Maternal & Perinatal Death Review (MPDR) Intervention is under implementation in 10 Districts of Bangladesh by CIPRB–UNICEF partnership under the guidance of the Line Director, MNCAH of DGHS in collaboration with the Line Director, MCRAH of DGFP within scope of Joint GoB-UN Maternal & Newborn Health Initiatives.

Debiganj Upazila, Panchagarh has taken initiatives to improve MNH services utilizing MPDR findings.

The Civil Surgeon & Deputy Director, Family Planning of Panchagarh jointly organized a coordination meeting with the Upazila Chairman, Union Chairmen, Government officials, health and family planning staffs of Debiganj Upazila on 20 August 2014 at Upazila Parishad Auditorium, Debiganj, Panchagarh.

MPDR findings was presented showing high maternal deaths in the upazila during last nine months, of which five maternal deaths occurred in one union named Sonahar. The meeting recognized MPDR as a very important program that gave a real picture of maternal mortality of their upazila for the first time. The Upazila Chairman of Debiganj mentioned, “I never thought of this situation that we are loosing so many mothers’ lives. I strongly urge to work together to aware people on maternal and neonatal complications so that they can take early and proper care”.

The Civil Surgeon said, “The health system is now notifying each of maternal and neonatal deaths though MPDR Intervention and the findings is now in use for improvement of health services”. The Chief guest, Additional District Magistrate of Panchagarh said that coordination between health and family planning department & local government will be effective to reduce maternal and newborn deaths in coming future.
Integration of MPDR data into the Health Information System (MIS), DGHS: An unique initiative

In August, Upazila Health Managers of Purbadhala Upazila, Netrokona initiated integration of maternal and neonatal death information from MPDR Intervention into DHIS-2, the database software of MIS, DGHS. The Upazila Statistician has done a successful entry of MPDR notified death data of 2014 into DHIS-2.

Mr. Rezwan, HMIS consultant of UNICEF assisted the Statistician for initial data entry. Dr Mridul and Mr. Abu Sayeed from CIPRB also took part in the process.

This effort is a milestone for MPDR Intervention by integrating 06 maternal deaths from Purbadhala into the DHIS-2 database of MIS, DGHS for the first time.

“I have received a formal training from MIS, DGHS on how to enter data in DHIS-2. Now I can easily enter the MPDR maternal and neonatal death data into the system” - Statistician of Purbadhala Upazila said.

MPDR data integration into DHIS-2 data base of MIS, DGHS: Netrokona

The UH&FPO, Purbadhala mentioned -

“MPDR maternal and newborn death data can easily be incorporated in MIS. Deaths information are jointly collected by the HA and FWA at the filed, there are no overlapped information. So, it’s the representative data of the Upazila”.

Health and Family Planning Departments discussed about the integration of MPDR data into the MIS, DGHS. Purbadhala Upazila was firstly chosen to discuss how to integrate the data with the Upazila Health and Family Planning Managers. Both Managers of Health and Family Planning Departments agreed to use the database of DHIS-2. In a second meeting held at district level, the Civil Surgeon and DDFP both agreed to collaborate. The decisions included to initial start with entering maternal deaths in Purbadhala and explore challenges so that all data can be incorporated.
MPDR findings shared in HMIS review workshops of DGHS in Hard to Reach Districts, Bangladesh

In August, HMIS of DGHS organized workshops at the hard to reach Districts of UNICEF (Cox’s Bazar, Netrokona and Bandarban) with the support of UNICEF, Bangladesh. As a part of strengthening the health system by integrating maternal and newborn death information, MPDR findings have presented in the meetings. The District and Upazila Health & Family Planning Managers participated in those workshops.

MPDR data has shown that maternal and neonatal deaths are now reporting utilizing government system and Managers are well informed where the deaths are higher.

Representative from MIS, Dr Shah Ali Akbar Ashrafi mentioned in one of the meeting “MPDR data is useful for understanding maternal and newborn health situation in the District. It can also support the Health Managers for planning and implementation of need based program”.

Dr Animesh Biswas, Team Leader of MPDR, CIPRB informed in one of the meetings that the MPDR data has been providing scope to identify areas with more occurrence of maternal & neonatal deaths; especially a scope to such status in hard to reach areas of the Districts. Based on the data, the health and family planning managers could prepare and implement specific remedial actions in specific vulnerable areas.
Civil Surgeon of Bagerhat discussed on MPDR Intervention

On 28th August, Dr. Bakir Hossain, the Civil Surgeon of Bagerhat shared his experiences during implementing MPDR in the District.

Dr. Bakir mentioned that Bagerhat is a large District in Bangladesh with a number of hard to reach areas. Especially, it includes part of the largest Mangrove forest-Sundarban. Because of its geographic nature, reporting of maternal and neonatal deaths was poor previously while currently introduced MPDR system has been successfully reporting those deaths to health system. He stressed on utilization of MPDR data for improvement of MNH services in the district.

Superstitions and Unawareness still persists in the society: Revealed from A Social Autopsy

On 5th August, 2014 Social Autopsy (SA) of a maternal death observed by Prof. M A Halim, Director, RCH Unit of CIPRB in Monir Para, Sonaher Union, Debiganj Upazila, and Panchagarh. Dr. Iqbal Anwar, Scientist, ICDDR,B was also present there.

The SA was conducted by FPI of the union and explored that the family had myth that the mother was caught by ghost. However, the mother died due to eclampsia after delivery.

Technical workshop on Reporting and M&E of Partner NGOs

CIPRB expressed its strong commitment for integrating MPDR data into HMIS:

On 5th and 6th August, 2014, CIPRB participated in a technical workshop on NGOs’ reporting and M&E held at MIS Conference Room of DGHS organized by the maternal and neonatal health programme of DGHS. The meeting discussed on different aspects of coordination among partner NGOs working on maternal and newborn health and monitoring and evaluation of their projects.

During the two days workshop, Dr. Mridul Kanti Ghosh, Deputy Team Leader and Abu Sayeed Md. Abdullah, Field Research Officer took part in the workshop as part of CIPRB’s commitment to integration of MPDR data.
MPDR data and its analytic findings proved to be useful in monitoring and improving health system responses: the Civil Surgeon said.

An initiative was undertaken to explore the best utilization of MPDR data and its findings. Thakurgaon District was chosen for initial trial. Two meetings were organized: one in Pirganj Upazila and another at the District level. These meetings proposed to explore the ways for best utilization of MPDR findings. These meetings agreed to utilize community clinics for coverage and early death notification using CC’s networking: CG and committees. The community clinic can help conduct social autopsies on maternal and neonatal deaths to build community awareness.

These meetings emphasized on coordination and monitoring of activities based on MPDR data to see progress in MNH services.

“MPDR data already been used for a number of initiatives in Thakurgaon including health camp, improvement of services in the Community Clinics, and raising awareness through Social Autopsies. New initiative in Sengaon will definitely come up with new information” - CS, Thakurgaon mentioned.

Findings has been shared in a District MPDR review meeting in Coxs’Bazar: August 2014

Upazila and District MPDR Review Meetings discussed on MPDR findings of 2014. In Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Netrokona, Cox’s Bazar, Narail & Bagerhat Districts, data has been shared with the Upazila and District Health & Family Planning Managers. In August, 38 Upazila MPDR Review Meetings and Six District meetings were organized.

MPDR data used to improve quality of maternal-newborn care in District Hospital

In August, 2014, Cox’s Bazar, Netrokona, Narail and Bagerhat Districts organized Facility Death Review Meetings at the District Hospitals. The aim of those meetings were to share and discuss on Facility Death Review findings from MPDR. The Consultants and District Health Mangers explored a number of challenges and some initiatives were taken at the facility, based on the MPDR data for improvement of facility care.
Sadar Upazila, Panchagarh organized a social awareness meeting and health camp

Hafizabad Union of Sadar Upazila in Panchagarh was identified as an area with high maternal deaths. Six maternal deaths were reported though MPDR in 08 months. The Civil Surgeon and DDFP of Panchagarh took joint initiative to organize a health camp of pregnant mother with a social awareness programme in Sarderpara Village of that Union. The meeting was organized in presence of UH&FPO and UFPO of Sadar Upazila and Dr Sanchoy Kumar Chanda, Senior Technical Officer of UNFPA. DDFP mentioned “I was born in Panchagarh & spent many years here. I feel proud about MPDR Intervention as an effective program to identify vulnerable areas to take special initiatives to address the challenges”.

Dr Sanchoy of UNFPA participated in dialogue with the community in the awareness meeting and showed the joint UN commitment to work in maternal and newborn initiatives.

A short note on MPDR

MPDR was adopted from the “Beyond the Number”—death surveillance cycle developed by the World Health Organization in 2004. Bangladesh has initiated MPDR in 2010. The MPDR has focused from its piloting on utilization of data to prepare and implement remedial response at the local level for the improvement of MNH services which is aligned with recently developed Maternal Death Surveillance and Response (MDSR) of WHO in 2012.

The intervention has set a good example of coordination and collaboration between DGHS, DGFP and GoB partners and data has been utilized in local planning for improvement of MNH services in Thakurgaon. Following this, the intervention expanded in other 3 MNHI districts- Jamalpur, Narail, and Moulvibazar from January 2011 to December 2012. Looking at the best utilization of MPDR findings in planning, monitoring and make MPDR sustain in Bangladesh context, the intervention further expand in another six districts from October 2013 till date.