

Summary: The month of April 2013 was mainly focused on field activities that included the pre-assessment of mothers with children under two years, a Training of Trainers (ToT) with the facilitators of the orientation, the installation of digital resources on the netbooks and finally the fieldworker orientations. For more detailed information, please contact Shusmita Khan whose contact information can be found at the end of this report.

Pre-Assessment of Mothers with Children under Two Years

Sylhet

- 6 Upazilas
- 12 Unions
- 24 Villages
- 337 Interviews with mothers with at least one child age 0-24 months

Chittagong

- 6 Upazilas
- 12 Unions
- 24 Villages
- 337 Interviews with mothers with at least one child age 0-24 months

The first phase of the pilot started with the community-level pre-assessment. This involved collecting information from mothers of children under two years to understand their current behaviors concerning maternal health, child health, family planning, and nutrition. Information was collected from a household listing that took place in mid-March. As per the research plan used in the household listing, two unions were randomly selected within each upazila. These unions were the primary sampling unit for the study area. Then from each union, two villages were randomly selected. Then each household of that particular village was listed and any household having at least one child age 0-24 months was marked with "BKMI" at their doorstep. A total of six upazilas, 12 unions, and 24 villages were covered in each of the pilot districts. Households were then randomly selected using a mutually agreed method. A total of 674 (337 from Sylhet and 337 from Chittagong) interviews with mothers were carried out from 1st to 9th April 2013. Details of the findings from this pre-assessment can be found upon request from Eminence.



Training for Trainers (ToT)

To start the second phase of the pilot – the orientation with the field workers – Training of Trainers (ToT) took place on 17th April 2013 at the Michael Latham conference room of Eminence. A total of 16 facilitators and co-facilitators from Eminence took part in this ToT session that was carried out by the BKMI team – Vanessa Mitchell, Rebecca Arnold, Sidhartha Deka and Selina Parveen. Along with the facilitators and co-facilitators, eight Monitoring and Trouble Shooting Officers (MTOs) also participated in the ToT. During this session, the BKMI team provided technical as well as navigational information on the netbooks, eLearning courses, and eToolkit.



Installation of the Netbooks



After the ToT with the facilitators, the technical team from Eminence and BKMI installed the netbooks with the eLearning courses and the eToolkit. 320 netbooks were loaded with all the resources within five days starting from 13th April to 18th April. From Eminence, Md. Zahirul Haque, Sumon Parvez and Md. Hedaet Ullah worked on the installation. From BKMI, Sidhartha Deka provided technical support. In those five days of installation activities, the team also checked the hardware portion for each of the netbooks.

Orientation of the Field Workers



From 20th April to 2nd May 2013, the orientation of the field workers [Health Assistants (HA) and Family Welfare Assistants (FWA)] took place in Sylhet and Chittagong. In Sylhet, the orientation took place at Sylhet Sadar, South Surma, Bianibazar, Golapgonj, Biswanath and Balagonj. In Chittagong, the upazilas were Hathazari, Mirsarai, Patia, Chandanash, Boalkhali and Anowara. A total of 329 (165 in Sylhet and 164 in Chittagong) field workers were oriented among which 303 were HAs/FWAs (152 in Sylhet and 151 in Chittagong) and the rest were Health Inspectors (HI), Family Planning Inspectors (FPI) and Monitoring Information Systems (MIS) personnel.

Accordingly, a total of 303 netbooks were provided to the field workers (152 in Sylhet and 151 in Chittagong). The orientation team signed a contract paper/ToR with each of the field workers who received a netbook. In place of the "Supervisor" signature, the orientation team opted for a signature from the respective Upazila Health and Family Planning Officer (UH&FPO)/Upazila Family Planning Officer (UFPO's) in the upazila.

Pre-Assessment of Field Workers



In April of 2013, the field workers were pre-assessed to understand their current knowledge and skill level with regards to family planning (FP), maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) and nutrition. A total of 329 interviews were conducted in Sylhet and Chittagong among which 303 were HAs and FWAs and the rest were HIs, FPIs and MIS personnel. Details of the findings from this pre-assessment can be found upon request from Eminence.

Key Challenges

The key challenges faced by the team during this month in accordance with the activities undertaken are as follows:

Pre-Assessment with the Mothers: Though the household listing took place just one month before the actual field assessment, in three cases the children (who were 23 months and few days during the household listing) already graduated from the target group. In those cases, the field team had to go to the next household for getting the targeted number of samples from the field.

Training of Trainers: Due to time constraints the ToT was only for one day. The pilot team felt that having another day for practice would have been better.

Installation of Netbooks: The issue of having extra logistics support – power outlets, extension cables, and converter was an issue. The team realized while installing the netbooks that the power cables have three pin outlets that conflicted with the usual power outlet available at the upazilas. This challenge was solved with instant procurement of converters for each of the netbooks. The team also noticed that the maximum volume on the netbooks is rather low. To solve this problem, external USB speakers were procured.

eLearning Assessments: The team discovered that there were serious and unresolvable problems with the assessments in the eLearning platform. At the very last minute, the team made the decision to switch to paper-based assessments for the pilot. This required preparing and photocopying the written assessments, revising the monitoring plan, and training MTOs in the new system.

Orientation of Field Workers: The main challenge for the orientation was that two days time was too little for practice. In most cases, this was the first time the FWs had used a computer, therefore in the majority of cases a lot of time was spent helping users learn how to operate the device and navigate through the resources. Shortage of power supply in the venue, charging at least 30 netbooks each day and transporting 150 netbooks from one upazila to another was another key challenge.

Pre-Assessment with Field Workers: The pre-assessment with the field workers was designed to take place during the orientations. This was a challenge to get the field workers interviews (which took almost an hour to finish) completed during this already busy schedule. The orientation and MTO team had to go early and come back late to ensure completion of the interviews.

Next Steps

The next steps of this pilot includes the following:

- Training of the MTOs
- Monitoring plan for the MTOs
- Monthly field visit rotations
- Monitoring tools for field visits
- Monthly monitoring plan for the central team

Stories from Field

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Puspa Rani, a Family Welfare Assistant (FWA) in Bangladesh and a recipient of a K4Health Project Netbook reflects on the impact, saying:

"I am working as a FWA for the past 25 years. This is the first time I feel empowered. Empowered with information and knowledge. Knowledge presented in a way that I find interesting. The entire message presented here are nothing new to me because I have been uttering these to the clients for years after year. Working in something like FP in a conservative area like Sylhet is like a punishment sometimes. We often do not get respect and honor. But today you gave us honor. You trusted us with a very costly thing and believed in us. You empowered me. I don't care if I don't get this device for the rest of my life and I don't mind giving it back. Because I know the next three months will be a wonderful experience for me."