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE CENTER (UHC)



10 AM



GAVE BIRTH IN PRESENCE OF AN UNSKILLED BIRTH ATTENDANT



4 PM



SHE WAS TAKEN TO THE UHC DUE TO SERIOUS COMPLICATIONS



THE MIDWIFE IN CHARGE STARTED IMMEDIATE TREATMENT



TWO LIVES WERE SAVED DUE TO THE QUICK INTERVENTION OF THE MIDWIFE



NEXT DAY



MOTHER AND THE NEWBORN WERE RELEASED WITH A PRESCRIPTION



AFTER 30 MINUTES



THE PATIENT SHOWED IMMEDIATE SIGNS OF RECOVERY, AND MOVED TO WARD FOR POST PARTUM OBSERVATION





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