

# POPULATION SERIES

Midwives For A Better Tomorrow



**T**HE world celebrates the International Day of the Midwife on 5th May to champion the life-saving work of midwives. This year the theme is "Midwives: for a better tomorrow"! This theme has special implication this year as 2015 is the target year of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Bangladesh has made remarkable progress toward achieving Millennium Development Goal Five - Improved Maternal Health. From a maternal mortality ratio (MMR) of 322/100,000 in 2001 to 170/100,000 in 2014. Antenatal care (ANC) also increased, with 63.9% of pregnant women having at least one ANC visit, against the country minimum standard of four visits. Deliveries by skilled birth attendants remain low at 42.1%.

Much still remains to be done; overall socio-economic development, increasing education and empowerment of women, and the declining fertility rate were significant drivers behind the reductions seen in maternal mortality to date. The Nation now needs a fresh, new approach to accelerate further reductions in preventable maternal and newborn deaths: Midwifery offers an affordable solution, from a physician-led care to a Midwifery-led maternal and newborn Care.

A Midwife is a person who has successfully completed a midwifery education programme that is recognised in the country where it is located and that is based on the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) Essential Competencies for Basic Midwifery Practice and the framework of the ICM

Global Standards for Midwifery Education; who has acquired the requisite qualifications to be registered and/or legally licensed to practice midwifery and use the title 'midwife'; and who demonstrates competency in the practice of midwifery. The midwife is recognised as a responsible and accountable professional who works in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the postpartum period, to conduct births on the midwife's own responsibility and to provide care for the newborn and the infant. This care includes preventative measures, the promotion of normal birth, the detection of complications in mother and child, providing essential medical care or other appropriate assistance. The Midwife knows how to diagnose and manage non-surgical emergencies in pregnant mothers and newborns, and most importantly, when to refer to the Obstetric Specialist Doctor. The midwife has an important task in health counselling and education, not only for the woman, but also within the family and the community. This work should involve antenatal education and preparation for parenthood and may extend to women's health, sexual or reproductive health and child care. The State of the World's Midwifery (SoWMy 2014) report has identified women having access to midwifery-led care as critical to reaching target goals in all reproductive health areas.

UNFPA works closely with the government, civil society and other stakeholders including professional bodies to intensify

the efforts to improve maternal and newborn health. The Honorable prime Minister, as part of the UN Secretary-General's "Every Women Every Child" Initiative, committed to ensuring availability of skilled attendance through scaling-up midwifery education and creating 3000 new midwifery posts. UNFPA applauds the Government for the recent creation of the promised 3,000 Midwifery posts, and the establishment of Midwifery three-year diploma courses in 31 Medical and Nursing colleges through the Country. More midwives will be needed to meet the needs of all women.

UNFPA is supporting the Government to run two programs for the education of midwives: (a) A six month certificate course in midwifery for existing Nurse-Midwives, was launched as an interim programme in August 2010 to upgrade them to meet International Confederation of Midwives' (ICM) standards. Currently, 1289 nurse-midwives received training and working with their functional designation as Certified Midwives at the facility level. An additional 120 nurses are currently being trained (b) Since 2013, a landmark initiative in Bangladesh: a three year direct-entry diploma midwifery program. There are 2025 students (03 batch in three years) receiving training from 31 nursing institutions. At the end of 2015, 500 students will graduate as Midwife and deployed to some Upazilla Health Complexes (UHC) to provide 24/7 midwifery-led maternal care.

In this vein, efforts by BRAC, currently

offering Midwifery training in seven concern universities are a welcome contribution. Both UNFPA and BRAC count with generous financial contributions from dedicated donors such as Canada, Sweden and DFID, to make Midwifery a reality.

In coming years, a more deliberate investment is needed to ensure all health facilities assigned with ANC, delivery, and PNC tasks provide quality 24/7 midwifery services. Some aspects will need particular attention:

**Quality of training:** starting from a skilled faculty, an internationally recognized curriculum, teaching aids and other resource materials, a conducive learning environment including student dormitories, and enough pre-service practicum on deliveries;

**Health Workforce Strategy:** recruitment, deployment, retention, development and compensation;

**Legal/Policy:** the Midwifery Act and professional regulation has been developed and submitted for appreciation and approval by Parliament, to protect the public's rights and safeguard midwives. Midwifery Association.

**Institutionalization of Midwifery-led Maternal and Newborn Care:** to minimize C-section rates, decrease pregnancy related complications and morbidity, such as obstetric fistula, and increase child survival.

Community information and awareness raising to the competencies and role of the Midwife.

**Midwives CAN** contribute significantly to the improvement of maternal and neonatal care in Bangladesh by developing:

- partnership with women to promote self-care and health of mothers, infants, and families;
- respect for human dignity and for women as persons with full human rights;
- advocacy for women so that their voices are heard;
- cultural sensitivity, including working with women and health care providers to overcome those cultural practices that harm women and babies;
- A focus on health promotion and disease prevention that views pregnancy as a normal life event.

On this 5 May 2015, International Day of Midwives, UNFPA salutes all midwives and students in training who have chosen the most noble profession in the World: Help bring a New Life to the World in a dignified manner for both Mother and Baby.

(By: the UNFPA Team in Bangladesh)

**"All this time Midwifery was just a skill but finally the government has realized the significant contributions of a Midwife and acknowledges it as a profession in the health sector"**, answers Shuraiya Begum when *Supriti Sarkar of The Daily Star* inquires, about her point of view on maternal and child mortality rates in relation to the Bangladesh context. Looking forward to observing 5th May, "International Midwives' Day" the Registrar of the Bangladesh Nursing Council, sits down to confer about the current status quo of Midwives and the Midwifery programs.

As a Midwife who served in the medical institutions of Saudi Arabia for 10 years herself, Shuraiya Begum explains the difference between nurses and midwives. She compares nurses to general practitioners stating that every doctor acquires basic knowledge on the various medical fields before they opt for a specialized degree, similarly every nurse is also required to complete some basic courses related to midwifery and post completion can pursue graduate programs or diplomas that focus solely on the subject of Midwifery, to become one. At the Bangladesh Nursing Council, experts on the topic of Midwifery and well-known Obstetric Gynecologists are conducting these programs. "There are 995 students both in government and private institutions who are studying to become Midwives and the first batch of 500 Midwives will be graduating at the end of this year," says Shuraiya Begum.

The government has arranged for 3 Midwives in every division and 1 in every local union. Shuraiya Begum feels that the divisions could benefit more by the addition of one more Midwife. Every Midwife must go through a 6 month Midwifery Training in order to stay updated with

## Ankhi talks about her experience...

**T**HE number of maternal deaths is very high in Bangladesh. We are intending to save lives in our new professional role. My father died when I was four years old and since then I have wanted to work in health care. As midwives, we will make a difference and bring down the mortality rate. We feel very strongly that we are pioneers. We can make a family happy with a safe delivery. We had to do a MCQ (Multiple Choice Question) test. The results appeared in the newspaper and the 50 best candidates were automatically accepted. I say the same as the others: this profession has two advantages, being instrumental in saving lives of mothers and children and gaining a secure job for ourselves in the future.



Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Office of the Director  
Dhaka Dental College Hospital, Dhaka.

**INVITATION TENDER**

Memo No: DDCH/Tender/2014-15/ **764** Date: 30/04/2015

Sealed Tenders are hereby invited from bonafide experienced Importers/Agent/Suppliers/Distributors to supply MSR Goods for the year of till 2014-15. As per PPR-2008 Terms and conditions are as follows.

KEY INFORMATION			
01	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	
02	Agency	Dhaka Dental College Hospital, Dhaka.	
03	Procuring Entity Name	Director, Dhaka Dental College Hospital, Dhaka. Prof. Dr. S.M. Iqbal Hussain	
04	Procuring Entity Code	GOB/Any other fund	
05	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
06	Invitation for	4868 MSR Goods	
07	Tender Ref. No	DDCH/Tender/2014-15/ <b>764</b>	
08	Date	30/04/2015	
09	Procurement Method	Open Tender (OT)	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and Source of Funds	GOB/Any other fund	
11	Developments Partners	N/A	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project /Program Code	N/A	
13	Project /Program Name	Dhaka Dental College Hospital, Dhaka.	
14	Tender Package No	01	
15	Tender Package Name	4868 MSR Goods	
16	Tender Publication Date	3/05/2015	
17	Tender Last Selling Date	24/05/2015 During Office hours.	
18	Tender Closing Date & Time	25/05/2015. 12.00 PM	
19	Tender Opening Date & Time	25/05/2015. 01.30 PM	
20	Name & Address of the Office's		
	Selling Tender Documents	(1)Office of the Director, Dhaka Dental College Hospital Dhaka. (2) Director, Medical Education and Manpower Development and Line Director, Health Division, Mohakhali,	
	Receiving Tender Documents	(1)Office of the Director, Dhaka Dental College Hospital Dhaka. (2) Director, Medical Education and Manpower Development and Line Director, Health Division, Mohakhali,	
	Opening Tender Documents	Place Office of the Director, Dhaka Dental College Hospital, Dhaka.	
21	Place/Date/Time of- Tender Meeting	Place Office of the Director, Dhaka Dental College Hospital, Dhaka. Dhaka: N/A, Time at N/A.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERED			
22	Tender Eligibility	The tender should have valid Trade License, Vat Registration Certificate & upto date Income Taxes Clearance Certificate. The tenderer shall be a Manufacturer/Importers/Agent/Suppliers/Distributors Other details condition including in the schedule.	
23	Brif Description of Goods	4868 MSR Goods	
24	Brif Description of Related Services	Not Applicable	
25	Price of Tender Documents Taka	Taka 2000/- (Two thousand) only in cash (Non-refundable) with application on letter head pad.	
26	Identification	Location	Completion time in weeks.
	4868 MSR Goods	The Principal, Dhaka Dental College, Dhaka.	12 weeks from signing of contract
		Taka 5,00,000/- (Five Lac only) Bank draft/Ban. Guaranty or Pay order in favor of Director, Dhaka Dental College Hospital, Dhaka.	
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
27	Name of Officials Inviting Tenders	Prof. Dr. S.M. Iqbal Hussain	
28	Designation of Official Inviting Tenders	Director, Dhaka Dental College Hospital, Dhaka.	
29	Address of Official Inviting Tenders	Director, Dhaka Dental College Hospital, Dhaka.	
30	Contact Details of Official Inviting Tenders	Director, Dhaka Dental College Hospital, Dhaka.	

The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject in part or whole of any or all tenders.

Note: (i) If the date of selling, receiving and opening of tender is disturbed under any unavoidable circumstances, the next working day will be applicable for the same respectively.  
(ii) Tender will have to supply the requisite Goods on priority and necessary basis of the procurement authority with in schedule time after work order upon the availability of fund. And the Item/Quantity may be Increase/Decrease as per allotment.

(Prof. Dr. S.M. Iqbal Hussain)  
Director  
Dhaka Dental College Hospital, Dhaka.

**ELECTRICITY GENERATION COMPANY OF BANGLADESH LIMITED**  
(An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)

BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9, Kawran Bazar C/A, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 880-2-9134029, 9134032, 8124197  
Fax: 880-2-9118345, E-mail: info@egcb.com.bd, Web: www.egcb.com.bd

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (FIRM)**

1	Ministry / Division	Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources.
2	Agency	Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd.
3	Procuring Entity name	Corporate Office
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka
6	Invitation for	Consulting Firm (Lump Sum)
7	Invitation Ref. No.	C-1068-EGCB/PUR/01/38/2015
8	Date	04/05/2015
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement Method	Quality Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget (EGCB's Own fund)
11	Development Partners (if applicable)	N/A
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/ Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A
13	Project/ Programme Name (if applicable)	Appointment of a Certification Body for certifying ISO 9001:2008 for EGCB Ltd.
14	EOI closing Date, Time and Place	Date: 20/05/2015, Time: 12:00 Hr (BST) Place: Corporate Office, EGCB Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
INFORMATION FOR APPLICANT		
15	Brief Description of Assignment	Appointment of a Certification Body for certifying ISO 9001:2008 for EGCB Ltd. The scope of certification: Electricity generation and management in Bangladesh. Tasks include 1 <sup>st</sup> stage and 2 <sup>nd</sup> stage audits of certification audit and surveillance audits.
16	Experience, Resources and Delivery Capacity Required	1. Certification Body must be an internationally reputed one having registered office in Bangladesh. 2. Must have experience of auditing and certifying generation and distribution utilities in Bangladesh to ISO 9001:2008 QMS. 3. Must possess at least 20 years experience in conducting audit and certifying of which at least 10 years experience in Bangladesh. 4. Must have applicable accreditation for certification. 5. The auditors must have appropriate qualification to become an auditor with extensive audit experience in power sector utilities. 6. At least one of the Auditors must be qualified graduate engineer.
17	Other Details (if Applicable)	1. The short listing of the firms will be made on the basis of their experience and financial capability. 2. The Consultant should have the legal capacity to enter in to the contract. 3. The Consultant should have Valid Trade License, Income Tax Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate. 4. The Consultant shouldn't have a conflict of interest pursuant to Rule 55 of the Public Procurement Rules-2008. 5. Brochure of the firm should be submitted. 6. List of works/services should be submitted as experience. 7. Audited Financial statement of last five (5) years should be submitted.
18	Association with foreign firm is	Encouraged.
19	Ref. No.	Phasing of Services
	---	The effective contract period will be of three (03) years, starting from the date of signing of contract.
		Location
		Corporate office, EGCB Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
		Indicative Start Date (Month/Year)
		June 2015
		Indicative Completion Date (Month/Year)
		May 2018
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
20	Name of Official Inviting Expression of Interest	Mohammad Noore Alam Siddiki
21	Designation of Official Inviting Expression of Interest	Executive Engineer (Procurement)
22	Address of Official Inviting the Expression of Interest	Corporate Office, Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh Ltd., BTMC Bhaban (Level-8), 7-9 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka, Bangladesh.
23	Contact details of Official Inviting the Expression of Interest	Tel: +88-02-8124197, 9134029, 9134032 Ext.-116, Fax: +88-02-9118345 E-mail: m.proc@egcb.com.bd
24	The Procuring entity reserves the right to reject all EOIs.	

(Mohammad Noore Alam Siddiki)  
Executive Engineer (Procurement)  
Corporate Office, EGCB Ltd., Dhaka.