Partnership with MOHP, UNFPA, WHO, and GIZ to Foster Midwifery Education, Nepal

Reporting period: January 1, 2017 – March 31, 2017
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Organization: Real Medicine Foundation Nepal (www.realmedicinefoundation.org)
Project title: Partnership with Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), UNFPA, GIZ, and WHO to Foster Midwifery Education
Project location: Nepal

January–March 2017

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Background
The April 2015 earthquake damaged or destroyed up to 90% of health facilities in many rural areas, affecting 2 million women of reproductive age and over 126,000 pregnant women. According to WHO, over 85% of urban pregnancies are over medicalized in Nepal. However, only 16% to 18.6% of Nepal’s population lives in its cities, and many rural areas are deprived of professional midwifery services, modern medicines, and access to surgery. When pregnancy complications arise, this lack of proper care leads to the death of the mother and child in most cases. Nepal’s Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are working in partnership with several universities and organizations, including Real Medicine Foundation (RMF), to build midwifery education programs. The goal is to create strong cadres of qualified midwives to reduce mortality and morbidity rates among mothers and newborns.

RMF’s Role
As an external development partner with MHOP and UNFPA, Real Medicine Foundation’s plan for long-term support to midwifery education in Nepal:
- Develop a database for the Nepal Nursing Council (NNC) to track active nurses and midwives in Nepal
- Provide faculty training in collaboration with GIZ and UNFPA
- Strengthen training sites and the skills lab at NAMS in coordination with the MOHP, UNFPA, and other partners by providing relevant teaching and training materials
- Provide one full-time international mentor
- Fund one student scholarship (covering all tuition fees at NAMS) every year for the first 3 years of the program
- Provide selected essential teaching and learning materials to NAMS, such as books, computers, LED, and overhead projectors, to ensure that student midwives are provided with an education that is both up-to-date and evidence-based

Current Focus
Within this program, RMF Nepal’s current priority is to support the Midwifery Education Program at the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), Bir Hospital Nursing Campus. We have been continually supporting the NAMS midwifery program from its inception, and our support is in consortium with other external development partners and Nepal’s Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), UNFPA, WHO, and GIZ to ensure that the program runs smoothly, with no duplication of efforts.

NAMS Request for Support
On April 6, 2017, the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS) sent a written request to RMF for various equipment and materials. These are in the process of procurement.

Support requested by NAMS:
- Projector
- Laptop
- Showcase cupboards
- Bookcases
- Steel cupboard
- Books

The furniture is now in the course of construction and installation at NAMS, Bir Hospital Nursing Campus. RMF Nepal’s team visited the campus and confirmed that the showcase cupboards for the midwifery skills lab, as well as the steel cupboard and bookcases for the library, are being built.
Subject:

To,
Programme Manager
Real Medicine Foundation
Chuchepati, Kathmandu

Dear Sir,

I am happy to express and extend my gratitude along with appreciation to Real Medicine Foundation for providing steel cupboard to set up the dress changing room of our Bachelor Midwifery Science students in Maternity Hospital Thapathali.

Finally I also would like to further request to provide following materials to set up midwifery skill in our midwifery program.

1) Projector - 1 set
2) Laptop Computer - 1 set
3) Show case cupboard to display teaching learning materials - 6 sets
4) Book Rack - 2 sets
5) Steel cupboard - 1 set

The Contribution of Real Medicine Foundation certainly useful to run Bachelor Midwifery Program.

With warm regards,

(Prof. Pramila Dewun)
Campus Chief

Tel.: 4493926, 4493927, Fax No.: 0977-1-4493925, P.O. Box No.: 5022
E-mail: bhnc.nams@gmail.com
Reference Books for the NAMS Library
The college has submitted a list of reference books for the library. RMF is in the process of providing these:

- National Neonatal Health Strategies, 2004, FHDDOHS.
- Annual Report 2067/2068, Department of Health Services.
- Situation of Women and Children in Nepal, 2006 UNICEF.
- National Medical Standard for Reproductive Health: Volume III Maternal and Neonatal Care, 2007, FHD, DOHS
- MoHP, New Era 2011, Nepal Demography Health Survey (NDHS), FHD, New Era and ORC Macro
- Family Health Division (2055), MOH, Reproductive Health Program.
- GoN. Maternal and Newborn Care: Skilled Birth Attendant In-service Training Course Outline for Staff Nurses. USAID Nepal.
- HLMC, Ghai OP and others, Nursing Care of Children Essential Paediatric HLMC, TUTH
- Newborn Care Training Package for Nursing Program. Save the Children. 2009

• Saving Women of South (2000). *East Asia, a Health Profile, World Health Organization, South East Asia Region*. New Delhi.


**Personal Lockers for Students**

In addition to funding one midwifery student’s full tuition at the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS) and working to provide the college’s requested equipment and materials, RMF has provided the institution with a 12-door locker, which has been installed at Paropakar Maternity and Women’s Hospital, Thapathali, Kathmandu for the midwifery students’ use. Each student has a separate lock and key, and will be able to store his or her uniforms, books, and other personal belongings in the locker. This offers students added peace of mind, as they feel that their belongings are secure during their hospital duty.

![NAMS lecturer Binu Bajracharya and a student at the RMF-provided lockers](image)

**Meeting Minutes**
A. External Development Partner (EDP) Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>EDP Meeting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>13 February 2017</td>
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| Participants  | • Ganesh Shrestha, RMF  
                 • Suman Gurung, RMF  
                 • Tulasa Bharati, GIZ  
                 • Valerie Broch Alvarez, GIZ  
                 • Latika Maskey Pradhan, UNFPA  
                 • Neeeta Shreshta, UNFPA  
                 • Sitara Khatiwada, UNFPA  
                 • Maya Vergara Guerra, UNFPA |
| Absent        | Neeta Thakur, UNFPA  
                 Meera Updhyay, WHO  
                 Joy Kemp, RCM |

**Objectives of the Meeting (in bullet points)**
- Discuss scope of the EDP midwifery group and frequency of meeting
- Updates from each EDP
- Review and clarify TA Matrix
- How to proceed with signing off of the MoU and the TA Matrix

**Discussion and Decision**
Latika Maskey Pradhan, the Assistant Representative of UNFPA, welcomed all the participants for the meeting and proceeded with the discussion on agenda points.

1. **Scope of the EDP midwifery group and frequency of meeting**
   The informal EDP group working in the area of midwifery education has been meeting in an ad hoc manner, hence it was agreed that the group should have a defined objective and regular meeting schedule. The objective of the informal group is to:
   - Harmonize assistance in midwifery education and improve coordination
   - Update each other and collaborate as appropriate
   - Promote a collaborative approach to partnership with government and relevant partners (MIDSON, NNC, universities)

   **Action:** The group decided to meet every six weeks, subject to change as and when required.

2. **Updates from Individual Agencies:**
   - RMF has been to NAMS for introduction and to assess both the skills lab and library. RMF will support, as per agreement, both the skills lab and teaching/learning materials for their library.
   - Scholarship has been discussed for 1 student per batch in NAMS. RMF will further discuss with NAMS regarding the selection process.
   - RMF approached NNC to initiate discussion on their database, which is very outdated. Next step: NNC to facilitate a meeting with their IT team and RMF to proceed.
   - GIZ might be able to support/advice RMF on the database and will update on this further.

   **Action:** RMF requested UNFPA to send them the list of equipment needed for the skills labs and reference books necessary for the library at NAMS.
I. GIZ

- Has initiated a dialogue with NAMS for the placement of an international expert as a Development Advisor in NAMS. The contract with GIZ lasts for minimum 2 years to maximum 5 years. GIZ will be further coordinating with NAMS on this and will update accordingly. If needed, GIZ will ask UNFPA to follow up with NAMS and their application for an international expert.
- Continues supporting KUSMS as per the TA Matrix; in the areas of faculty exchange program and skills lab. Several steps have been taken to support the midwifery faculty clinically, and online course modules are to be offered to the midwifery faculty through collaboration with a Swiss university.

II. UNFPA

Quick update on faculty development plan for midwifery educators:

- Maya Vergara Guerra, the UNFPA midwifery specialist has joined NAMS by 9th March 2017 to support their midwifery faculty.
- Mentors at respective university (in process by different agencies)
- Plan to support development of a standardized training package for the midwifery educators: TOR is under preparation, and aim to hire an international consultant to develop the training package. It was discussed that a national consultant may also be required to work alongside the international consultant. The national consultant (focal person) can be a part of the existing NNC or MIDSON contract with UNFPA. The training package will be offered to KUSMS, NAMS, and BPKIHS.
- GIZ also informed about existing international midwives (Ms. Sophie and/or Ms. Francis) in country who can be possible consultants for the package development.
- It was discussed that the midwifery mentors, regardless of under which contract they are hired, can be part of the faculty training package as facilitators/trainers of trainers to ensure a consistent approach to capacity building and to maintain it throughout the universities (including practical sites).

Action: GIZ will share the details and CV of midwives currently under their contract as well as talk to WHO in regards to possible collaboration with Ms. Sophie for the faculty development training package.

III. WHO

- Not present at the meeting. While WHO is part of the partnership arrangement and has provided their input, they are consistently absent from the meetings.

Action: Ms. Valerie will raise this at the Health EDP meeting with WHO to possibly delegate someone who can attend the meetings.

IV. Signing of TA Matrix

- Given the pending approval from the MOH, discussed if the EDPs can agree to sign on the TA Matrix. Partners agreed to sign the partnership, for which UNFPA will draft a signing document and share with partners. It was decided that the partnership will be signed in the next meeting.

Action: UNFPA to draft the signing document for partnership and share with partners. Partners will then sign the final document in the next meeting.

V. Regular EDP meeting

- It was decided to meet every six weeks to discuss midwifery issues; each agency will host the meeting on a rotational basis. GIZ hosted the meeting on 21st April. On the rotation plan, RMF will host the next meeting in June.

VI. Additional information

- Scope Global (Australian Aid Volunteer) has advertised for a midwifery volunteer to KU. Tentatively, the recruitment process will take 4 months in total.
• Scope Global has had an introductory meeting with NAMS for the placement of an international midwife mentor. NAMS has been briefed on how to proceed; however, NAMS has yet not submitted the application.
• Scholarship should be provided with the requirement of returning/working in a rural area after graduation for X number of years. There is a system in place for Government scholarships in NAMS. RMF will follow up with NAMS.
• Faculty development will be done in collaboration with all three organizations, as it is mentioned in the TA Matrix. The plan and activities in this regard will be discussed and decided beforehand to keep all the supporting partners on board.

Challenges

Actions (in bullet points)

• UNFPA and GIZ to follow up on Programmatic Partnership Arrangement and focal point in MOH
• UNFPA will send RMF the minimum requirement list for a skills lab as per ICM recommendations, as well as a list of recommended books.
• UNFPA to follow up on NAMS and their application for an Australian midwife mentor, and if needed provide support with the process.
• RMF to follow up on how to proceed with government scholarship model.
• GIZ will share contact of international midwives working in Nepal.
• Signing of TA Matrix on the 3rd of April
• Terms of Reference of the international consultant for the training package is to be shared with RMF.
• All EDPs involved in NAMS should jointly visit the university for clarity and transparency of involvement.
• UNFPA to draft a document for signing and share with all EDPs for their input.
• Next meeting will be held on the 3rd of April, afternoon, at GIZ office.
• UNFPA to provide a meeting calendar for the coming months.
• Faculty development will be done in collaboration with all supporting partners.

B. MOHP and External Development Partner (EDP) Meeting

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Midwifery meeting to discuss way forward on the collaborative programmatic arrangement and review of action points from previous meeting.</th>
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| Participants: | 1. Dr. Bhola Ram Shrestha; Chief Curative division, MOH  
2. Ram Krishna Lamicchane, MOH  
3. Kalpalata Subba, MOH  
4. Kabita Aryal, MOH  
5. Laxmi Tamang, Freelancer  
6. Goma Niraula, NAMS, Bir Hospital  
7. Valerie Broch, GIZ  
8. Tulas Bharati, GIZ  
9. Dr. Pooja Pradhan, WHO  
10. Ganesh Shrestha, RMF  
11. Amitabh Kumar, RMF, HQ  
12. Suman Gurung, RMF  
13. Latika Maskey Pradhan, UNFPA  
14. Sitara Khatiwada, UNFPA |
| Regrets/absent |                                                                 |
**Objectives of the Meeting (in bullet points)**

1. To discuss and decide on way forward to signing of the programmatic arrangement shared by EDPs
2. AOB

**Discussion**

The meeting was chaired by chief of curative division, Dr. Bhola Ram Shrestha and Kalpalata of curative division facilitated the meeting.

Action point on programmatic arrangement from the last meeting minutes of the midwifery Technical Working Committee was reviewed.

Latika Maskey Pradhan, UNFPA explained the idea behind the partnership arrangement document. Upon discussion on the comment made by MOH on elaborating the support area and also including the budget support from each partner. The team discussed and decided that while projecting budgetary support for the whole NHSS period may not be possible for many partners, and also given the fiscal year difference, each partner can project an estimated annual support to midwifery with the annual work plan discussion to take place in March each year.

It was also discussed that EDPs who have a framework agreement/bilateral agreement with Government of Nepal/Ministry of Finance only can sign the programmatic arrangement; otherwise, it will be difficult for MOH to justify such agreements at MOH level.

**Action points:**

- Each partner is to provide MOH with their estimated annual support for FY 2017/18 to Midwifery Education.
- TA Matrix to be updated with clear activity explaining what is the support to be provided including any training or exposure visit to MOH/NNC, and this will be an annex to the Programmatic Arrangement document.
- MOH to process for the signing upon receiving the required documentation from EDPs.
- Agencies who may not have their bilateral MoU/agreement with GON may not sign the programmatic arrangement; however, they can support and work in midwifery education as relevant.
- There are other partners supporting faculty for midwifery education; those partners should be brought in the meeting next time. Example: One Heart World-Wide, etc.

**Other points discussed:**

- A guideline in midwifery was developed pending endorsement. The opportunity to be used to review the guideline and come up with policy,strategic direction for midwifery education, which is lacking at present. Professional midwife cadres would be part of the master HRH plan.

**Agreed Actions (in bullet points)**

1. UNFPA to consolidate detailed out TA Matrix from all EDPs and submit to MOH by 15 March – Sitara Khatiwada
2. UNFPA to work on detailed annual support plan for FY 2017/18 to submit to MOH by 15 March – Maya and Sitara

**Additional Photos**
Midwifery students in the RMF-supported program at the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS) pose with their teacher, mentor, and RMF Nepal Program and M&E Coordinator at the maternity hospital.

Midwifery students in the RMF-supported program at NAMS interact with the international midwifery mentor after a clinical session at the maternity hospital.
NAMS midwifery students, their teacher, and mentor interact with RMF Nepal Program Manager