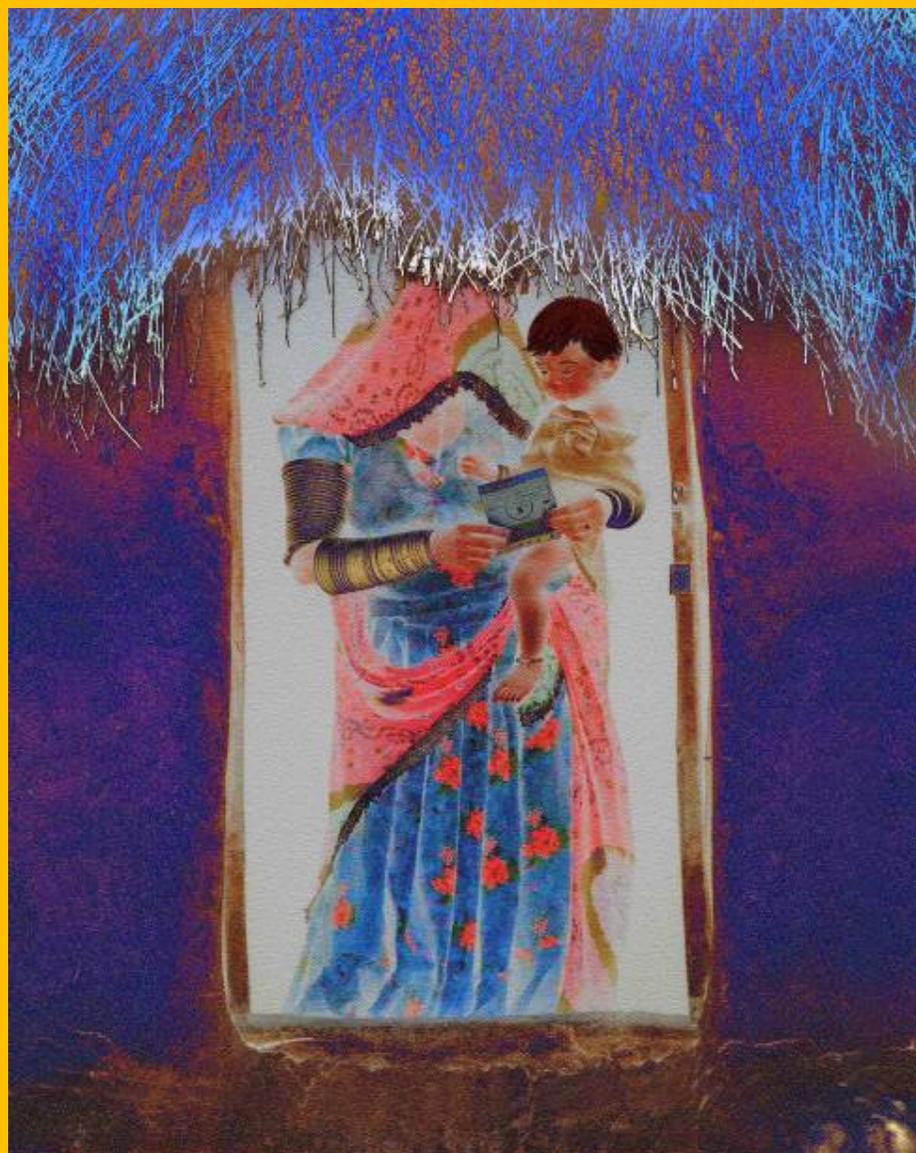




A Norway-Pakistan Partnership Initiative (NPPI)

PROGRESS REPORT

March 2010



Ministry of Health
Government of Pakistan



World Health
Organization





Contribution Summary

Donor Name:	Norway
Assisted Country:	Pakistan
PBA Reference:	SC/2009/0487
Programmable Amount:	US\$ 709,618
Funds Utilized*:	US\$ 709,618
Period Covered by the Report:	August 2009 to March 2010

* This figure is a provisional amount. Official expenditure figures will be provided by the UNICEF Controller after the closure of 2009 accounts.

1. Purpose of the Contribution

The aim of the Norway-Pakistan Partnership Initiative (NPPI) is to provide catalytic support towards the implementation of national, provincial and district plans to improve the maternal newborn, and child health (MNCH) of poor and socially excluded people in Pakistan. The purpose is to increase provision of and access to MNCH interventions for the poor and socially excluded in Sindh Province, as well as to raise demand and utilization for those services. Some important underlying principles are:

- Provide catalytic and strategic support to strengthening health systems efforts (e.g. human resources, referral system, etc) aimed at accelerating activities under national MNCH policies, plans and strategies.
- Use of innovative and flexible result based financing approaches to improve effectiveness and productivity of quality MNCH care provision and increase demand and utilization of care.

2. Results

Background

The Norwegian funds will complement and accelerate Government's efforts in the successful implementation of the national MNCH Programme approved in February 2007 and will integrate with the UN joint programme and GAVI's support to strengthen the Health System as planned. Government has recognised the following priority areas in the national MNCH program:

- Skilled birth attendance, in particular community midwives;
- Community based interventions;
- Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care
- Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illnesses & improving nutritional status of mothers and children
- District health systems reforms;
- Public private partnerships;
- Operational research and M&E systems;
- Defining the roles of the federal, provincial and district governments;
- Institutional strengthening of the public sector through improved management and governance.

Activities and Results (in line with the agreement and proposal)

Activity	Results
Contracting out services to ensure provision of quality MNCH/Family Planning/Reproductive Health services including Technical Assistance on contracting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orientation meeting held with all stake holder - Notification for "Technical Advisory Committee" on NPPI issued by SoH for reviewing and approving consultancies / research studies - Series of exploratory meetings initiated with potential partners Districts identified for contracting out - Draft EOI with service package and indicators to measure performance ready for approval - Bidding process planned for April 2010.
Support in planning, needs assessment, procurement of equipment, for ENC to DHQ & THQ hospitals by up-gradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 30 Essential Newborn Kits procured - 5 supplied to Larkana District - Linked with WHO activity of facility based Essential Newborn Care(ENC) training
Plan and implement Infant Young and Child Feeding (IYCF) trainings for health care providers of in 10 districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 200 HCPs trained on IYCF in all 10 districts and implementing IYCF practices - Follow up of trainings completed
Training of staff on infection prevention(IP) for public sector Health Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 140 Health Care Providers in 3 target districts were trained and are implementing IP practices for the provision of MNCH services - Plan developed for remaining districts for implementation in 2010.
Community based ENC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 5 masters trainers trained at PIMS, Islamabad - 20 district based trainers trained and are disseminating ENC training to Community Mid-wives (CMWs) in respective districts. - ENC module translated in Urdu
Support to establish database for 5 MNCH trainings categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ToRs approved - Bidding process planed by last week of March 2010
Support to carry out Operational Research on reduction of maternal Anemia and Low Birth Weight(LBW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Draft ToRs ready for approval - Bidding process planed by First week of April 2010

<p>Community based Intervention / Community mobilization to strengthen community groups at village level (village health committees, women's health committee, women groups, community leaders, faith leaders)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training of 5731 Community Resource Persons(CRPs) on birth preparedness & clean delivery completed in Sept/Oct;by RSPN(Rural Support Program Network) - Community sessions on Clean Delivery Kits being conducted by CRP from Nov19- 27 in all 10 districts; - Distribution of Clean Delivery Kits started in target Union Councils(UCs) in February 2010(Ongoing)
<p>Implementation of Vouchers Scheme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orientation meeting of all stakeholders conducted with the following objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) To develop a common understanding of the concepts of contracting and vouchers b) To learn from in-country & global experiences c) To do a preliminary exercise of designing vouchers and contracting mechanisms to inform the design process - Draft ToRs ready for approval - District for 2010 selected - Bidding process planned for April 2010
<p>Mother and Child Week</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Celebrated in May & Oct. 2009 - In NPPI districts a total of 798,386 children of 0-2 years were targeted for immunization, 1,451,611 children (2-5 years) for de-worming and 2,540,320 mothers and 411,290 pregnant mothers for counselling on ante-natal care, safe delivery and newborn and child care - More than 21,000 Lady Health workers and 831 Lady Health Supervisors have been trained on the registration of children under-five and pregnant women; holding counselling sessions and de-worming.
<p>Advocacy and Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Orientation/ Sensitization workshop to build an investment case for MDGs 4,5 held -IC to be developed by June 2010 - Orientation meetings with P&D, Dept of Finance, DoPW & DoH ongoing - Advocacy folder developed containing NPPI fact sheets, What can we do: health providers, NGOs/CBOs, Mosque Imams & religious leaders & teachers - District based orientation workshops were held in 10 districts
<p>Behavior Change Communication</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development, production and dissemination of materials to improve care seeking behaviors, community awareness and public knowledge about key MNHC issues, danger signs and best practices in process. - Technical Assistance to MNCH BCC unit to implement BCC strategy

	<p>& action plan is being formalized.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bidding process for Communication mapping started. - Partnership with RSPN - Mega project in Sindh covering 180,000 households in 89 Union Councils of 10 districts has been launched for community mobilization in non-LHW covered areas. - Community Resource Persons (3,466 women and 3,466 men) each for 500 population delivered health education sessions on key health nutrition and hygiene messages - Strengthening community linkages with service provision and distribution of commodities e.g. Clean Delivery Kits
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Critical Factors

- Coordination between all participating agencies and synchronization of activities is critical to get full benefit from this One UN initiative.
- Adequate public sector inputs are required to get a full impact. Delay in release of allocated funds (as per PC-1) to MNCH Sindh is hampering the overall progress.
- Shortage of female health care providers and vaccinators is a big hurdle in ensuring functional facility and outreach services. Large number of vacant posts needs to be filled in by the government as a priority.
- Operations research on contracting out needs a strong political support from Government to operationalize mechanisms of service delivery proposed therein.

3. Future Plans for Utilizing PBA Balance

The balance of first tranche of US\$1,714,859 has been received in March 2010. The following major activities are planned in 2010 to utilize this amount.

- Implementation of Contracting out services to ensure provision of quality MNCH/FP/RH services including TA on contracting
- Implementation of Vouchers Scheme
- Operational research on Reduction in LBW and maternal Anemia
- Continuation of BCC activities.

UNICEF Pakistan is most grateful to the Kingdom of Norway for its continued support and trust in UNICEF's interventions in the maternal newborn and child health for the poor and vulnerable. Without such valuable assistance, many of the achievements realized over the past months would not have been possible. We do hope that our partnership will be maintained to allow us all to live up to the expectations of the children of Pakistan.

