Divergent Roads to Progress: A Country by Country Examination of the Challenges Overcome and the Factors that Led to Success

AlignMNH Opening Forum | 20 April 2021

#CollectiveActionMNH
List of Speakers

Shams El Arifeen | Speaker
Bangladesh

Sartie Kenneh | Speaker
Sierra Leone

Karin Slowing | Speaker
Guatemala

Sudha Sharma | Speaker
Nepal

Moderated by Mary Kinney
Conceptual Framework for Maternal and Newborn Health Impact

Program and service levers: outputs
- Content: pre/inter-pregnancy, pre-, intra-, post-partum, & late neonatal interventions in facilities/community
- Availability & access to services (health/other service infrastructure, health workforce density/distribution)
- Readiness of services (drugs/medicines and technologies, human resource capability)
- Quality: (evidence-based provision, timeliness, quality improvement approaches, staff skills, training & supervision)
- Use of data (data platforms, systems, literacy)
- Integration of services (referrals and linkages)

Household and individual context
- Material circumstances of woman & baby
- Behavioural norms and decision-making
- Woman’s Health status/need
- Baby’s Health status/need

Coverage & Equity
- Intervention coverage (contact to effective) with equity (socio-economic & regional)

Impact
- Survival of mother and newborn, prevention of stillbirths and promotion of positive impacts (growth, well-being, wanted births)
Relative Size of Countries: Area & Population

Sierra Leone
Population: 8 million
Urban: 43%
Total Fertility rate: 4.0

Nepal
Population: 30 million
Urban: 20%
TFR: 1.8

Bangladesh
Population: 166 million
Urban: 37%
TFR: 2.0

Guatemala
Population: 18 million
Urban: 51%
TFR: 2.7

Similar geographic sizes but very different demographics
Maternal and Perinatal Mortality: Bangladesh, Guatemala, Nepal, & Sierra Leone in Context

Source: UN-IGME, 2020; UN-MMEIG, 2019
Maternal, Stillbirth, and Neonatal Mortality Trends

Mortality has declined in all four countries, but there is variation.
Many interventions required and tracked for MNH
Percentage Receiving: Content and Continuity

Variations along continuum & Content not just contact
Place and Staff at Delivery Between Last 2 DHS Surveys

- **2011**
  - Nepal 2016
  - Sierra Leone 2019

- **1998**
  - Guatemala 2014

- **2008**
  - Bangladesh 2017

Legend:
- Dark green: Home alone
- Light green: Home non-SBA
- Dark blue: Home SBA
- Yellow: Facility alone/non-SBA
- Orange: Lower nurse/midwife
- Pink: Lower doctor
- Light blue: Hospital nurse/midwife
- Red: Hospital doctor
Place and Staff at Delivery Between Last 2 DHS Surveys

- **2008 Bangladesh**: Home SBA (60%), Home non-SBA (40%).
- **1998 Guatemala**: Home SBA (65%), Home non-SBA (35%).
- **2011 Nepal**: Home SBA (60%), Home non-SBA (40%).
- **2017 Bangladesh**: Home SBA (70%), Home non-SBA (30%).
- **2014 Guatemala**: Home SBA (60%), Home non-SBA (40%).
- **2016 Nepal**: Home SBA (50%), Home non-SBA (50%).
- **2019 Sierra Leone**: Home SBA (50%), Home non-SBA (50%).

*Legend:*
- Home alone
- Home non-SBA
- Home SBA
- Facility alone/non-SBA
- Lower nurse/midwife
- Lower doctor
- Hospital nurse/midwife
- Hospital doctor
Place and Staff at Delivery Between Last 2 DHS Surveys

- **2008 Bangladesh 2017**
- **1998 Guatemala 2014**
- **2011 Nepal 2016**
- **2011 Sierra Leone 2019**

- **Home alone**
- **Home non-SBA**
- **Home SBA**
- **Facility alone/non-SBA**
  - lower nurse/midwife
  - lower doctor
  - hospital nurse/midwife
  - hospital doctor
Place and Staff at Delivery Between Last 2 DHS Surveys

- **Bangladesh**
  - 2008
  - 2017
- **Guatemala**
  - 1998
  - 2014
- **Nepal**
  - 2011
  - 2016
- **Sierra Leone**
  - 2011
  - 2019

Legend:
- **home alone**
- **home non-SBA**
- **home SBA**
- **facility alone/non-SBA**
- **lower nurse/midwife**
- **lower doctor**
- **hospital nurse/midwife**
- **hospital doctor**
Trends in Inequity of Skilled Attendant at Birth

**Bangladesh**

- 1995-2020
- Data points for different income groups

**Guatemala**

- 1996-2016
- Data points for different income groups

**Nepal**

- 2000-2018
- Data points for different income groups

**Sierra Leone**

- 2006-2020
- Data points for different income groups
Caesarean-Section Rates, Latest National Survey

C-section rates highest in private health facilities

Bangladesh, MICS 2019; Guatemala, DHS 2014; Nepal, DHS 2016; Sierra Leone, DHS 2019
Caesarean-Section Rate by Wealth Quintiles

Lack of access among the poorest and over medicalization amongst the wealthiest

Bangladesh, MICS 2019; Guatemala, DHS 2014; Nepal, DHS 2016; Sierra Leone, DHS 2019
Contextual Factors – Expenditure and Health Workforce

Current health expenditure by source & percentage of government expenditure on health as per total expenditure, 2018

Out-of-pocket expenditure too high / government expenditure too low

Data Source: Global Health Expenditure Database accessed on March 23, 2021

Density of skilled health professional: doctors & nurse/midwives (per 10,000 population), 2018/9

Not enough human resources & variations between countries

Data Source: Global Health Observatory data repository accessed March 25, 2021
Social determinants matter and have had some improvements

Wealth variations vary between these countries
This presentation was a collaborative effort between partners working on the MNH Exemplar project and the WHO Maternal Health Scoping Review.
What elements or activities do you describe as most contributing to the success of your country’s progress for MNH?