

ICHW

(Improving Community Health Workers Program Performances through Harmonization & Community Engagement to Sustain Effective Coverage at Scale)

Background:

Save the Children in Bangladesh has been implementing a joint USAID-UNICEF initiative “Improving Community Health Workers Program Performance through Harmonization and Community Engagement to Sustain Effective Coverage at Scale” commonly known as ICHW project since April 2016. The project is implementing activities like a Build-Operate-Demonstrate model. Initially, the project will build the premises for institutionalizing CHW program. Then activities related to testing developed strategies, and plans will be implemented in the district and finally developed strategies and plans will be demonstrated and proposed to be endorsed by the government. The ICHW project has created a District Learning Laboratory (DLL) to inform the strategy development process, reinforcing strategic recommendations including harmonizing job descriptions and demonstrating the success of innovations.

Project Objectives:

The project aims to achieve three objectives:

Objective 1: Institutionalization: Efficient and effective linkages between communities and health and local systems established inclusive of change in behavior that reduces gender barriers in system and social norms

Objective 2: Measurement to influence systems and policies: Evidence and data for decision making to promote scale, equity and mutual accountability generated and used at all levels.

Objective 3: Inclusive and effective Partnerships: Coordination and collaboration between government, civil society, and the private sector to influence national and local policies and plans improved.

Geographical Coverage: Barisal Sadar, Banaripara, Babugonj, Bakergonj, Gaurnadi, Wazirpur upazillas of Barisal District.

Implementing Partners: Partner in Health & Development (PHD), BRAC

Strategic Partners: MOHFW, MOLGRD, UNICEF, OGSB, BPA, BPMPA

Project duration: Four-year project (March 2016 to March 2020)

Funded by: The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

Target Groups



Community Service Providers



Community Group and Community Support Group



Government Officials



Caregivers



Parents



Informal Service Providers

Major Achievements:

The project has just started and yet to deliver the project activities. Till now, following activities have been done:

- Signing of LoC with MOHFW
- Signing of MoU with BRAC
- Sub-awarding to PHD
- ICHW project start-up Workshop
- Preparatory meeting for National Steering Committee for Community Health
- Hiring Consultant for CHW profile and skill review

Major Challenges:

The project has just started and yet to be experience major challenges.

Future Direction:

- National Community Health workers (CHW) Strategy
- National CHW profile
- Harmonized standard job description of CHW
- Synchronized SBCC approaches
- CHW capacity building plan
- Modified LG Engagement Strategy
- Improved CHW capacity on SBCC, HMIS and Micro-planning



“Community Health Workers should be equipped with knowledge and skills to play very vital role in realizing Universal Health Coverage in Bangladesh.”



- Dr Jahangir Alam Sarker, Director-Primary Health Care, LD MNC&AH, DGHS, MOHFW, Bangladesh.



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