

# National Newborn Health Program Newsletter

Issue 15 | January 2022



## Editorial Note



We are very pleased to present the 15 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 SDG 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

# World Pneumonia Day 2021



Photo Credit: Save the Children

World Pneumonia Day observed on 12 November 2021 to raise awareness about the disease. This year, the theme of World Pneumonia Day was 'Stop Pneumonia/ Every Breath Counts'. The target of the theme was to increase the number of affordable medicines and oxygen cylinders in low-income countries. NNHP&IMCI program observed the day throughout the country. On this occasion, poster, festoon and banner on pneumonia message were used to increase awareness. Also, conducted social media campaign and published supplementation in known daily newspapers. District and upazila level health facilities also celebrated the day locally.

## Round Table with Prothom Alo on World Pneumonia Day

A roundtable was organized jointly by DGHS and unicef, Bangladesh on 11 November at DGHS conference room where the Daily Prothom Alo acted as media partner. Save the Children provided technical support along with DGHS and UNICEF. This year, the slogan of the round table was, “Stop Pneumonia / Every Breath Counts: Build oxygen capacity on hypoxemia management”

Prof. Dr. Meerzadi Sabrina Flora, ADG (Planning & Development), DGHS chaired the round table. The discussants of the roundtable were among Professor Dr. Mohammad Shahidullah, Chairman, National Technical Advisory Committee for COVID-19; Dr. Md Shamsul Haque, Line Director, MNCAH, DGHS; Dr. Mohammed Sharif, Director MCRAH and Line Director, MCRAH, DGFP, Dr. Muhammad Shariful Islam, PM, NNHP&IMCI, MNC&AH, DGHS, Dr Sheikh Daud Adnan, Deputy Director, Hospital and Clinic, DGHS, Dr. Sanjana Bhadwarj, Chief, Health Section, unicef, Prof Shakil Ahmed, Secretary, Bangladesh pediatric Pulmonary Society, Dr. Nurul Islam Khan, WHO. Dr. Shamina Sharmin, Health Specialist, unicef and Dr. Sabbir Ahmed, Advisor - Pneumonia Centenary Commitment, Save The Children. The eminent panel upheld their expertise and experiences before the round table. The key point of discussion of the round table focused on the safe and rational use of oxygen for immediate management sick children along with proper management of oxygen supply. There is clear relationship between childhood pneumonia, early hypoxemia and death, which is more applicable in the context of covid19 situation. . Discussion mainly proceeded focused on improvement of supplies in facilities from community level to tertiary level, availability of essential logistics as well as knowledge and skillness of service providers. Moreover, there should be a well-established referral system. The service providers should have adequate knowledge regarding when to refer a sick child. Emphasis given on effective coordination among stakeholders and key role of government as policy maker so that gaps of the health system could be mitigated immediately.

It will contribute to develop strategic guidance as well as an implementation road map that country can use for the reduction of mortality of children from pneumonia due to hypoxemia, the biggest infectious killer of under-five children.

The Roundtable was published in the Prothom alo e-news pages both in Bangla and English including Prothom Alo Facebook and YouTube pages on 12th November and the supplement was published in newspaper on a later date. It was also published in UNICEF FB pages, twitter and unicef webpages.



Photo Credit: Prothom Alo

## World Prematurity Day 2021

Prematurity is one of the leading causes of newborn mortality in Bangladesh, which contributes to 19 percent of all newborn deaths in the country. Prematurity is defined as babies born alive before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy. Every year in Bangladesh, around 600,000 babies are born prematurely, and among them, around 17,000 babies die. NNHP&IMCI program of DGHS observed the World Prematurity Day 2021 throughout the country on 17 November. Prematurity poster, long banner, x-banner, Facebook campaign and advertisement in national dailies. Health facilities in the districts and upazilas also celebrated the day locally. The theme of World Prematurity Day 2021 was "Zero Separation Act now! Keep parents and babies born too soon together. NNHP&IMCI program also organized a webinar with the technical support of USAID's MaMoni MNCSP, Save the Children on the occasion of World Prematurity Day 2021 on November 17, 2021 with all the KMC units across the country. Around 400 participants (Doctors and Nurses) from 266 KMC units in Bangladesh participated in the webinar through zoom platform. The webinar was also live streamed through MaMoni MNCSP Facebook page. The webinar focused on global recommendations, current implementation status and improving the utilization of KMC in Bangladesh and the good practices. NNHP&IMCI program conducted the webinar and Line Director, MNC&AH, DGHS inaugurated the webinar as the Chief Guest.



### National Newborn Health Program- NNHP

November 17, 2021 · 🌐

আজ ১৭ই নভেম্বর, বিশ্ব অপরিশ্রুত নবজাতক দিবস।

এ বছরের প্রতিপাদ্য হচ্ছে- "এক মুহূর্ত আলাদা নয়, অপরিশ্রুত শিশুদের সার্বক্ষণিক বাবা-মায়ের সাথেই রাখুন।"

বাংলাদেশে নবজাতকের মৃত্যুর অন্যতম একটি প্রধান কারন হল অপরিশ্রুত জন্মজনিত জটিলতা, যা ১৯ শতাংশ নবজাতকের মৃত্যুর জন্য দায়ী।

এ সম্পর্কে সঠিক তথ্য জানা থাকলে এবং সময়মতো চিকিৎসা ও যত্ন নিতে পারলে অপরিশ্রুত জন্মজনিত নবজাতকের মৃত্যু প্রতিরোধ করা যায়।

অপরিশ্রুত ও কম জন্ম ওজন বিশিষ্ট নবজাতকের জন্য 'ক্যাম্পার মাদার কেয়ার' বা কেএমসি সেবা একটি উত্তম ও কার্যকর ব্যবস্থা।

আসুন আমরা এ ব্যাপারে জানি ও সচেতন হই।

#WorldPrematurityDay2021

## National Workshop on Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP)

Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (MNC&AH) Program under the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) was organized a National Workshop on ROP with support from IRD Global, Bangladesh; ORBIS International Bangladesh; and UNICEF Bangladesh. The Workshop was held at Renaissance Hotel, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka on Saturday, 20 November 2021. Prof. Dr. Abul Bashar Mohammed Khurshid Alam, Director General, DGHS was present as Chief Guest in this workshop.

A total of 76 participants, representing national ophthalmologists, neonatologist, public health experts, maternal and new-born healthcare professionals/ experts, program managers, policy makers and researchers of the Government, NGOs and private sectors were present in the Workshop to validate the National ROP Screening and Management Guidelines and develop a National Action Plan for integrated approach to ROP screening, treatment and prevention aiming at prevention of avoidable childhood blindness due to ROP in Bangladesh.



## Divisional Progress Review Workshop on Newborn and Child Health Services Held in Mymensingh, Khulna & Dhaka

NNHP & IMCI program with the support of USAID's MaMoni MNCSP, Save the Children, organized divisional progress review workshop on Newborn and Child Health services in Mymensingh, Khulna & Dhaka divisions.. Performance of key newborn and child health indicators of operational plan (OP) were reviewed and discussed with the divisional and district level managers using the DGHS public dashboard for newborn and child health. District Health Managers presented their respective district performance and challenges with probable way of solution. The health managers were also oriented on the e-version of the NNHP monitoring checklist. An android app was installed in the mobile phones of the managers for using this checklist during their routine monitoring visits. NNHP&IMCI program awarded Jamalpur, Kushtia



Photo: Dhaka Divisional Progress Review Workshop

and Tangail districts of Mymensingh, Khulna and Dhaka divisions respectively as best performing districts, which will boost the local service providers and create a healthy competition for quality services.

# National Technical Working Committee for Newborn Health and IMCI Technical Working Group Meeting



A meeting of the National Technical Working Committee for Newborn Health (NTWC-NBH) was held on 13 December 2021 with the support of MaMoni MNCSP. Prof. Dr. Mohammad Shahidullah, Professor of Neonatology and Chairperson of the NTWC-NBH chaired the meeting. Twenty-eight members participated in the meeting. Key

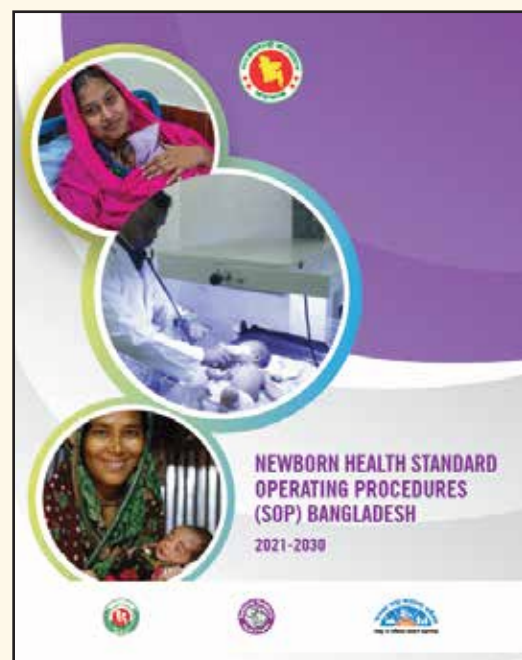
discussion point was approval of Action Plan of National Newborn Health Strategy 2021-2030.

Another meeting of the IMCI Working Committee was held on 20 December 2021, National Child Health Strategy 2021-2030 and Action Plan on Child Health Strategy was approved in the meeting.

## Newborn Health Standard Operating Procedure approved by Curriculum Approval Committee, DGHS

The Newborn Health-SOP was developed in consultation with other newborn stakeholders (WHO, UNICEF, icddr,b) and the professional associations and BSMMU. USAID's MaMoni MNCSP, Save the Children provide necessary technical support. The draft 'Newborn Health Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) Bangladesh: 2021-2030' was then endorsed by the National Technical Working Committee for Newborn Health (NTWC-NBH).

A meeting of the Curriculum Approval Committee was held in Conference room, PHC, DGHS on December 15, 2021, and the committee approved the NBH SOP with minor corrections. The newborn health SOP will promote evidence-based practices, as well as improve, standardize, and harmonize the expansion of quality newborn health services across the country in both the public and private sector in Bangladesh.



## Functioning and Inauguration of Special Care Newborn Unit (SCANU) at Mohammadpur Fertility Services and Training Center (MFSTC)

Special Care Newborn Unit (SCANU) for managing critically ill newborns under Directorate General of Family Planning in Mohammadpur Fertility Services and Training Centre (MFSTC) was established. The inauguration event took place on December 19, 2021, inauguration plaque was unveiled by Mrs. Shahan Ara Banu, Director General, DGFP on behalf of Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP, Health Minister, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, in her speech she thanked USAID and Save the Children for their tremendous support to establish the SCANU at MFSTC. She also urged to “ensure quality sick newborn care at the SCANU and contribute to reduce newborn morbidity and mortality towards achieving the country’s SDG goal by 2030”.



Photo Credit: Save the Children

## Functioning and Inauguration of Special Care Newborn Unit (SCANU) at 250 Bedded General Hospital of Chandpur



The Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Education, Bangladesh, Dr Dipu Moni, inaugurated Special Care Newborn Unit (SCANU) at the 250 Bedded General Hospital in Chandpur on 16 November 2021.

The SCANU unit was established and made functional with technical assistance from the Maternal and Child Health Division (MCHD) of icddr,b under the Safe motherhood Promotion- Operations Research on Safe Motherhood and Newborn Survival (SMPNS) project. The SCANU unit will

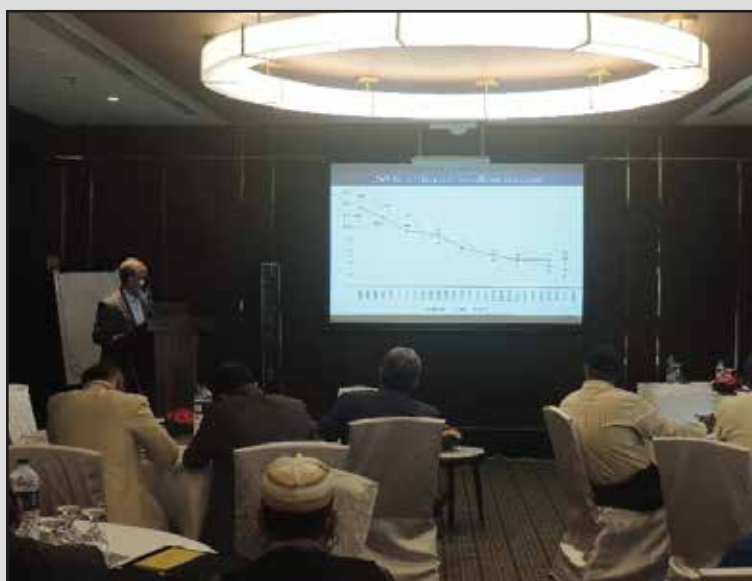
provide care to newborns suffering from birth asphyxia, sepsis, prematurity, low birth weight, etc.

Dr Dipu Moni, conveyed her gratitude to Dr Shams El Arifeen, Senior Director & Senior Scientist, Maternal and Child Health Division (MCHD), for the constant support he has provided with his technical expertise and his responsive team of researchers in the active establishment of this unit.

The Honorable Minister indicated that this initiative is a step forward in reducing newborn mortality in Chandpur district.

## Stakeholders' workshop on "Development of Pneumonia Management Implementation Plan"

A workshop for developing a national action plan for 'Childhood Pneumonia Management' in Bangladesh was held on November 27, 2021 at Hotel Intercontinental, Dhaka participated by the IMCI working group & key stakeholders. The workshop was presided by Dr. Muhammad Shariful Islam, AD-DGHS and PM-NNHP & IMCI. Dr. Khaleda Islam, Ex-Director PHC and Consultant for developing the action plan shared a draft outline of the document in the workshop. The open discussion session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Mohammad Shahidullah, Chairman NTWC-NBH where participants gave the valuable suggestions. The workshop was supported by Pneumonia Centenary Commitment project of Save the Children in Bangladesh.



### NBH Service Data: 2021

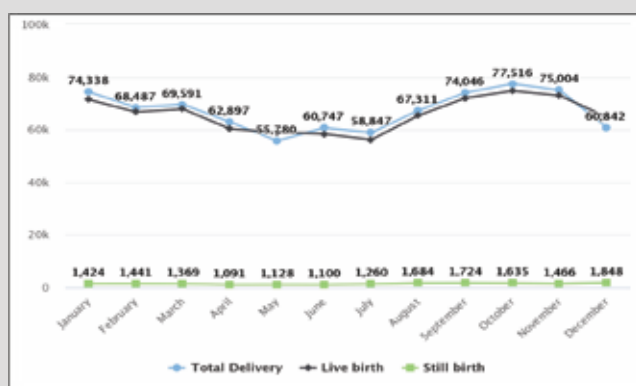


Fig-1: Status of total delivery, live birth and still birth: 2021

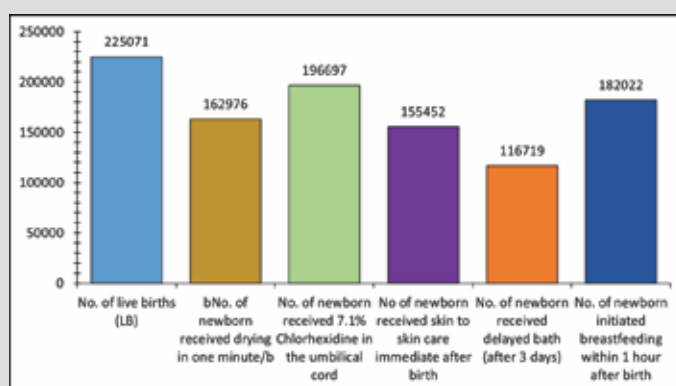


Fig-2: Number of newborn received ENC services in October-December 2021

**List of Contributors:** WHO, UNICEF, icddr,b, Projonmo Foundation and Save the Children International

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