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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Overview of the Project

Overall Goal:
To improve the quality and availability of post-abortion care (PAC) services during a flood in Belkuchi, Bangladesh.
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.
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.
Research & Development

Development:

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

RHCC Integrated Intervention Package

- Community Awareness Raising
- UNFPA’s RH Kit 8
- Capacity Building

R&D → Procurement → Integration → Distribution → Evaluation
Procurement

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.
Integration

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.
Distribution

Four RH Kits were positioned in Belkuchi Upazila at:
- Belkuchi (x2 Kit)
- Rajapur (x1 Kit)
- Daulatpur (x1 Kit)
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.
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.
Thank you for listening.

For any questions or for more information, please contact:

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