



মুজিব বর্ষে স্বাস্থ্য খাত  
এগিয়ে যাবে অনেক ধাপ

# National Newborn Health Program Newsletter

Volume 5 | Issue 3 | November 2020



## Editorial Note



We are very pleased to present the 12 issue of National Newborn Health Program (NNHP) newsletter. You all know that the whole world is passing through a difficult situation. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the health workers of our health department who are working tirelessly.

This issue highlighted program performance review at the regional level, overview of different social medias and kangaroo mother care health care at various hospitals across the country.

We are grateful to all the governmental and non-governmental organizations that have been assisting us in implementing our program. Finally, I wish everyone a healthy and beautiful life.

**Dr. Muhammad Shariful Islam**

Assistant Director & Program Manager, NNHP & IMCI  
Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)

## Speaker's Corner



We need to maintain the normal pace of service utilization for achieving the SGD targets in health sector. Our health workers are working hard to manage the current situation. We have taken different initiatives to ensure the essential services of mother and newborn. The current status of service utilization

tell us that we are returning on the normal track.

I would request all government and non-government agencies to support each other to do better amid COVID-19 situation.

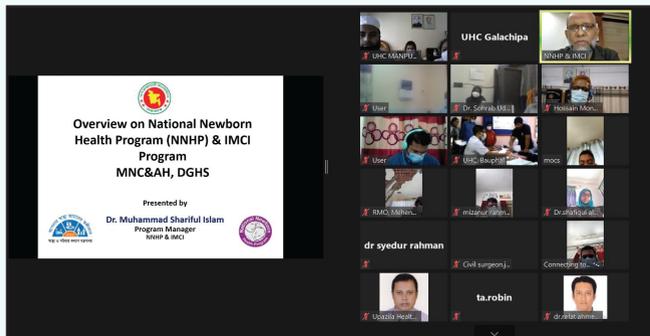
**Prof. Dr. Abul Bashar Mohammad Khurshid Alam**

Director General  
Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

## NNHP & IMCI Program Organized Divisional Progress Review Meeting on Newborn

NNHP & IMCI program is strengthening monitoring system nationwide for tracking the progress of program activities. Eight divisional progress review meeting was organized virtually by NNHP & IMCI between 12-24 September 2020. Performance data were analyzed for key newborn and child

health indicators to monitor the progress of service utilization and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. All the Divisional Directors, Civil Surgeons, UHFPOs and key newborn stakeholders attended the review meetings.



Program managers of NNHP & IMCI are taking virtual sessions during performance review meeting



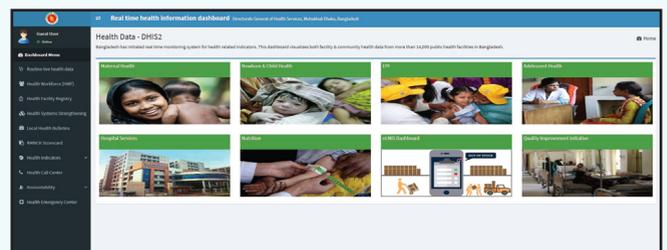
Photo Credit: Save the Children

## Newborn and Child Health Public Dashboard: An Open Data Visualization Platform for Policy Makers and GOB Health Managers

DGHS is using ICT for collecting routine health data since 2009 using 'District Health Information System (DHIS2)' software. This system is password protected and reports generated by this software are only accessible by their respective users. To monitor progress of Newborn and Child Health services, NNHP & IMCI program took the initiative to develop an open data visualization platform for decision-makers and citizens with technical support from UNICEF.

Information System (MIS), DGHS, UNICEF and Save the Children have been working to improve the utilization of the dashboard.

Save the Children and UNICEF both are working closely with NNHP & IMCI program to identify the key newborn and child health monitoring indicators and data visualization under several thematic areas, such as, Delivery Service, ENC, Resuscitation, PNC, KMC, SCANU etc. After that, a Newborn and Child health dashboard has been incorporated in the public dashboard of DGHS. The main purpose is to enhance effective monitoring of newborn and child health performance data by the GOB health managers and policy makers. Display of the Child and Newborn health data for all is a significant initiative from NNHP & IMCI program towards ensuring quality data from different tiers of health facilities, transparency and accountability. Under the leadership of Management



Real Time Health Information Dashboard

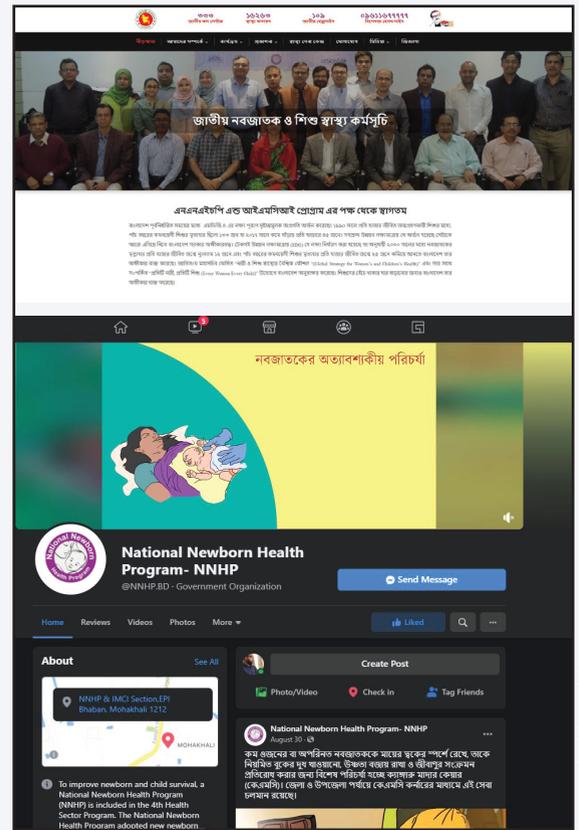
### Dashboard: Newborn and Child Health



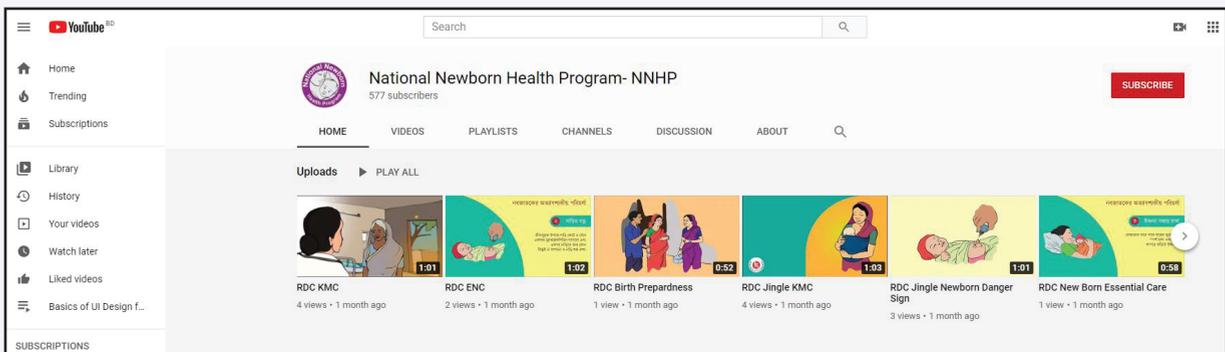
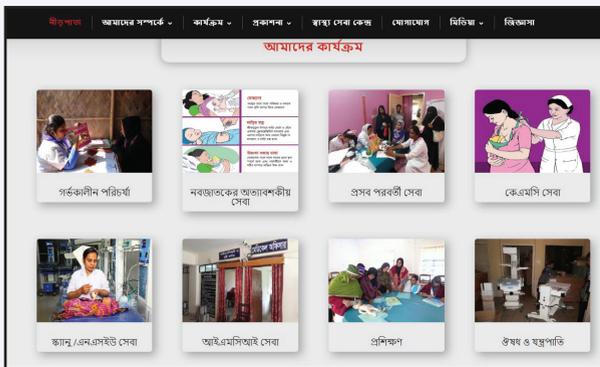
Source: dghs.gov.bd

# NNHP & IMCI in Social Media Platform: A Modern Way to Reach Out to People and Expand Program Activities

NNHP & IMCI is performing their routine program activities since last two sector programs including this 4th HPNSP. The core functions of the program are providing training, workshop through capacity building of managers and service providers, procurement and supply of different MSR, medicine to different level health facilities. Along with these activities, the program recently developed their own Website, YouTube channel, Facebook page and Instagram account to reach out to the policy makers and the care seekers/mass people about their routine and special activities. The web site consists of all the regular activities, support and different guidelines, publications of NNHP & IMCI. Facebook is a very popular social media platform to general population and that's why the NNHP program started their own Facebook page where videos and guidelines on different services on Newborn and under five children are posted and shared regularly. The live streaming of observation of World Prematurity Day, 2019" along with other global countries was done through our Facebook page. Other renowned social platforms like YouTube, Instagram are also active with our continued posts and activities. The NNHP & IMCI program developed many SBCC materials (TVC, radio jingle and social messages) regarding essential newborn care, newborn danger sign, kangaroo mother care and many other different child health services over the last few years. All the social media platforms of NNHP & IMCI program contains those SBCC items along with the regular program activities to stretch out to mass people and reduce the neonatal and child deaths as per SDG.



Source: mnhp.dghs.gov.bd



Screenshot of different components of social media

Source: mnhp.dghs.gov.bd

## Establishing Regional Training Center in Cumilla Medical College: An Initiative to Strengthen National Capacity for Delivering Quality MNH Services



Photo Credit: Save the Children

Line Director-MNC&AH and PM-NNHP & IMCI are visiting the training center at Cumilla Medical College

USAID's MaMoni MNCSP supported to establish the regional training center at Cumilla Medical College by a joint collaboration among NNHP, BSMMU and Cumilla Medical College, as part of national health systems support, which ultimately will strengthen national capacity to deliver quality MNH services at scale. Decentralization of the training institutions will reduce the additional pressure of conducting training from the national institutions. Line

Director, MNC&AH and NNHP team members inaugurated the training venue and handed over to the authority with a formal ceremony on 29 September 2020. This training center will be developed as a "Center of Excellence" for providing high-quality competency-based MNH training. Different government programs and stakeholders for providing MNH training will use this training center.



NNHP & IMCI team members and other stakeholders are visiting Cumilla Medical College and training center



Photo Credit: Save the Children

## Reinvigorating Maternal Newborn and Child Health Services in the Context of COVID-19 Pandemic

The world has faced the significant challenge of a pandemic induced by a new virus since the dawn of 2020, the SARS-CoV-2 which is accountable for the highly contagious Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19). In Bangladesh, the uptake of essential MNCH services has declined considerably since the first case was registered on March 8, 2020. Compared to January 2020, utilization of antenatal care (ANC), facility-based birth, IMCI and SCANU has decreased extensively in May 2020 compared to that of in January 2020 throughout the country. To address this grave situation, NNHP & IMCI in collaboration with Maternal Health section of DGHS, Obstetrical and Gynecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) and other development partners has developed a guideline and necessary training material so that essential MNCH services can be provided without any interruption during COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, a national virtual guideline orientation training was organized in divisional level to orient the civil surgeons, facility managers, Resident Medical Officer



Training session on essential MNCH services during COVID-19

(RMO), pediatrician and gynecologist from central level on this guideline. Afterwards, to support DGHS, Maternal and Child Health Division of icddr, with support from UNFPA has provided face to face MNCH guideline orientation training in 14 District Hospitals and 66 Upazila Health Complexes (UHC) of Bangladesh.

## WHO Supports Kangaroo Mother Care Trainings for Doctors and Nurses to Reduce Neonatal Mortality

The trainings are organized by NNHP & IMCI program under MNC&AH Operational Plan, implemented by DGHS and are addressed to health professionals from Medical Colleges, District Hospitals and Upazila Health Complexes.

The three days training organized in ten batches will equip service providers with necessary skills and knowledge on KMC to further train and advise parents on caring of low-birth-weight (LBW) newborns or premature babies and spread this service at grass root level.

“KMC is initiated at a health facility and continued at home under the supervision of health staff and involves early, continuous and prolonged skin-to-skin contact between a mother and her newborn, frequent and exclusive breastfeeding as well as early discharge from hospital. This is an effective way to meet baby’s needs for warmth, breastfeeding, protection from infection, stimulation, safety and love.” Says Dr Mahbuba Khan, WHO National Professional Officer, Making Pregnancy Safer.



KMC training for doctors and nurses

## Improving Newborn and Pediatric Quality of Care through Improved Availability and Timely Access to Safe Provision of Medical Oxygen



Photo Credit: Save the Children

Launching program of improving newborn and pediatric quality of care initiative

One of the priority agenda is the Quality of care which the Lancet has also shown with current level of health system use (compared to non-utilization), with improving QoC >50% deaths could be averted. WHO has launched “Standards for improving the quality of care for children and young adolescents in health facilities” in 2018 which is yet to be introduced in Bangladesh.

Despite remarkable progress in reducing under-five mortality in recent decades and existence of low-cost and effective interventions, pneumonia remains the leading cause of child morbidity and mortality among under five children for more than 3 decades in Bangladesh. According to World Health Organization, 13.3% of the under-five pneumonic children are hypoxemic. Early detection of hypoxemia, and oxygen therapy can improve the outcome of children with these conditions. Also, the incorrect measurement of oxygen therapy and irrational use of oxygen during management of newborn hypoxia or hypoxemia specially in premature neonate lead to many complication like ROP, damage to lungs and brain.

Increasing availability of reliable oxygen sources and trained manpower in assessing the adequacy of oxygen therapy still is a great challenge in Bangladesh which can reduce child death from pneumonia by about one third evident from several studies.

A recent facility assessment during COVID 19 revealed that most of the hospitals in Bangladesh do not have the required oxygen supply system in the maternal, pediatric and newborn units, thus hampering the critical and essential services for women, newborns and children.

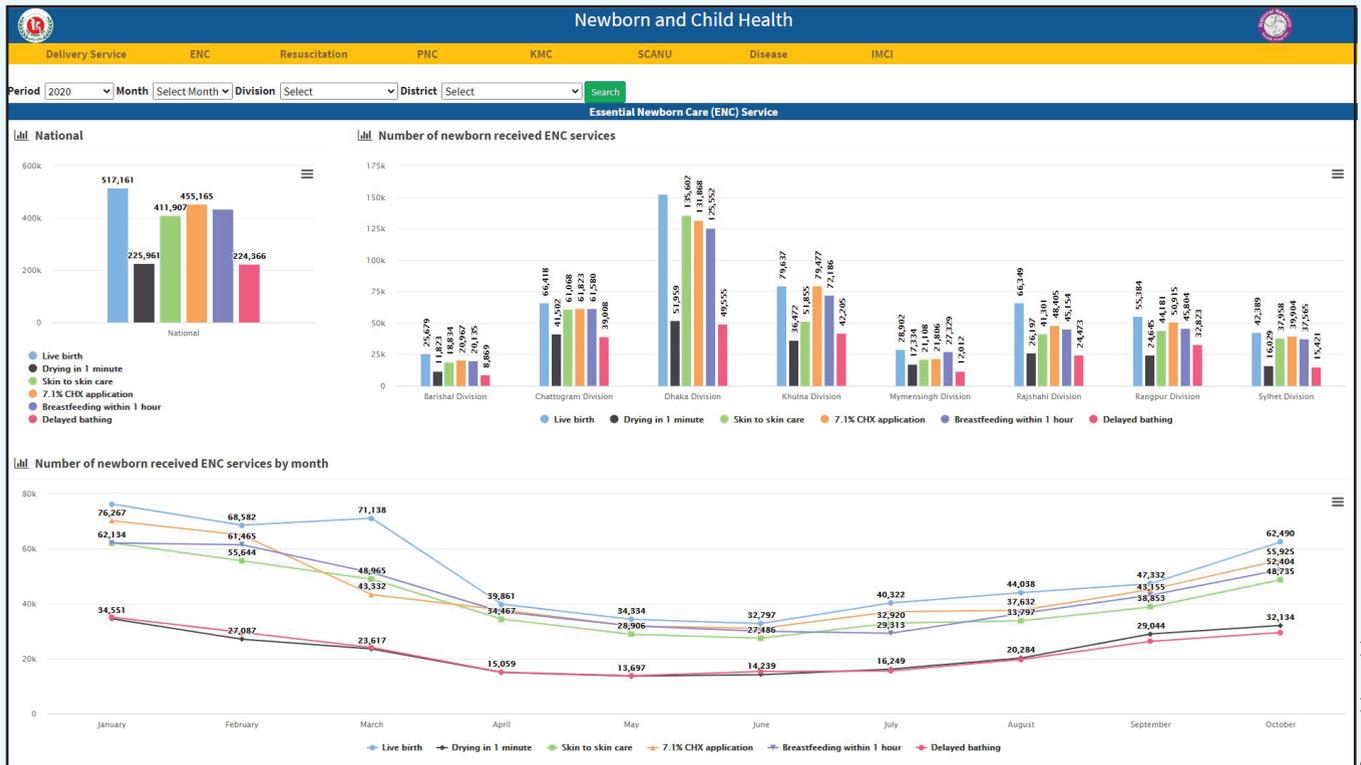
The NNHP and IMCI program with support from UNICEF and USAID has introduced an initiative called “Improving newborn and pediatric Quality of Care through improved availability and timely access to safe provision of medical oxygen” in 250 bed Tangail General Hospital and Chattogram Medical College Hospital. The main objectives are to introduce the newborn and pediatric standards of QoC and ensure rational use of oxygen therapy including access to safe Oxygen.

The initiative was launched on 20 October 2020 in IMCI conference room, in presence of the DGHS. Line director MNCAH, line director Hospital Service management, director Hospital and Clinic services, respective program managers, deputy program managers, Country director USAID, Chief of Health, UNICEF and development partners were present. After the brief presentation, the respective Directorate General appreciated the initiative and recommended that the achievement must be documented and integrated in operational plan for further scale up nationally.

# Status of Key MNCH Services Utilization, Bangladesh, January-October, 2020

## Dashboard: Newborn and Child Health

### Essential Newborn Care



### Integrated Management of Childhood Illness



Source: dghs.gov.bd

Source: dghs.gov.bd

## Field Testing of E-Version of NNHP Monitoring Checklist

Photo Credit: Save the Children



NNHP team is orienting district managers on online version of NNHP tool during field testing

NNHP & IMCI program has taken several initiatives to strengthen routine monitoring system for quality implementation of key newborn and child health program interventions. A standard monitoring checklist was developed in collaboration with all the stakeholders. After that program approved the checklist and institutionalized countrywide through a government order and orientation of the GOB health managers. Recently, an online version of that monitoring checklist has been developed with the support from MaMoni MNCSP. NNHP & IMCI program formed a small team headed by Line Director, MNC&AH and comprising DPM, MO for field-testing the checklists in different level health facilities of Narsingdi district. NNHP is planning to scale-up this monitoring tool countrywide as a part to develop a comprehensive NNHP monitoring framework.

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