



Policy Dialogue on Population in Uttar Pradesh: A Policy Unit initiative

Project Overview

Policy Unit for population, health, nutrition and development was established under the Department of Planning and Evaluation, National Institute of Health and Family Welfare (NIHFW) with technical and financial support from United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported Health Policy Project (HPP). The Unit performs policy analysis and research to highlight region-specific and evidence-based policy perspectives, as duly emphasized in the National Health Policy 2002, and provides policy implementation strategies that optimally utilize scarce resources to achieve the national objective of universal healthcare.

About the Brief

This brief encapsulates the advocacy efforts of the Policy Unit in Uttar Pradesh (UP) to bring focus on the crucial role of family planning (FP) in taking the state on a growth and development trajectory.

State Consultation in Uttar Pradesh

September 21, 2013

Policy Unit in collaboration with the Rural Institute of Medical Sciences and Research (RIMS), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) supported Urban Health Initiative (UHI), and Pathfinder International organized a state consultation in UP to bring together high-level stakeholders to dialogue and prioritize FP—

with an emphasis on reaching the adolescents—on September 21, 2013 in

Lucknow, UP. The outputs of the dialogue were extremely positive. The state government endorsed many of the recommendations made. A public commitment was made for actions to be taken to strengthen various components of the program.

The policy dialogue brought together the highest political and administrative leadership along with over 80 officials from the state institutions of health and national experts to discuss and prioritize FP-related



issues. Shri Ahmed Hasan, Minister of Medical Health and Family Welfare; Shri Shankh Lal Majhi, Minister of State, Health and Family Welfare; Shri Arvind Kumar, Principal Secretary, Medical Health and Family Welfare; Shri Amit Ghosh, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), and Executive Director, State Innovations in Family Planning Services Project Agency (SIFPSA); Dr BS Arora, Director General, Family Welfare; Dr Meenu Sagar, Director, Family Welfare; Dr DK Srivastava, Former Director General, Medical

Health, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW); Dr S K Sikdar, Deputy Commissioner, FP Division, MoHFW; and several senior government officials and experts from World Health Organization (WHO) and USAID participated in the state-level dialogue to strengthen the focus on FP in UP.

Following this commitment, a follow up meeting on the actions taken was organised in SIFPSA Office, Lucknow under the chairmanship of Shri Amit Ghosh, Mission Director, NHM and Executive Director, SIFPSA.

Follow up - Prioritizing Family Planning in Uttar Pradesh

July 7, 2014

This follow up meeting was scheduled with Shri Amit Ghosh on July 7, 2014 and attended by 15 participants including government officials, development partners and civil society organizations.

The key session included a powerful presentation by **Dr R K Srivastava, Senior Policy Analyst, Policy Unit, NIHF** on 'Population and Development – A Call to Action: Follow Up'. The presentation successfully underlined the need to reduce the high total fertility rate (TFR) and unmet need for contraceptives in UP, for the state to achieve the fertility, maternal and child health, and *development* goals.



The presentation showed the crucial link between population and development, and underscored how increasing population requires additional resources to provide adequate food, education, health services, employment, housing, and electricity to the people of the state. The calculations were based on three scenarios of

achieving the replacement level of fertility (2.1) by 2017, 2022 and 2027.

Subsequently, the presentation provided details of the Expected Levels of Achievement (ELA) to meet the unmet need for contraceptives in UP, against these three scenarios of achieving the TFR of 2.1 by 2017, 2022 and 2027.

The ELAs were taken from the technical report on *“Levels, Trends, and Determinants of Fertility in India; Population Projections and Expected Levels of Achievement for Spacing and Limiting FP Methods to Strategise and Prioritise the Programme in India”* produced by the Policy Unit for MoHFW. The technical report presents population projections and ELAs for UP and other Empowered Action Group (EAG) states and Assam, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. The ELAs were presented for the state in two scenarios:

- **Scenario A:** Change in method mix proposed (based on the state’s current level) for the projection period (2011–22).
- **Scenario B: Unchanged** method mix during the projection period (2011–22).

The findings show that the state should preferably aim at achieving the desired TFR by focusing more on limiting methods, and reorganizing spacing methods in public-private partnership (PPP) mode.

The presentation stressed that the state needs to focus on 11 districts which have a TFR higher than 4. The presentation clearly pointed out that if the state aims to reduce its TFR, then it needs to allocate requisite amount of resources for FP, prepare and implement action plans in a time-bound manner—prioritizing high TFR districts—and involve private sector to increase access and quality of services. Appreciating the quality of the analysis and recognising its criticality to the planning process, Shri Amit Ghosh scheduled another meeting, the same day to include the Principal Secretary, Special Secretary and Secretary (Health).



The extended meeting, included Shri Arvind Kumar, Principal Secretary; Medical, Health & Family Welfare; Shri Sanjay Prasad, Secretary Health; Dr Sarika Mohan, Special Secretary (Health); MD NRHM; other state government officials; members from BMGF (entrusted with the management of the technical support unit in UP) and members of civil society organizations.



An immediate output of the meeting with the Principal Secretary was the decision to develop a mechanism so that the Policy Unit, NIHF, and Health Department, UP work more closely— especially in the 25 high focus districts of UP. To take it forward, it was decided that a tripartite agreement be made between SIFPSA, State Institute of Health and Family Welfare (SIHF) and Policy Unit, NIHF to provide technical assistance to UP to strengthen Family Planning and to create a similar Policy Unit at SIHF in UP to support evidence-based policy making in UP.

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List of Participants

- Sh Arvind Kumar, Principal Secretary, Medical, Health & Family Welfare, UP
- Sh Sanjay Prasad, Secretary, Medical Health & Family Welfare, UP
- Dr Sarika Mohan, Special Secretary (Health)
- Sh Amit Ghosh, MD, NHM (UP) & ED, SIFPSA
- Dr Madhu Sharma, GM Planning, NHM
- Dr Meenu Sagar, Director, Family Welfare, NHM
- Dr Ashutosh, Director, SIHFW, UP
- Dr P K Jain, GM (Monitoring & Evaluation), SIFPSA
- Dr Uday Mohan, Professor & Head, Community Medicine, KGMU, UP
- Dr V Bajpai, GM, SIFPSA, UP
- Dr B S Arora, Consultant, NHM, UP
- Dr N L Srivastava, Professor, SIHFW, UP
- Dr Bhupinder Aulakh, Managing Director, Futures Group
- Dr R K Srivastava, Sr. Policy Analyst, Policy Unit, NIHF
- Dr Priyanka Singh, Consultant, Futures Group
- Dr Jyoti Vajpayee, Head (FP), BMGF
- Dr Brinda Frey, Advisor, CS & T, JHPIEGO
- Dr Atul Mittal, Team Leader, JHPIEGO
- Dr Renu Pandey, Senior Program Officer, JHPIEGO
- Dr Alkesh Wadhvani, Head - Integrated Delivery, BMGF
- Dr Mrunal Shetye, Program Officer, State Programs, BMGF

About Health Policy Project

The USAID supported Health Policy Project is a global project that aims to strengthen developing countries' national and subnational policies, advocacy, and governance for strategic, equitable and sustainable health programming. HPP focuses on key health issues— namely, family planning/reproductive health, HIV, maternal health —while also promoting health systems strengthening and program integration.