

# Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) Community of Practice (COP) First Asia Regional Meeting

10 -12 December, 2016

Dhaka, Bangladesh



**FIGURE 1: GROUP PHOTO OF KMC COP MEETING DELEGATES, INCLUDING THE INDONESIA, INDIA AND BANGLADESH. PHOTO CREDIT: FAKHRUL ALAM**

Each year more than a million babies die due to complication of prematurity. Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is a special care for premature babies or babies born before 37 weeks of gestational age or having less than 2000g birth weight which was first introduced in Bogota Colombia in 1978.

To avert the deaths due to prematurity and to promote KMC intervention in Asia region with the leadership from Saving Newborn Lives (SNL) and the Maternal Child Survival Program (MCSP) and Mamoni HSS, a three days Asia regional meeting on Kangaroo Mother Care Community of Practice was held at Dhaka from 10 – 12 December, 2016. The objectives were to develop a unique platform for KMC community with in the region to share knowledge on research and implementation experiences, challenges and barriers for KMC practice, to discuss and to agree on the mode of operation and to facilitate the uptake of KMC with in the country and the region as well. A total 22 delegates from India, Bangladesh, and Indonesia were participated who were neonatologist, Ministry of Health officials, experts of UNICEF, WHO, SNL and Mamoni and headquarters officials from Saving Newborn Lives (SNL) Program, Maternal and Child Survival Program (MCSP), Save the Children.

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Prof. Mohammad Shahidullah, President Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council, Bangladesh Perinatal Society, and Professor, BSMMU grace the opening session of the event as the Chief guest and Dr Md Altaf Hossain, Program Manager IMCI, DGHS chaired the session.

The global experts from SNL, MCSP and WHO Bangladesh official shared the global experience and



**FIGURE2: INAUGURAL SESSION OF KMC COP MEETING. SPEECH BY CHIEF GUEST PROF. MOHAMMAD SHAHIDULLAH**



**FIGURE3: DISCUSSION ACROSS THE COUNTRY DELEGATES**

technical updates on KMC and country teams also delivered their county policy, practice and program scenario on the first day. To facilitate uptake and advancement of KMC professional's commitment of Indonesia and Bangladesh had cited through "Professional Societies Joint statements on KMC"

To observe the implementation, practice and to share the view of practical experiences a field visit was made on the second day at four KMC facilities with in Dhaka city and one from Kushtia district. Three countries participant were enthusiastically engaged to explore the strength, opportunity, weakness of KMC implementation status and practice and plotted through a group discussion and shared on the third day. The visited facilities were BIRDEM, Maternal Child Health & Training Institute, BSMMU, Dhaka Shishu Hospital and Upazila Health Complex, Daulatpur, Kushtia.



**FIGURE 4: DR. FRIDA AND DR. YUNUS WITH A KMC MOTHER AND BABY AT BIRDEM**

The country action plan prepared by the country delegates for scale-up of KMC. Productive brain storm session was conducted for future meeting to generate suggestions and recommendations for accelerating uptake of KMC by the focus countries.

On concluding session Prof. M A K Azad Chowdhury, Director and Head of Neonatology, Dhaka Shishu Hospital was present as special guest and Dr Md Altaf Hossain, Program Manager IMCI, DGHS was chaired and express commitment to work together with all key stakeholders for KMC acceleration. The program concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Sayed Rubayet, Program Director, SNL.