



Dynamism in Health System —Challenges and Opportunities in Launching MCH Hand Book in Afghanistan

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Opportunities and Challenges

What is our uniqueness?

- Involvement of the Government and NGOs
- Implementation of Basic Package of Health Services and Essential Package of Hospital Services
- Strong community-based education programs for health (CHWs, Community Midwives, Community Nurses, Family Action Groups, Family Health Houses)

What is our strength?

- MOPH commitment for successful implementation of the book
- Involvement of all key relevant departments of the MOPH
- Working in the community and availability of over 27000 active CHWs

What is our weakness?

- Security concern
- Cultural diversity and acceptancy levels
- Possible overlap with other pilot initiatives
- Low literacy rate
- People mobility (IDPs, nomads, migrations, seeking healthcare outside the country etc. ...)

Value of MCH handbook in Afghanistan

(What changes can MCH handbook bring to the health System?)

- All MCH records are in separate sheets and not integrated;
- Low retention rate among the families and households;
- Information gaps regarding MCH between health workers and mothers/families;
- Health workers and families are not associating the importance of practicing key health messages with health records;
- Each mother or each health worker does not following the same standards without having an integrated package.

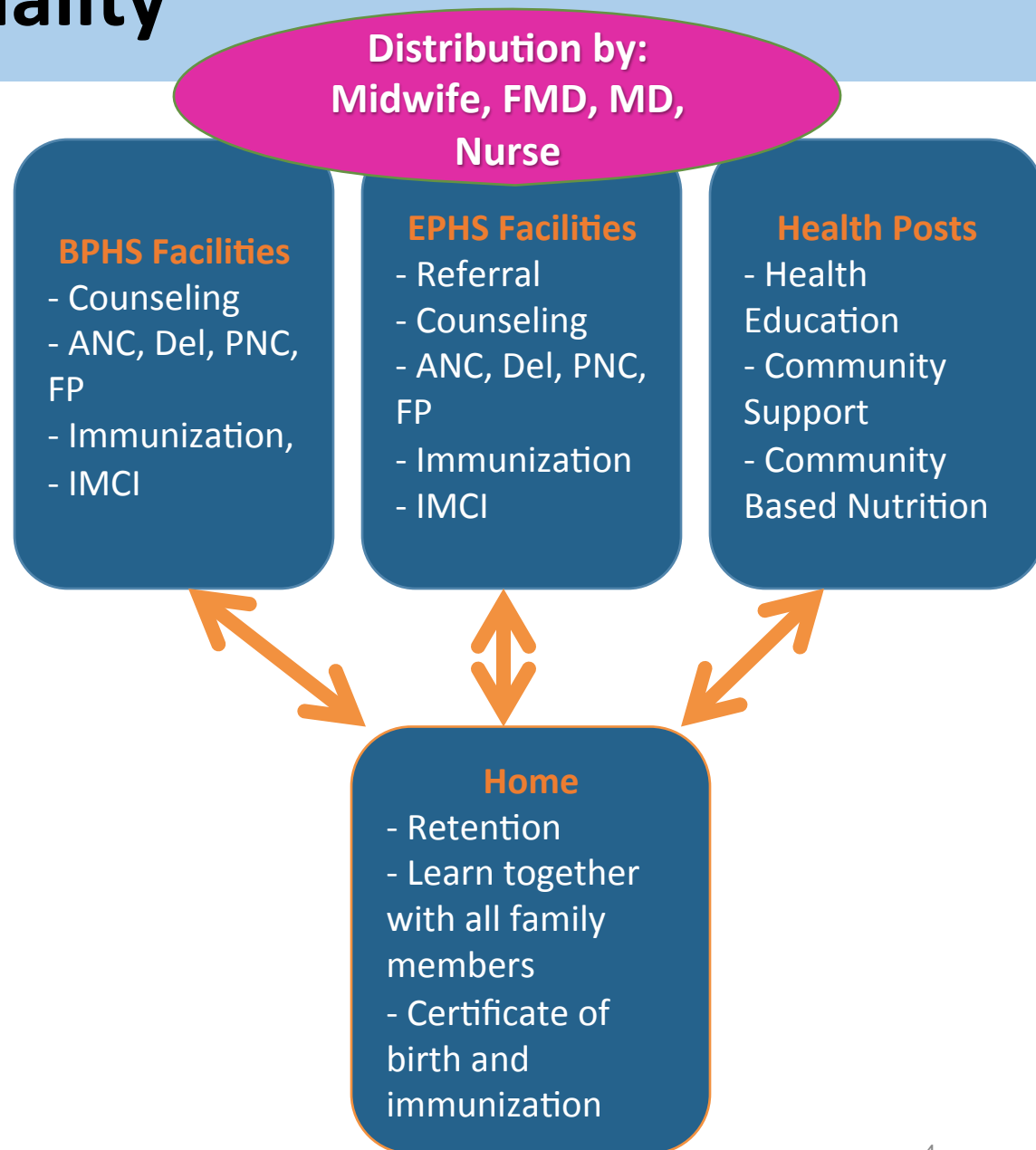
To improve the quality of MCH services, records and data through introduction of the MCH home-based handbook

Contribute to improvement of health status of the community as well as health system

Operational Modality

How the Afghan MCH handbook looks like?

- It is a mix of colored-illustrated and text messages.
- 50% health key messages and 50% records,
- About total of 80 pages (40 leaves) in A5 size (14 cm x 22 cm) with good quality
- Including below sections:
 - General information about mothers and children
 - Mothers section
 - Child section
 - Records



Our Achievements (Good Practice)

Active engagement of key MOPH departments in the development process of MCH handbook through different coordination mechanisms including:

- The **RMNCAH Monthly Coordination** meeting
- The **RMNCAH Steering Committee** meeting
- The MCH home-based handbook technical **working group** meetings
- Conducting **face-to-face** meetings with key partners and departments
- Consultative and consensus building **workshops**



Questions to the Group

- **Purpose and goal of Afghan team:**

- Purpose: to learn about the experiences of other countries (success and challenges)
- Goal: to get idea on improving design and operational plan

- **Questions to the Group (challenges we are facing):**

- What would be your suggestion on implementation of MCH HB in our country with due consideration of literacy rate in our country (31%)?
- How this book helps in M&E and any changes required in the M&E system of the country especially the countries depends on surveys for population health measurement. Can it help in improving administrative health data?
- How to include TT immunization record for mothers?
- How to engage private sector in implementation and proper usage of MCH handbook?

Way Forward

Key Steps

- **Developing the operational guide**
- **Field test (check feasibility and functionality)**
- Translation of the book into local languages of Dari and Pashto
- Pilot implementation
- Present the result of Pilot study and incorporated new suggestions and recommendations from the study into the book
- Advocacy at the government level / **Legal support**
- Advocacy at the international level
- Integration to the health system
 - Distribution and utilization through BPHS/ EPHS
 - Switch from Immunization card
 - Birth notification/ certification
- Nation wide implementation

Timeline

By end of January 2017

In February 2017

February - March 2017

Q2 2017

Q3 and Q4 2018

Continuously

Continuously

Q4 2018

Beginning of 2019