

Improving the availability and quality of post abortion care during floods in Belkuchi, Bangladesh



Overview of the Project

Funders: IPPF's 'Innovation Programme' and 'SPRINT Initiative'

Duration: 15th October 2015 - 31st March 2018 (covered the floods of 2016 and 2017)

Implementing Partner: Mrs Nimisha Goswami (IPPF-SAR)

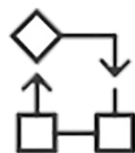
Principal Investigator: Dr Nibedita S. Ray-Bennett (UoL)
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R&D



Procurement



Intergration



Distribution



Evaluation

Overview of the Project

Overall Goal:

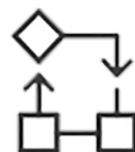
To improve the *quality* and *availability* of post-abortion care (PAC) services during a flood in Belkuchi, Bangladesh.



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Research & Development

Planning:

- Collaboration with partners:
 - IPPF
 - IPPF-SAR
 - UoL
 - Local partners: icddr,b and DMA
- Approval and collaboration for the government, specifically the DGFP and DGHS, which fall under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- Selection of a flood-prone research location: Belkuchi Upazila.



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Research & Development

Research: Explored the challenges around reproductive health, specifically MR and PAC at both health facility level and community level in Belkuchi Upazila.

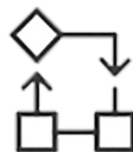
- Assessment of 6 primary health care facilities (July 2016).
- Structured interviews with 370 women who received MR/PAC during the flood of 2016.
- In-depth interviews with 5 women.



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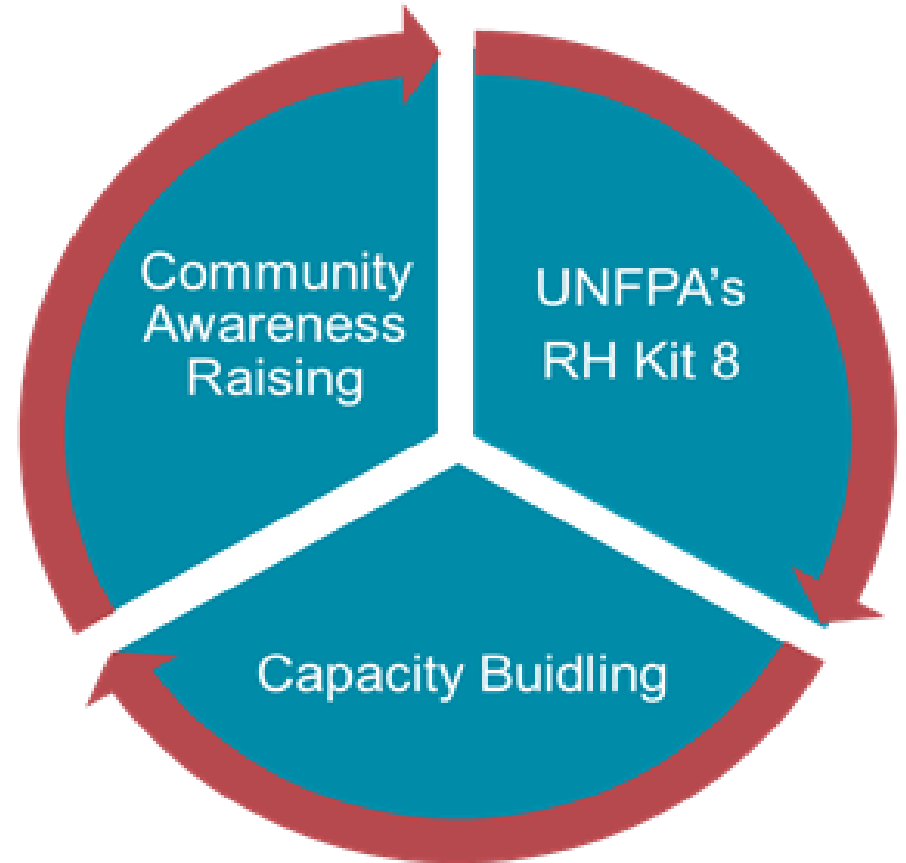
Evaluation

Research & Development

Development:

From the findings, the **RHCC** was developed, which consisted of three components.

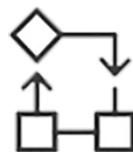
RHCC Integrated Intervention Package



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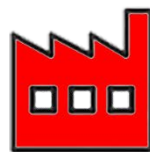
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Component 1: Pre-positioning the UNFPA's RH Kits 8 at three primary health care facilities.

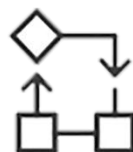
- Four Reproductive Health Kits 8 were procured by IPPF-SAR from Copenhagen on the 26th of October 2016.



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Component 2: Capacity building

- Basic and refresher medical courses on MR/PAC were provided to 10 health workers.
- Four half-day orientation programmes were organised for 100 health workers.



Component 3: Community awareness raising

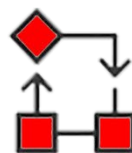
- 3 community awareness programmes were organised.
- More than 400 women, men and adolescents attended.



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Four RH Kits were positioned in Belkuchi Upazila at:

- Belkuchi (x2 Kit)
- Rajapur (x1 Kit)
- Daulatpur (x1 Kit)



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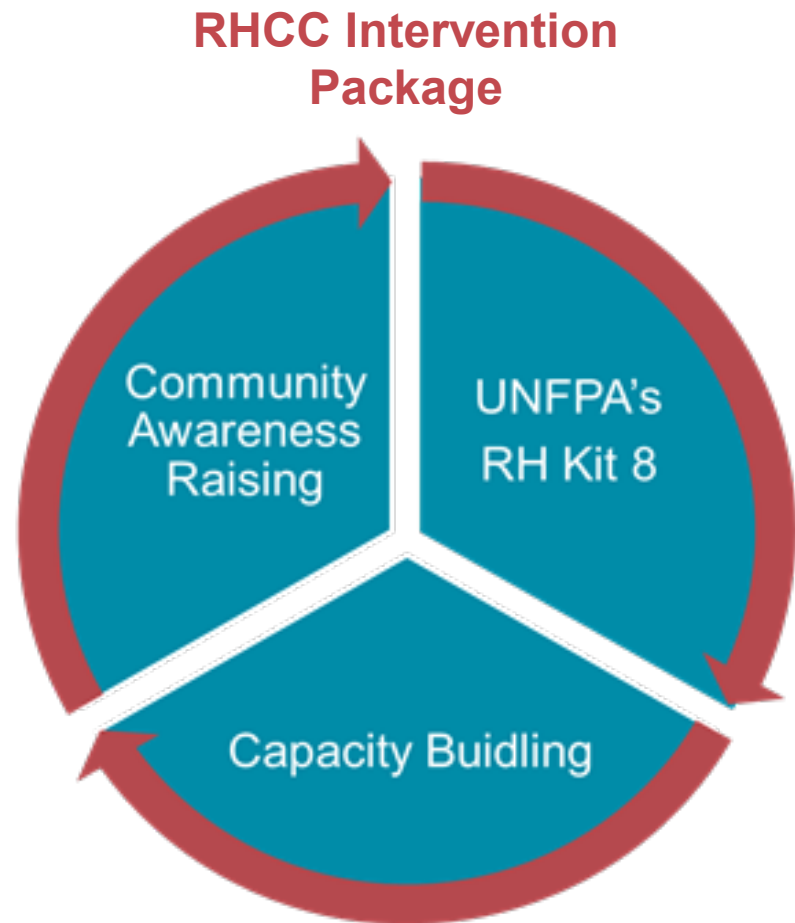


Evaluation

Evaluation

Assessment of the RHCC's Usefulness:

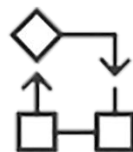
- 29 RH Kits 8 clients were interviewed.
- 5 focus group discussions with health workers.
- 4 key informants were interviewed.



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Evaluation

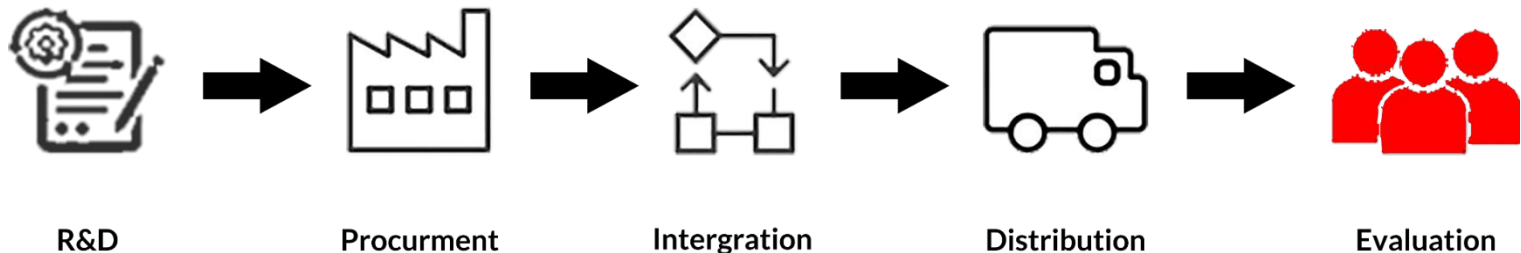
Evaluation

Findings:

- 1) For the first time, two UH&FWCs in Belkuchi were able to provide MR/PAC.
- 2) The RH Kits 8 (component 1) benefitted 48 women (20%) directly during the 2017 flood.
- 3) The training (component 2: capacity building) enhanced the health worker's knowledge and skills:

“Now we can deliver MR and PAC services quickly and efficiently.”

- 4) A small innovation, such as **RHCC** can help to increase the utilisation and quality of MR/PAC services during a flood.



Lessons Learnt

- 1) To replicate the **RHCC**, it is essential to:
 - seek approval from the government.
 - collaborate with the government, local partners, key stakeholders, health facilities, the local community and health workers.
- 2) The sustainability of the **RHCC** is dependent on the commitment of the government and international funders.
- 3) To ensure the continuous provision of services at all times, it is important to make the health system resilient (e.g. through **RHCC**).



Outputs

- 1) Two policy briefs
- 2) BCC poster/leaflet
- 3) Development of two tools:
 - Structured assessment tool to help in assessing facilities prior to positioning the RH Kit 8.
 - Two-step checklist tool to assess whether a facility is fit for the RH Kit 8.
- 4) Article in Gates Open Research:
<https://doi.org/10.12688/gatesopenres.12920.1>
- 5) Input Paper to *UNISDR's Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction 2019* (accepted and will be published next month)
- 6) Final project report:
Ray-Bennett, N.S., Corsel, D. and Goswami, N. (2019) *Exploring the Challenges and Opportunities Around Reproductive Health in Disasters in Belkuchi Upazila, Bangladesh*. London: IPPF.

What Do I Do If I Experience Complications After Receiving Menstrual Regulation or Post Abortion Care...

Self-Care

Increased pain in lower abdomen:	Take pain killers and rest. If abdomen pain continues for more than a day, please seek medical advice.
Bleeding more than normal	: Take iron supplements, and if needed please seek medical advice.
Irregular bleeding	
Weakness	: Take vitamin supplements, iron supplements and other appropriate personal healthcare.
Vertigo	: Take medicine for vertigo and if persists, please seek medical advice.
Fever	: Take paracetamol and make sure to take rest. If you do not recover with the help of medicine, please seek medical advice.
Irregular menstrual cycle	: Some irregularity is normal but if it is excessive or persists, then please seek medical advice.
Headache	: Take medicine for headaches, make sure to take rest. If you do not recover with the help of medicine, please seek medical advice.
Nausea / Vomiting	: Take medicine for frequent vomiting and take rest.

Make Appointment with a Specialist

Severe or increased pain in lower abdomen	: If it lasts for more than a day and cannot be controlled with pain killers, please seek medical advice.
Bleeding more than normal	: If the bleeding lasts for more than 14 days, see a Gynaecologist.
Irregular bleeding	
Weakness	: If the weakness continues for a longer period, please seek medical advice.
Prolonged fever	: Please seek medical advice.
Headache	: If you have headache, feeling hot or having a fever of 100 degree Fahrenheit or above, you might have an infection and must see a doctor.
Nausea / Vomiting	: Please seek medical advice, especially if you vomit within 2 hours of taking any medication. If you have vomited by any of the medication, you should return to the clinic for a second appointment.

See Doctor Immediately

Excessive bleeding for more than 2 weeks	: Immediately see a doctor.
Nausea / Vomiting	: If you had medical vacuum aspiration and you have been vomiting for two hours, immediately see a doctor.
Excessive pain	: If it continues more than a day and cannot be controlled with pain killers, immediately see a doctor.

Poster produced by: University of Leicester and Data Management Aid
As part of the research project: "Exploring Challenges and Opportunities for Reproductive Health in Disasters in Bangladesh"
Funded by: IPPF's "Innovative Programme" and IPPF-SABO's "SRSDT Initiative"
The complications related to menstrual regulation and post-abortion care were identified after interviewing 310 women in January-February 2017 and 28 women in Mirpur Hat-December 2017 in Belkuchi Upazila. Solutions to these complications were derived by consulting with the Family Planning Officer, Medical Officers, Nurses and Family Welfare Visitors from Sirajganj Hospital and Belkuchi Upazila Health Complex in January 2018.



Thank you for listening.

For any questions or for more information, please contact:

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