

Health and Population

- **End Evaluation Survey: Public Sector Strengthening Intervention - Marie Stopes Bangladesh (Nov'24 – Dec'24)**

Client: Marie Stopes Bangladesh

RTMI is presently engaged in a study titled "End Evaluation Survey: Public Sector Strengthening Intervention - Marie Stopes Bangladesh," under the supervision of Marie Stopes Bangladesh. This survey aims to evaluate the project's impact on its intended beneficiaries and goals, assessing whether it successfully achieved its intended outcomes. Furthermore, the study seeks to identify any gaps in the current model and inform similar future initiatives. The key stakeholders (involved service providers including the government service providers), the providers who received training and the clients of the services provided. RTMI will employ a mixed-method approach, combining quantitative and qualitative research methods. This will include desk review, surveys, key informant interviews (KII), in-depth interviews (IDI), and internal and external data analysis. Multi-stage sampling technique will be used. The study will be conducted on randomly selected 9 upazila from 3 intervention districts from the 3 divisions. A total of 198 clients from the selected area will be interviewed. A total of 15 IDIs with service providers and 12 KIIs with the relevant GoB officials will be conducted.

- **Gender Identity, Employment, and Psychosocial Wellbeing (Apr'24 – Oct'24)**

Client: Harvard Business School

RTMI has recently conducted a study titled "Gender Identity, Employment, and Psychosocial Wellbeing," funded by Harvard University. The evaluation aimed to understand the differential impact of gender identity on the psychosocial benefits derived from productive activities throughout the day, focusing on well-being and intra-household dynamics. The study had two main focuses: paying unpaid respondents from the previous survey and understanding preferences regarding who works within households. Respondents were categorized into three types: in-sample blocks (households that worked the previous year, both Paid and Unpaid), out-sample blocks (households that had never worked with the study, in new camps), and pay-only blocks (unpaid households not selected for in-sample but compensated as a thank-you for previous participation). The study included a total of 40 in-sample blocks (9 households each) and 60 pay-only blocks (9 households each).

- **Customer & Provider feedback study on SOMA-JECT Injectable Contraceptives (14 Feb'24 – 06 Jun'24)**

Client: Social Marketing Company (SMC)

RTMI had completed the study with the Social Marketing Company (SMC) to conduct a study titled "Customer & Provider Feedback Study on SOMA-JECT Injectable Contraceptives." The primary objective of this study was to evaluate and analyze feedback from both clients and providers regarding SOMA-JECT injectable contraceptives, which were distributed by the Social Marketing Company (SMC). The study covered all eight divisions of the country, considering the extensive network of service providers and clients throughout Bangladesh. Both rural and urban areas were included in the study to assess different dimensions. Four types of participants were involved in the study: current users of SOMA-JECT injectables, users who had discontinued injectable usage (lapsed users), married women of reproductive age with at

least one child (potential users), and providers of SOMA-JECT (BSPs and GSPs). The study employed a quantitative research method, aiming to collect information from 600 current users, 400 potential users, 400 lapsed users, and 400 service providers.

- **An assessment of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) among Women of Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN-women) in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh (Dec'23-Feb'24)**

Client: International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b)

RTMI completed a study named "An assessment of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) among Women of Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMN-women) in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh" under the supervision of icddr,b. The general objective of the study was to assess the knowledge, attitudes, and practices of FDMN women regarding SRH and, secondarily, to examine gender attitudes and exposure to violence among the FDMN women aged 15-49 years residing in Cox's Bazar. This was a cross-sectional study that adopted a cluster random sampling technique to collect data from 2,500 ever-married women aged 15-49 years and 800 never-married women aged 15-29 years from the 11 camps in Cox's Bazar. Trained data collectors conducted in-person interviews using an electronic structured questionnaire. Written/oral informed consent from participants was taken before the interviews commenced. Outcome indicators included knowledge of and utilization of family planning and maternity care (antenatal, birth, and postnatal care), attitude towards age at marriage, fertility preferences, gender attitude, sexual harassment, and physical violence.

- **Utilization of Essential Service Delivery (UESD) Survey - 2023 (Jan'23-Dec'23)**

Client: National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)

RTMI conducted a survey named "Utilization of Essential Service Delivery (UESD) Survey-2023" under the supervision of NIPORT. The general objective of the study was to obtain information on the utilization of essential HPN services and equity in service utilization, as well as to measure awareness of mothers on healthy behavior. The data was collected from a nationally representative sample of 20,250 households drawn from 675 PSUs. First, 675 PSUs (both urban and rural) were selected centrally from the list of all PSUs by divisions used in BDHS 2022. A PSU is part of a mouza/mohalla with approximately 120 households. Household listing in each selected PSU was conducted in accordance with the EA map of BDHS 2022, and a systematic sample of 30 households was selected from each PSU. Overall, married women aged 15-49 were selected as eligible respondents for the survey. Anthropometric measurements were taken in all of the households for children aged 0-59 months and ever-married women aged 15-49 years. In addition, anemia testing, blood pressure measurement, and blood glucose testing were conducted for ever-married women aged 15-49 years and in a quarter of the sample for ever-married women aged 50+ years and never-married women aged 18+ years.

- **Scopes of Digital Health and Telemedicine Services for NCDs in Bangladesh (Apr'23 to Jun'23)**

Client: Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS)

RTMI conducted a study named "Scopes of Digital Health and Telemedicine Services for NCDs in Bangladesh" under the supervision of the Non-Communicable Disease Control (NCDC) Programme, Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). The general objective

of the study was to describe the scopes of digital health and telemedicine services for NCDs in Bangladesh. The target population for this study included personnel who develop and maintain the digital health and telemedicine system, service providers (physicians) who provide healthcare services through digital health and telemedicine projects/services, and service recipients who received healthcare services through digital health and telemedicine projects/services and DHIS2. The study used a cross-sectional design under the broad category of descriptive studies (non-exploratory design). A combination of qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis was employed. Since the number of service providers in each DHT facility/project was unknown, sampling was done purposively to include as many providers as possible. All of the identified relevant DHTs were selected for the facility survey. A total of 10 interviews were conducted with relevant personnel at different levels of DHIS2, and a total of 30 interviews were conducted with relevant personnel from all identified DHT projects/services. A total of 30 interviews were conducted with Service providers from all identified relevant DHTs projects/services.

- **Self-Sustenance Skills Intervention in a Rohingya Refugee Camp (April 2023 to June 2023)**

Client: American University in collaboration with Rotterdam School of Management (RSM), Warwick Business School (WBS) and University of Cologne

American University, in collaboration with Rotterdam School of Management (RSM), Warwick Business School (WBS), and the University of Cologne, assigned RTMI to conduct a study named "Self-Sustenance Skills Intervention in a Rohingya Refugee Camp." Refugees in this camp relied heavily on financial and structural aid that was essential but inadequate. In addition, they were unable to access outside labor market opportunities. The objective of this assignment was to support the Research Team and Doorways with the implementation of the TTT workshop and pilot training and to collect the pre- and post-training quantitative survey data. The treatments evaluated in this project consisted of two training programs (personal initiative training and effectuation training). Each of the training programs entailed 12 training sessions of three hours each. Sessions were spread across six weeks, with two sessions per week. Training groups consisted of two classes per intervention with 25 participants each. A total of 10 trainers from the Rohingya and host communities were trained in a one-week "Train-The-Trainer" (TTT) workshop. The TTT workshop and pilot training were conducted and evaluated by the German research partner Doorways. A total of 150 individuals were selected from 10 blocks to participate in this assignment. Each participant was randomly assigned either to a non-treatment control group or to one of the two intervention groups. The first group (Control Group) received no training but filled in the surveys during two data collection waves; the other two groups either received personal initiative training (Intervention Group I) or effectuation training (Intervention Group II) and participated in both data collection waves. A pretest-posttest design was adopted for quantitative evaluation. Surveys were conducted with 150 participants right before and right after the training.

- **Strengthen Diagnostics and Referral system in Health and Family Planning Facilities (Operations Research) (May 2022 to June 2023)**

Client: National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)

The National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT) assigned RTMI to conduct a study named "Strengthen Diagnostics and Referral System in Health and Family Planning Facilities (Operations Research)." The main objective of the study was to understand

the provision, quality, practice, and operational challenges of services and develop interventions regarding diagnostics and referral networks encompassing ESP among different levels of public facilities in rural Bangladesh. Specific objectives of this study were to conduct a situational analysis, develop an effective referral and diagnostics model addressing the gaps identified, implement the developed model in selected public facilities from different levels, and assess the feasibility and acceptability of implementing this model in the chosen geographies of Bangladesh. Phase 1 of the study started with a situational analysis using a baseline survey and field visits where the RTMI research team collected information from all levels, analyzed it, and prepared an operations research findings report. The study followed a mixed-method approach. The quantitative approach included face-to-face interviews with service recipients and health facility observation. The qualitative approach included in-depth interviews with service providers and key informants' interviews (KII) with healthcare managers. The study was conducted in eight districts of the selected four divisions. A total of 882 interviews were conducted, considering the assignment's specific objectives.

- **Psycho-social Well-Being among Rohingya Refugees (28 July 2022 to 30 April 2023)**
Client: The World Bank

RTMI conducted a study named “Psycho-social Well-Being among Rohingya Refugees” under the supervision of The World Bank. The general objective of the study was to prepare and undertake baseline, endline, and high-frequency (HF) surveys (through electronic data collection in SurveyCTO) and deliver high-quality and comprehensive datasets to the DIME team, and to implement the impact evaluation framework: providing the enumeration task to a subset of Rohingya refugees in the sample. The survey was conducted in Kutupalong Refugee Camp, Ukhiya of Cox’s Bazar district. The target population for this survey was the household members living in the selected refugee camp, Ukhiya, Cox’s Bazar. Four types of surveys were conducted: baseline survey, high-frequency survey, endline survey, and impact evaluation survey. The survey was completed using an electronic data collection tool named SurveyCTO. The DIME team provided the completed SurveyCTO-programmed instruments in English and a secure online server to automatically upload data from SurveyCTO. The enumerators collected data through electronic devices using SurveyCTO, and the data was automatically stored. The DIME team also monitored the real-time data throughout the data collection process to ensure data accuracy.

- **G2P Endline and 4th Round Monitoring (01 July 2022 to 30 November 2022)**
Client: Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

RTMI conducted a study named “G2P Endline and 4th Round Monitoring” under the supervision of Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA). The endline survey was conducted in the relevant 50 study unions, and the target people for this survey were the recipients of the Old Age allowance, Widow allowance, and Disabled allowance program. The data collection was mainly based on quantitative research methods, where 3,000 respondents were selected for interviews. The survey was conducted using mobile phones/tabs, and the duration of each survey was about 45 minutes. Endline survey and survey implementation instructions were provided by IPA. The survey was conducted on the SurveyCTO platform. IPA provided the questionnaire and uploaded it in SurveyCTO for the enumerators to use. For the G2P endline and panel survey, 30 surveyors, 6 supervisors, and 2 back-checkers were recruited. IPA provided the training to the data collectors, and RTMI provided the technical support. The collected data using smartphones/tabs were transferred into an Excel file and then into SPSS

for RTMI to clean. RTMI provided data in real-time and then provided a clean dataset to IPA representatives.

- **Client Exit Interview Survey-2021 (November – December 2021)**
Client: Marie Stopes Bangladesh

Marie Stopes Bangladesh assigned RTMI to conduct the Client Exit Interview Survey – 2021. Client exit interviews were conducted after the client had received services to obtain information from the client's perspective on the services. Marie Stopes Bangladesh (MSB) had been providing services to clients in 37 districts through static centers and outreach channels. To assess the profile of clients, their satisfaction with services, and the quality of care, the client exit interview survey was a standard Marie Stopes International global monitoring tool. The overall objective of this survey was to assess the quality of service provision of Marie Stopes Bangladesh's PSS and outreach channel. The study population for this study were clients accessing MSB's services at the service delivery points—specifically, clients accessing only family planning and menstrual regulation services at MSB's service delivery points. A total of 214 exit clients from the selected 38 sites (20 Public Sector Strengthening (PSS) sites and 18 outreach (OR) sites) of Marie Stopes were selected for this survey.

- **Gender Based Violence Against Female Sex Workers and Transgenders (Hijra) During COVID-19 Pandemic: In Dhaka and selected brothels (Case Study) (November – December 2021)**
Client: Light House Bangladesh

RTMI conducted a study titled “Gender-Based Violence Against Female Sex Workers and Transgenders (Hijra) During COVID-19 Pandemic: In Dhaka and Selected Brothels (Case Study)” under the supervision of Light House. The general objective of the study was to measure the magnitude of gender-based violence among female sex workers and transgender individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. The study was conducted among Street-Based Female Sex Workers (SBFSW) and Transgender/Hijra individuals in Dhaka. It also included the Brothel-Based Female Sex Workers (BBFSW) from the Doulatdia brothel in Rajbari. A mixed-method approach to data collection was used for this study. For the quantitative survey, a total of 989 key populations (KPs) (sex workers and Hijra) were interviewed. For the qualitative survey, 5 to 7 case studies/in-depth interviews per KP group (e.g., SBFSW, Hijra, and BBFSW) were also conducted with the selected KPs.

- **Family Planning Programs for Refugees and Internally Displaced Populations (February – December 2021)**
Client: National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)

RTMI conducted a study named “Family Planning Programs for Refugees and Internally Displaced Populations” under the supervision of NIPORT. The general objective of the study was to assess the knowledge of family planning, beliefs, and practices of refugees, and the state of service provision in the selected refugee settings of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. Four types of displaced populations were covered: slum dwellers, displaced people of the Chattogram Hill Tracts districts (Rangamati, Khagrachhari, and Bandarban), the refugees of Pakistan (Biharis), and the Forcibly Displaced Myanmar Nationals (FDMNs). Study areas included Dhaka, Chattogram, Rangamati, Bandarban, Khagrachhari, and Cox's Bazar. A combination of qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis was used. For the

quantitative survey, the sample size was 3,000 (slum-1,000, internally displaced population-1,000, ethnic population-1,000). For the qualitative survey, a total of 32 focus group discussions (FGDs) with husbands and one with adolescent girls, and 30 key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted with the relevant key informants from the selected districts.

- **Knowledge Synthesis and Promotion of Use of Research, Survey and Evaluation results in HPN sector (September 2019 – July 2021)**

Client: National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)

RTMI conducted a study titled “Knowledge Synthesis and Promotion of Use of Research, Survey and Evaluation Results in the HPN Sector” under the supervision of NIPORT. The general objective of the study was to promote the use of existing research evidence in the policy and program of the Health, Population and Nutrition Sector Program (HPNSP). Two knowledge/policy briefs were developed on the following topics: comparative analysis of maternal health services and comparative analysis of nutritional status among children. Secondary data from existing research studies and surveys in the health, population, and nutrition (HPN) sector were analyzed to strengthen the Bangladesh HPNSP. More specifically, data from the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS), Utilization of Essential Service Delivery (UESD) Survey, Urban Health Survey, Bangladesh Health Facility Survey (BHFS), and Bangladesh Maternal Mortality and Health Care Survey (BMMS) were analyzed. Three stakeholder consultation meetings were organized separately with relevant officials from the health directorate, Family Planning directorate, and NGOs/private service providers. Two PowerPoint presentations were then developed and presented in another three stakeholder consultation meetings for brainstorming and outlining the approaches and contents of the two knowledge/policy briefs under the guidance of NIPORT. Finally, the two Bangla and English knowledge/policy briefs were presented in a seminar for wider dissemination.

- **To conduct qualitative interviews as part of an operational evaluation of a Marie Stopes Bangladesh pilot for menstrual regulation at primary healthcare level (March – December 2021)**

Client: Marie Stopes Bangladesh

Marie Stopes Bangladesh (MSB) provided menstrual regulation services (i.e., Menstrual Regulation Medication (MRM), Menstrual Regulation (MR), and post-abortion care (PAC) services) at the primary healthcare level in Bangladesh through a two-armed pilot in 2020-2021. The two arms of the pilot were run in a staggered and parallel fashion—one where MSB paramedics provided MR services on a rotating basis across 12 family welfare centers (FWCs), and one where MSB paramedics trained family welfare visitors (FWVs) at five FWCs to take over the provision of MR services during the course of the pilot. Each arm of the pilot was operational for nine months and covered three districts each (six districts in total): Arm 1: Sylhet, Dinajpur, and Tangail, and Arm 2: Sunamganj, Moulovibazar, and Hobiganj. The pilot provided a unique opportunity to compare two models of expanding MR services at this level and informed the possible scale-up of MR services to other primary healthcare level sites. MSB wanted a mixed-methods feasibility study to compare the two different models of service delivery of MR/MRM/PAC at the primary healthcare level in Bangladesh in terms of operational effectiveness, sustainability, clinical effectiveness, and client-centeredness. The evaluation used quantitative data from routine data capture systems which MSB acquired from their local providers and service centers. For the qualitative data, MSB contracted RTMI. The

recruited data collectors from RTMI collected the qualitative data (Midline and Endline), and RTMI provided the translated scripts to Marie Stopes.

- **Rapid Situation and Response Assessment (RSRA) among People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) and Female Sex Worker (FSW) in 8 districts of Bangladesh (January-March'21)**

Client: Save the Children

RTMI conducted a study named “Rapid Situation and Response Assessment (RSRA) among People Who Inject Drugs (PWID) and Female Sex Workers (FSW) in 8 Districts of Bangladesh.” Save the Children was one of the three Principal Recipients of HIV grants from The Global Fund. Save the Children covered 13 districts for PWID interventions during the funding request period between December 2020 and November 2023. Among these, Dinajpur, Khulna, Mymensingh, Chandpur, Manikganj, Munshiganj, and Satkhira were newly added districts for PWID interventions. Similarly, FSW interventions were implemented in 13 districts, with only Rajshahi as a new addition. The newly added districts were selected based on the estimated number of key populations (KPs) from a previous mapping and size estimation study conducted in 2015-16. In this context, Save the Children planned to conduct RSRA in the newly added districts with an aim to generate information to design appropriate interventions targeting PWID and FSWs in the eight districts. The methodology for this assessment included local-level consultation and broad mapping of locations, conducting a Participatory Rapid Assessment (PRA) in the locations to identify the spots/sites, comprehensive assessment of the spots to estimate the size of the KPs, observation of spots, and a behavioral survey with KPs. This survey included a quantitative survey (a total of 762 KPs (530 PWIDs and 232 FSWs) were interviewed) and a qualitative survey (a total of 15 FGDs and 31 KIIs were conducted).

- **Client Exit Interview Survey-2019 (December 2019 – January 2020)**

Client: Marie Stopes Bangladesh

Marie Stopes Bangladesh assigned RTMI to conduct the Client Exit Interview Survey – 2019. The client exit interview survey is a standard Marie Stopes International global monitoring tool to assess the profile of clients, their satisfaction with services, and the quality of care. By using this tool, Marie Stopes Bangladesh collected answers to the following questions: who were the clients, whether MSB services met the unmet needs of the poor and underserved, whether clients were satisfied with their MSI experience, whether the marketing/Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) activities worked, whether clients were offered an appropriate choice of Family Planning (FP) and Menstrual Regulation (MR) methods, and how they could communicate with their clients in a more effective and appropriate way. The exit clients accessing only family planning and menstrual regulation services were selected from clinics, outreach sites of Marie Stopes, and public sector facilities. A total of 787 exit clients from the selected 30 static clinics, 30 outreach sites of Marie Stopes, and 30 public sector facilities were selected for the interview.

- **Utilization of Essential Service Delivery (UESD) Survey-2019 (April'19-December'20)**

Client: National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)

RTMI conducted the “Utilization of Essential Service Delivery (UESD) Survey-2019” under the supervision of NIPORT. The general objective of the study was to obtain information on the utilization of essential Health, Population, and Nutrition (HPN) services, assess equity in service utilization, and measure mothers’ awareness of healthy behaviors. Data was collected from a nationally representative sample of 16,320 households drawn from 340 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). Initially, 340 PSUs (both urban and rural) were centrally selected from the list of all PSUs used in the BDHS 2017. Each PSU comprised approximately 120 households. Household listings in each selected PSU were conducted in accordance with the EA map of BDHS 2017, and a systematic sample of 48 households was selected from each PSU. Married women aged 15-49 were selected as eligible respondents for the survey.

- **Facilitating Adolescent Health Education and Human Rights Abuse Reporting through mobile devices in the Rohingya camps of Bangladesh mPower (January 2019 to November 2019)**

Client: mPower Social Enterprises Ltd.

mPower Social Enterprises contracted RTMI to conduct the project titled “Facilitating Adolescent Health Education and Human Rights Abuse Reporting through Mobile Devices in the Rohingya Camps of Bangladesh.” The purpose of this 10-month project was to assess the current situation regarding health among the Rohingya population, especially adolescents, identify barriers to healthcare use by adolescents during the baseline survey, and measure the impact of the intervention during the endline survey. The project was conducted with adolescent girls in 2 intervention camps and 2 control camps of displaced Rohingya populations living in Cox’s Bazar. Quantitative data was collected from 720 Rohingya households (equally divided between control and intervention camps). Additionally, data was collected through 18 in-depth interviews with field health workers (FHWs) and 15 key informant interviews (KIIs) with stakeholders including NGO staff, project managers, majhis (Rohingya leaders), camp-in-charge (CIC), and Women Friendly Centre committee members. Adolescent girls were interviewed about their awareness of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), while KIIs provided insights into how NGOs and other stakeholders were addressing SRHR-related issues. FHWs were asked about their approach to delivering SRHR services to Rohingya households.

- **Assessing Utilization of Satellite Clinic (June 2018 to May 2019)**

Client: National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)

The Government of Bangladesh introduced satellite clinics in 1988 to provide healthcare services to people living far from family welfare centers. Each satellite clinic offers family planning, maternal, and child health services to 3,000-4,000 people in a ward, particularly targeting women, children, adolescents, and others excluded from static center services. The Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP) mainly operates satellite clinics in rural areas, while NGOs provide services in urban areas. To evaluate the effectiveness of these clinics in terms of program goals and service quality, NIPORT contracted RTMI to assess the utilization of satellite clinics and identify any operational barriers. Using a two-stage probability sampling method, questionnaire survey data was collected from 1,152 service recipients (768 from rural and 384 from urban areas) and 1,152 service non-recipients (768 from rural and 384 from urban areas) across 192 satellite clinics in 48 unions of Bangladesh. Additionally, face-to-face interviews were conducted with 64 service providers, 12 FGDs with organizing committee members, and 48 KIIs with key informants including Upazila Health and Family Planning

Officers (UHFPOs), Union Family Planning Officers (UFPOs), and satellite clinic management committee members.

- **Safe Motherhood Promotion: Operation Research on Safe Motherhood and Newborn Survival (July 2017-June 2019)**

Client: *International Centre for Diarrheal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (icddr,b)*

icddr,b had implemented an Operations Research (OR) on "Safe Motherhood Promotion: Operations Research on Safe Motherhood and Newborn Survival" under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB). The OR project had been implemented in 30 unions (15 intervention unions and 15 control/ comparison unions) from the 3 Upazilas (Chandpur Sadar, Kachua and Faridganj) of Chandpur district. icddr,b had signed the contract with the NGO (RTMI and SHIMANTI joint consortium) to implement the comprehensive package of interventions in the intervention areas. The intervention package consisted of three components: facility, community and linkages between the community and health facilities. The facility-based interventions were implemented in both the comparison and intervention areas. The scope of services related to facility-based intervention was - health facilities assessment and planning, minor renovations and setting up of facilities for improvement of maternal and pediatric corner, capacity building support for improving technical and management capacity of service providers, ANC-PNC campaign, strengthen and monitoring supportive supervision. Community interventions includes orientation of Community Group (CG) members, orientation of Community Support Groups (CSG) members and promoting Birth Planning, ANC, PNC and ENC counseling sessions. Linkages between the community and health facilities included establishing and strengthening referral linkages between community and community clinics, establishing and strengthening referral linkages between health facilities, observations of Safe Motherhood day, Midwifery day and World Pre-Maturity day to celebrate works for MNH, community clinics and union development coordination committee meetings, and orientation of GOB officials and HM on leadership and good governance.

- **Mid-term Evaluation of “Nirapod-2: Empowering Women on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Choice of Safe Menstrual Regulation (MR) and Family Planning (FP)” Project (December 2017-March 2018)**

Client: *Shushilan*

Shushilan assigned RTMI to conduct a mid-term evaluation of the "Nirapod-2: Empowering Women on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Choice of Safe Menstrual Regulation (MR) and Family Planning (FP)" project. The evaluation aimed to assess progress by comparing the current situation with the baseline established earlier. The evaluation covered 40 selected Upazilas across Barguna, Patuakhali, Khulna, Noakhali, and Laxmipur, as well as 48 garment factories in Dhaka, Gazipur, and Narayanganj. Using a mixed-method approach, the evaluation gathered both qualitative and quantitative data from 800 married women of reproductive age, 400 married men, 400 adolescents, 150 garment workers, and 150 peer educators. In-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and key informant interviews were conducted with various stakeholders, including government officials, media personnel, and garment factory managers. A total of 36 FGDs, 12 KIIs, and 6 IDIs were conducted throughout the study.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation of the Second Pilot Project “Health Insurance/card for the Ready-Made Garments (RMG) workers with Selected Service Provider at Narayanganj” project (July’17-June’21)**

Client: Auchan International/WoF

RTMI successfully conducted the monitoring and evaluation of the second pilot project titled “Health Insurance/Card for Ready-Made Garments (RMG) Workers with Selected Service Providers at Narayanganj,” funded by Auchan International/WoF. The project, spanning four years, aimed to provide health insurance services to over 5,000 garment workers in the Narayanganj district of Dhaka Division. The monitoring team oversaw the implementation of project activities, provided technical assistance, and ensured sound management. RTMI also conducted routine data collection, feedback sessions, and annual satisfaction surveys with selected workers. Over the course of the project, four surveys were conducted, with 225 one-on-one interviews and key informant interviews held with service providers and factory managers each year.

- **Social Behaviour Change Communication Formative Research for Understanding the Behavioural Determinants of Key Behaviours Targeted by the Programme (August - October’17)**

Client: Save the Children

Save the Children assigned RTMI to carry out a formative research project on “Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) for Understanding the Behavioural Determinants of Key Behaviors Targeted by the Programme.” The objective was to identify gaps in knowledge and understand the behavioral determinants related to nutrition, which would help in designing effective SBCC strategies. The study was conducted in Sylhet and Moulvibazar districts, where Shuchana had implemented a nutrition intervention. The research focused on identifying barriers to nutrition uptake and designing approaches to promote key nutrition behaviors. Data were gathered through focus group discussions, in-depth interviews, and key informant interviews with pregnant and lactating mothers, adolescent girls, fathers, and other key community members.

- **Baseline Survey of “Nirapod-2: Empowering Women on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Choice of Safe Menstrual Regulation (MR) and Family Planning (FP)” project (September’16-December’16)**

Client: Shushilan

Shushilan assigned RTMI the task to conduct a starting point survey “Nirapod-2: Empowering Women on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights and Choice of Safe Menstrual Regulation (MR) and Family Planning (FP)” project. The goal of this Baseline Survey was to identify the current situation of the area, data analysis and report generation including recommendation for future course of action on the basis of the survey findings. The study was conducted in Barguna, Patuakhali, Khulna, Noakhali, Laxmipur, Narayanganj and Gazipur. Both quantitative and qualitative method of data collection were used for the survey. The quantitative data has been collected from Married Women of Reproductive Age, Married Men, Adolescent and Garments worker. For qualitative data collection, NGO group members, relevant stakeholders, GoB Officials and Shushilan’s project management staff has been

interviewed. A total of 2200 quantitative data were collected and 51 qualitative data were collected.

- **Utilization of Essential Service Delivery (UESD) Survey-2016 (September'16-December'16)**

Client: National Institute of Population research and Training (NIPORT)

RTMI conducted the "Utilization of Essential Service Delivery (UESD) Survey-2016" under the supervision of NIPORT. The study aimed to gather information on the utilization of essential health, population, and nutrition (HPN) services, assess equity in service utilization, and measure mothers' awareness of healthy behavior. Data were collected from a nationally representative sample of 12,000 households drawn from 300 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs), both urban and rural, selected from the divisions used in the BDHS 2014. Each PSU comprised around 120 households. The survey targeted ever-married women aged 15-49 as the eligible respondents.

- **Fertility and contraceptive behavior of women with migrant and non-migrant husbands: Identify the ways to address client needs (October'16-December'16)**

Client: National Institute of Population research and Training (NIPORT)

RTMI conducted a study titled "Fertility and Contraceptive Behavior of Women with Migrant and Non-Migrant Husbands: Identifying Client Needs," under the guidance of NIPORT. The study's objective was to explore the contraceptive behaviors of women with both migrant and non-migrant husbands. The research was carried out in both rural and urban areas across selected districts, ensuring representation from all 8 administrative divisions of Bangladesh. Using both primary and secondary data sources, RTMI conducted in-depth interviews and focus group discussions with 600 women with migrant husbands and 600 women with non-migrant husbands, gathering valuable insights into their contraceptive needs.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation of the Pilot Project entitled "Health Insurance/card for the Ready-Made Garments (RMG) workers with Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) in Savar" (July 2016- July 2019)**

Client: Auchan International

RTMI conducted a Monitoring and Evaluation study on the pilot project entitled "Health Insurance/card for the Ready-Made Garments (RMG) workers with Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) in Savar" with financial support of Auchan International. This project lasted 4 years. Targeted beneficiaries for the first year were 20,000 and it was increased by 10% in every year from the starting point, so in 4th year the total beneficiaries will be 26,000. GK selected garment factories around Tongi and Konabari of Gazipur, Ashulia, EPZ and Hemayetpur of Savar and Kalampur of Dhamri, Dhaka. Initially, 5 to 8 factories are expected to join. The main goal of the assignment was to provide Monitoring and Evaluation support to the Pilot Project on "Health Insurance/card for the Ready-Made Garments (RMG) workers with Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) in Savar". RTMI collected routine monitoring data and provide feedback on the key project indicators/activities. RTMI will conduct four survey throughout the project period. In order to conduct the survey RTMI collected information from 230 garment workers (beneficiaries). Key Informant Interview with all service providers and the managers of factories were also conducted.

- **Baseline Survey for the “Urban Pilot Project on IFA Supplements among Pregnant Women” in Bangladesh (August’16-February’17)**

Client: Micronutrient Initiative

RTMI conducted a baseline survey for the "Urban Pilot Project on IFA Supplements Among Pregnant Women" in Bangladesh, supported by the Micronutrient Initiative. The study aimed to establish baseline knowledge, attitudes, and practices related to IFA supplementation and anemia among pregnant women and health workers. The survey was conducted in both program areas (Shahjadpur, Purba & Paschim in Ward No. 18) and a comparison area in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC). Data were collected from 360 caregivers of children under six months old, 10 vaccinators, and 20 NGO frontline workers, with additional interviews conducted with 5 health officials.

- **A Study on the Use of Sanitary Napkins among the Adolescent and Married Women of Reproductive Age (MWRA) (May’16-August’16)**

Client: Social Marketing Company (SMC)

RTMI, assigned by the Social Marketing Company (SMC), conducted a study to understand the use of sanitary napkins among adolescent and married women of reproductive age. The study’s primary objective was to assess knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding sanitary napkin use during menstruation and to explore brand perceptions and preferences. Data were collected from 1,031 females aged 13-35 from both urban and rural areas across seven divisions (Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna, Barisal, and Sylhet). The participants included a mix of users and non-users of sanitary napkins, and insights were gathered on their brand preferences and loyalty.

- **A Harm Reduction Approach to Improve Access to MRM through selected pharmacies in urban areas of 2 districts (Sylhet & Chittagong) (Feb 2016-March 2016)**

Client: Marie Stopes Bangladesh

Marie Stopes Bangladesh assigned RTMI to conduct an end line study on ‘A Harm Reduction Approach to Improve Access to MRM through selected pharmacies in urban areas of 2 districts’. The maternal mortality ratio (MMR) of Bangladesh is estimated at 1.9 per thousand live births (BMMS, 2010). It has remained as a great challenge since Bangladesh has been trying its best to achieve the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) which clearly defines to reduce maternal mortality ratio. Along with many socio-economic causes; lack of awareness, poor quality of services, lack of trained providers, availability and accessibility of services, high proportion of rejection of MR clients contributes in the maternal morbidity and mortality and delays the overall efforts to recede the situation. To reduce maternal mortality and morbidity due to unsafe MR and unsafe abortion in outside of clinic facilities, Marie Stopes provided training to 2000 service providers (mostly drug sellers) and 60 medical representatives so that, the capacity develops to dispense MRM accurately and safely. Marie Stopes also advocated support through pharmaceutical companies and the Drug Owners Association of Sylhet and Chittagong. This end line study is focused on the aftermaths of the project. In order to collect the information, a mixed method of secondary data collection through literature/documents review as well as collection of primary data through adopting both quantitative and qualitative approaches such as, face to face interview, in-depth interview, key informants’ interview (KII) and focused group discussion (FGD) were used. It aimed to

collect information from informal practitioners, particularly drug sellers, and private-NGO service providers; selected pharmaceutical companies and the Drug-Shop Owners' Association; and women of reproductive age to determine whether the goals of the project were achieved.

- **Mapping Study and Size Estimation of Key Populations in selected priority districts in Bangladesh** (Oct 2015-Jan 2016)

Client: Save the Children

RTMI conducted 'Mapping Study and Size Estimation of Key Populations in selected priority districts in Bangladesh'. Bangladesh is a low prevalence country with HIV prevalence but in certain geographical areas due to socio-economic and cultural settings, the key populations have high HIV prevalence. In order to guide the national response on HIV and AIDS, it is required to have robust and updated estimates of the size of different key populations (KPs). This study aimed to estimate the size of Key Populations (KPs) and Young Key Populations (YKPs) (e.g. male and female sex workers, men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, hijra, clients of sex workers, etc.) at national and district levels. The study conducted a mapping and size estimation of KPs and YKPs in selected 21 districts of Bangladesh. These 21 selected districts were classified into three categories, e.g. high program concentration; moderate program concentration; and low program concentration districts which included age groups of 10-19 and 20-24 years. Stakeholders meeting, broad mapping, identification of hot spots, identification of KPs and YKPs in the hotspots, conduction of PRA and interviews were conducted with the facilitation of 8 teams. The information generated from this study were used to guide HIV prevention policy, planning and responses as well as to monitor progress and accountability in achieving programme goals and goals.

- **Baseline Study with target factories and their workers in RMG Factories** (20 Sep 2015-17 Dec 2015)

Client: SNV Netherlands Development Organization

The Ready-Made Garments (RMG) industry, the largest export sector in Bangladesh, occupied a unique position in the country's economy. Nearly four million workers were directly involved, and over twelve million inhabitants were indirectly associated with this industry, where female workers played a significant role in socio-economic development. However, the working environment posed risks to these women, particularly related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). These issues significantly impacted the industry's productivity. To address these challenges, SNV implemented the "Working with Women Project" through a grant from the Dutch Embassy (EKN), promoting SRHR through inclusive business practices in the RMG sector. This project aimed to create business models to ensure SRHR services and products for female RMG workers while demonstrating business benefits to the factories. RTMI was tasked with conducting a baseline survey to assess the SRHR challenges before project interventions. The survey's objective was to provide benchmark data on SRHR service provision, accessibility, usage among workers, gender sensitivity, and other social impact indicators. A mixed-method approach, involving both quantitative and qualitative data collection, was used. The 12-week baseline survey took place in 15 target factories located in Savar, Ashulia, and Gazipur under five 'Inclusive Business (IB) models.' The study covered 2444 female workers from 15 factories, along with factory management, NGOs, private service providers, and other stakeholders. Male groups and community elites were also engaged through focus group discussions and in-depth interviews.

- **Assessment of Stakeholder Perception of Public Health Services** (01 August 2015-31 October 2015)

Client: Crown Agents

RTMI, in collaboration with icddr,b, conducted the "Assessment of Stakeholder Perception of Public Health Services" with funding from JDFTA through Crown Agents. This study focused on identifying stakeholders' perceptions of the public health service delivery system in Bangladesh to recommend improvements. Stakeholders' opinions were crucial for understanding gaps in service and developing an improved delivery system. High-performing districts like Dhaka, Munshiganj, Khulna, Rajshahi, Pabna, Rangpur, Dinajpur, and low-performing districts like Barishal, Pirojpur, Chittagong, Noakhali, Sylhet and Sunamganj, were selected based on general health indicators. RTMI contributed to stakeholder mapping, field team training, monitoring, and data collection. Policy advocacy was also a significant aspect, with RTMI developing several policy briefs to disseminate findings. The assessment helped to identify gaps and suggestions for enhancing public health care delivery in Bangladesh.

- **Assessment of Contribution of MoHFW to the Urban Health Services** (01 August 2015-31 October 2015)

Client: Crown Agents

RTMI in collaboration with icddr,b conducted a study titled "Assessment of Contribution of MoHFW to the Urban Health Services" with the aid of JDFTA fund through Crown Agents. Bangladesh faces rapid urbanization and expansion of urban areas; this has placed a significant pressure on health services and facilities. Under these circumstances, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) is providing a range of healthcare services in urban areas through secondary and tertiary hospitals, including preventive services and urban health provision. The aim of this technical assistance was to comprehensively document the contribution of MoHFW urban healthcare service delivery. In this venture, RTMI and icddr,b jointly worked for policy advocacy. RTMI provided support for field implementation and data processing in identifying the residence (urban or rural) of the service users in the sampled health facilities, determining the use of public health services by urban residents living in a reasonable distance from the health facilities and determine the uptake of any MoHFW services provided at the door step/nearby centers. In order to conduct the study, both quantitative and qualitative research methods in Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Moulavibazar, Pirojpur and Dinajpur districts were applied. Along with the main report, the output of the study helped in developing several policy briefs for advocacy in the sector program for strengthening the health system for urban population. The project also documented the barriers in delivering health services by maintaining the standards of the health system for effective service delivery for the urban population.

- **Health Need Assessment in Textile and Hard good Industries in Bangladesh** (26 July 2015-12 October 2015)

Client: Auchan International

RTMI conducted a study titled "Health Need Assessment in Textile and Hard Good Industries in Bangladesh" with financial support of Auchan Groupe SA which is a French international retail group and Multinational Corporation headquartered in Croix, France. It is one of the world's principal distribution groups with a presence in 12 countries and 602 stores. The

vocation of WEAVE OUR FUTURE, foundation created by Auchan Group in June 2014, was to support through local NGOs. The projects aiming at participating in the improvement of the living and health condition of workers and their families, in textiles and hard good industries, in the less economically advanced countries. The main purpose of the survey was to assess the first needs and the current health facilities for the workers and their needs regarding health in terms of physical & psychological health, environment linked health issues and workplace accidents. In order to make the sample representative the study was conducted at 20 factories situated at Dhaka, Gazipur and Narayanganj districts. The study captured the requisite information from both factory workers and factory health care service providers (Nurses) as well as from supervisor or management authority. The survey findings helped to assess the quality of health status, their needs and to understand the health seeking behavior of garment workers with a mission to increase worker's health awareness and access to health services through sustainable workplace programs.

- **Training Needs Assessment for Personnel from the Directorates and Offices under MOHFW** (21 May 2015-31 Nov 2015)

Client: Crown Agents

RTMI , with the support of Crown Agents, conducted the "Training Needs Assessment for Personnel from the Directorates and Offices under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW)." The Ministry implements the Health, Population, and Nutrition Sector Development Program (HPNSDP) with the goal of providing quality and equitable healthcare to all citizens of Bangladesh. The effective delivery of these services, however, depends on the training and competency of the workforce involved in the health service delivery system.

This study aimed to assess the training needs of personnel from various service providers working across six tiers of the healthcare system—national, divisional, district, upazila (sub-district), union, and ward levels. The objective was to identify gaps in their skills and competencies and determine what training programs were needed to enhance their abilities to deliver quality healthcare services.

A mix of qualitative and quantitative methods was employed in the study, which involved conducting organizational analysis, work environment analysis, job analysis, task analysis, and expert opinion gathering. Respondents were selected purposively to ensure that all categories of healthcare professionals were represented. Feedback was collected through institutional visits, local-level interactions, consultations, and surveys. The study played a crucial role in identifying deficiencies in services and training gaps, allowing the MOHFW to take corrective measures. The results were essential in shaping future training programs that would enhance the capabilities of healthcare personnel and improve the overall efficiency of the health service delivery system in Bangladesh.

- **Capacity Assessment of NGOs/ Private Service Provider Organizations** (April 2015-May 2015)

Client: SNV Netherlands Development Organization

SNV Netherlands Development Organization assigned RTMI to conduct "Capacity Assessment of NGOs/ Private Service Provider Organizations". The project focused on the Sexual Reproductive health Right (SRHR) service of female workers in the Ready-Made Garment (RMG) industry. Garment industry consist the largest portion of female workers with

mostly rural and disadvantaged backgrounds. Health issues such as; malnutrition, communicable diseases, pregnancy complications, incorrect use of family planning materials, reproductive infections are fairly common among the female workers. These diseases also undermine the productivity of the RMG industry. The project aimed to assess existing strengths, needs and gaps of each NGO/ private service provider organizations so that capacity development program for each NGO/private service provider can be designed to facilitate need based quality health care service especially SRHR service to the female workers of the RMG factories. In order to conduct the survey, a total of 20 NGOs/ private service provider organizations were studied for the capacity building intervention. The selected study areas were Dhaka, Gazipur, Mirzapur and Savar, where majority of the RMG is situated. The survey findings helped to develop business models of NGOs/private service provider organizations that are based on an understanding of the business needs and concerns of the RMG industry, thus building more effective SRHR service delivery system and Health & Safety issues.

- **Assessment for Implementation of Tribal Health Plan under HPNSDP in Providing HNP services among Tribal Population in Bangladesh (November 2014-May 2014)**

Client: Ministry of Health Family Welfare (MOHFW)

RTMI conducted an assessment for the implementation of the Tribal Health Plan under HPNSDP in providing HNP services among the tribal population in Bangladesh for the Ministry of Health Family Welfare (MOHFW) under the sub-contract with Crown Agents. The study was undertaken to assess the implementation of the planned activities of the tribal health plan (MOHFW 2011a) under the Health Population Nutrition Sector Development Program (HPNSDP) through the Essential Service Delivery (ESD) Operational Plan (OP) and other relevant OPs. Moreover, the study determined the socio-economic and Health, Nutrition, and Population (HNP) service utilization of the tribal population and assessed the coverage and effectiveness of service delivery in the tribal communities of both the hill tracts and flatland in Bangladesh. The study helped design effective HNP services focused on ESD services for tribal women and children in Bangladesh. The study was designed for the tribal population living in both the hill tracts and flatland areas. Based on geographical location, the study covered all three districts of CHT (Bandarban, Khagrachhari, and Rangamati) and three regions of flatland areas (Mymensingh region, Sylhet region, and Rajshahi and Dinajpur regions). A total of 4,725 households were interviewed from CHT and flatland tribal regions. In addition, a community survey was administered in each selected community (village) to assess the existence of development organizations in the community and the availability and accessibility of HNP services and facilities to the tribal population.

- **Baseline Survey Among the Beneficiaries of UPP-Ujjibito component of “Food Security 2012 Bangladesh-Ujjibito” Project (December 2014-March 2015)**

Client: Polli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)

PKSF assigned RTMI to conduct a baseline survey of the “Food Security 2012 Bangladesh-Ujjibito” Project, which was implemented jointly by the Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) and Local Government Engineering Department (LGED). The study was conducted to understand the prevailing situations of the targeted beneficiaries before the introduction of the project. The study served as a starting point of reference against which the progress, achievements, and success of the project were subsequently measured. This provided a sound basis for assessing the project's progress and achievements by comparing the 'before-after' scenario. To measure household nutrition, anthropometric measurements were used. The

incidence of poverty was measured by the Multi-dimensional Poverty Index. Furthermore, the baseline study provided a situation analysis of the existing scenario of the project, which assisted the project's management in determining priorities for revising the operational plan if necessary. Data was collected from 3,395 project participants from 28 districts of Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi, and Chittagong Divisions.

- **Empowering Women to Access Safe MR Services in Golapganj Upazila (sub-district)** (July 2014-June 2017)
Client: Safe Abortion Action Fund (SAAF)

RTMI conducted an operations research project on empowering women to access safe MR services in Golapganj Upazila. The main aim of the project was to increase awareness, understanding, and access to safe MR services in the rural community. The approaches related to the development and use of BCC materials, conducting group meetings and courtyard sessions, staging drama, organizing training, orientation, on-the-job mentoring, developing and using referral systems, and providing logistic support for the facilities, were used to bring positive changes among newly married couples, adolescents, young people, and mother-in-laws in seeking reproductive health services from qualified providers. Feasible and sustainable intervention activities related to these approaches were developed through formative research. The activities followed a pre-post intervention assessment approach to document progress and lessons learned. The project activities and variations in the implementation of approaches brought increased opportunities to learn and maximize the potential linkage between communities and facilities – a much-valued strategy in the pursuit of safe MR services.

- **Conducted household level tracking survey on critical program indicators** (2014–2015)
Client: Social Marketing Company (SMC)

SMC assigned RTMI the task of conducting a household-level tracking survey on critical program indicators. The main purpose of the survey was to monitor and evaluate the progress in changing the knowledge, attitude, and behavior of married women of reproductive age (MWRA) and caregivers of children aged less than 5 years on critical maternal and infant health (MIH) program indicators, as well as to measure the exposure of target audiences to community mobilization activities.

The specific objectives of the study were:

- To evaluate the progress in changing knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of MWRA and caregivers of children under 5 on critical MIH program indicators.
- To measure the exposure of target audiences to community mobilization activities.
- To understand better communication approaches and modes of message delivery among different alternatives.
- To assess the changes occurring among school-going girls due to exposure to school health education programs.

In addition, the survey gathered information from the study participants to understand better communication approaches and modes of message delivery among different alternatives. To achieve the objectives of the proposed study, quantitative data collection methods were adopted to collect primary data from two groups of respondents: (i) MWRA/caregivers of children

under 5 years, and (ii) school-going adolescent girls. The study was conducted among 1,600 MWRA and caregivers of children under 5 years and 600 adolescent girls.

- **Endline Survey of Strengthening the zinc supplementation and ORS distribution for childhood (6-59 months) diarrhoea in Bangladesh** (14 April-15 July 2014)

Client: Micronutrient Initiative Bangladesh

Micronutrient Initiative Bangladesh contracted RTMI to conduct an endline survey of strengthening the zinc supplementation and ORS distribution for childhood diarrhoea in Bangladesh. The main purpose of the endline evaluation was to inform the Government of Bangladesh, the Micronutrient Initiative (MI), and other key partners involved in the diarrhoea management program regarding the impact of program activities on the coverage of zinc and ORS in diarrhoea cases among children aged 6-59 months who had experienced an episode of diarrhoea in the one month preceding the survey in two project districts (Barisal and Gaibandha) and two comparison districts (Jhalokati and Lalmonirhat) of Bangladesh. The other respondents for the survey included the HAs, FWAs, CHCPs, and Gram doctors of the sampled clusters for the household survey. As a result, the study population comprised two groups of respondents: caregivers and health workers. Data was collected from 600 caregivers and 308 health workers. An experimental pre and post-intervention design was adopted for conducting the endline evaluation.

- **Evaluating the Knowledge, Attitude and Practice of Trained Private Community Health Providers** (March-June 2014)

Client: Social Marketing Company

Social Marketing Company contracted RTMI to evaluate the knowledge, attitude, and practice of trained Private Community Health Providers (PCHPs). The main purpose of the study was to assess the knowledge, attitude, and practice of PCHPs to examine the effectiveness of the training provided by SMC.

The study was conducted with a representative sample of 800 PCHPs (400 with training and the rest 400 without training) distributed equally among four project locations. The sample was a multi-stage sample, with 200 PCHPs selected randomly from each of the four selected districts. This sample provided a 95% level of precision and 5% level of significance estimation. In addition, to assess the practice of the providers, 100 interviews were conducted with selected providers (50 with training and 50 without training) as mystery shoppers/clients across four categories: Family Planning Method (FPM), TB, adjunct therapy of zinc with ORS, and micronutrient powder. A total of 400 mystery shopper/client interviews were conducted from the four selected districts.

- **Field Data Collection, Data Editing and Data Entry for Bangladesh Urban Health Survey (BUHS) 2013: Adult Health & Risk Behaviors** (October 2013-June 2014)

Client: National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)

NIPORT contracted RTMI for field data collection, data editing, and data entry for the Bangladesh Urban Health Survey (BUHS) 2013: Adult Health & Risk Behaviors. The specific objectives of the survey included obtaining a profile of activities of daily living, recent serious illness and injury; assessing tobacco use in terms of smoking, use of smokeless tobacco, and secondhand smoking; describing smoking behaviors, smoking-induced financial deprivation,

and quitting behavior of current smokers; assessing knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs about health effects of both smoking and smokeless tobacco, including laws against smoking and tobacco use, increases in taxes on tobacco products, and prohibitions on advertising tobacco products; assessing alcohol consumption patterns; reviewing consumption of fruit and vegetables; measuring individuals' physical activity levels; measuring the prevalence of overweight and obesity; and examining socio-economic and demographic correlates of risk behaviors in urban areas. The study was quantitative in nature and was conducted with a sample of about 30,000 adults. The target respondents were males and females aged 18-59 years. This study was conducted in three domains: city corporation slum, CC non-slum, and the rest of urban areas (comprising all districts, municipalities, and large towns/pourashavas, with populations over 45,000).

- **Reproductive, Maternal and Neonatal Health (RMNH) in Bangladesh Baseline Survey 2013** (October 2013 to March 2014)

Client: BBC Media Action

BBC Media Action contracted RTMI to conduct a baseline survey to explore knowledge, attitude, practices, and social norms around RMNH on a nationally representative scale. This baseline data was used as a benchmark to compare any mid or endline surveys to assess differences among the target population of interest. The study was quantitative in nature and was conducted with a sample of 3,000 households. The target respondents included mothers with children 0-9 months old, with husbands and mothers-in-law also included as subcategories of respondents. A total of 7,000 interviews were conducted, covering both urban and rural areas of all seven administrative divisions of Bangladesh.

- **To define and analyze cross-border and in-country livestock and livestock-products market systems in Bangladesh”** (15 April, 2013- 7 November, 2013)

Client: Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations

RTMI conducted a cross-border study on the livestock value chain. The overall goal of the project was to identify high-risk areas for the introduction of TADs via cross-border routes by mapping livestock market chains and livestock trade volumes within Bangladesh and across its borders with India and Myanmar. The objective of this study was to delineate and map existing livestock value chains, estimate the volume of livestock trade through these chains, spatially map the different actors (e.g., markets, producers), their contact structures, and livestock density throughout the value chain, define and spatially map the major livestock trading routes, and model and map the high-risk areas in the value chain based on value chain determinants and network structure. The study was conducted in eight epidemiological units: Zokigonj, Burungamari, Burimari, Chagolnya, Teknaf, Sonamosjid, Benapole, and Hili, under the districts of Sylhet, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Feni, Cox's Bazar, Chapainawabgonj, Jessore, and Dinajpur. Data were collected from 430 different actors by conducting key informant interviews among traders (253), cattle and buffalo farmers (113), sheep and goat farmers (50), and pig farmers (14), and identified cross-border landing stations (legal and illegal) through GPS readings. The report was submitted on time (7 December 2013).

- **Perceived quality of nutrition services and satisfaction of community people regarding nutrition services and their utilization status** (March 2013 to June 2013)
Client: Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN)

RTMI conducted a study on perceived quality and satisfaction with nutrition services and their utilization among community people. The study utilized both quantitative and qualitative techniques for data collection. To ensure the findings were representative and valid, all seven divisions were selected. The main focus of the study was to explore users' satisfaction with nutrition care provided to children aged 0-5 years in Bangladesh. The respondents' group comprised parents/caregivers of children under 5. Detailed knowledge and practice of parents/caregivers regarding nutrition indicators, especially IYCF indicators, were assessed. The study also included current pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, and caregivers of under-5 children for data collection on selected nutrition activities. Data were collected from 2,100 pregnant women, lactating mothers, adolescent girls, and caregivers of under-5 children.

- **Provision of Health Population and Nutrition (HPN) service in the private sector** (May 2013 to July 2013)
Client: National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)

NIPORT contracted RTMI to conduct the study "Provision of HPN Services in the Private Sector" to assess the provision of HPN services in registered private health facilities in Bangladesh. The study aimed to provide a picture of how private health facilities function and the quality of the HPN services available. Specific service areas assessed included maternal health, child health, family planning, and nutrition services. The goal was to describe private facility-based health services and recommend improvements to service delivery. The study provided national-level representative information on HPN services offered through registered private health facilities. From each division, 33 registered private facilities were selected for assessment, and five exit clients were interviewed from each facility. Therefore, a total of 231 facilities were assessed, and 1,155 exit clients were interviewed.

- **Focus Study for Understanding Health Care Decisions During the First 1000 Days and Healthy Timing and Spacing Pregnancy (HTSP)** (07 May 2013 - 29 Aug 2013)
Client: Social Marketing Company

RTMI conducted a Focus study for understanding health care decisions during the first 1,000 days and healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy (HTSP). The main purpose of the study was to understand how women made decisions about family planning and birth spacing. The study also aimed to collect information on the health care decision-making of caregivers of children up to 5 years old (within the first 1,000 days), particularly related to healthy pregnancy (as it relates to child health), child nutrition, and the treatment of diarrhoea and pneumonia among the target audience. A qualitative approach was adopted for data collection. Data were collected from MWRA, husbands of MWRA, adolescents, caregivers, and key informants who had unique information about reproductive health and pregnancy-related decision-making of couples in their area. The study also covered pregnant women/caregivers of children under 2 years of age and fathers of children up to two years old to understand the health care decision-making of caregivers of children (within the first 1,000 days).

- **Behavior Change Communications Research: Homestead Garden Choices and Men's Food**

Purchasing (February- April 2013)

Client: SPRING Bangladesh

RTMI conducted behavior change communication research in the Khulna and Barisal divisions of Bangladesh, funded by SPRING Bangladesh. The study had two components.

Component 1: Factors Motivating Homestead Gardening Household Decisions for Crops to Plant, selling vs. Consuming Produce, and Purchasing Nutritious Foods: A total of 200 interviews were conducted with male and female respondents at the household level in both Khulna and Sylhet divisions of Bangladesh.

Component 2: Factors Motivating Men's Food Purchase Choices: Four focus group discussions and 24 in-depth interviews were conducted with male respondents from Khulna Division.

- **KAP study among MWRA, Eligible Men, and Health Providers: From specific districts where CPR is relatively low** (March - May 2013)

Client: Social Marketing Company

RTMI implemented a KAP study among MWRA to explore information regarding knowledge and misconceptions of all modern contraceptive methods, including LAPM, except for condoms. The KAP study was conducted among married men and women (as well as men and women with unmet needs for spacing and limiting) to gain more in-depth insights into their knowledge, attitudes, and misconceptions about FP methods in 19 priority/low-performing districts where CPR was lower and U5 child mortality was higher than the national average. The study covered private sector service providers closely attached to SMC to capture information regarding knowledge, attitudes, and service-related practices on FP methods. A total of 600 interviews and four FGDs were conducted with married women and men in four divisions of Bangladesh. Additionally, 20 in-depth interviews with service providers were also conducted.

- **National Needs Assessment-Midwifery Workforce** (July to September, 2012)

Client: UNFPA Bangladesh

In September 2010, the United Nations Secretary-General launched the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health. As part of their broader responses, the UN health agencies—"H4+" (UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Bank, WHO)—collectively proposed to support a select set of countries with some of the highest burdens of mortality and morbidity to strengthen the implementation of key maternal and neonatal health interventions. This was referred to as the High Burden Countries Initiative (HBCI). The prime purpose of the HBCI was to support the MoHFW in developing costed national strategies on the midwifery workforce to improve RMNH services and enable commitments to the Every Woman, Every Child campaign. The national-level needs assessment in Bangladesh aimed to provide detailed insights into the most challenging issues facing maternal and neonatal health: human resources for health with midwifery competencies at the community level. This assessment included evaluating related policies, laws, budgets, recruitment, placement, education and training, and costs. RTMI was responsible for collating available data from multiple sources, cleaning and

preparing a detailed breakdown of the practicing health workforce in Bangladesh contributing to maternal and newborn care; identifying organizations providing care and additional policy-level documentation; collaborating with education and training institutions to map and assess the pipeline of the health workforce and its characteristics to project the flows and stock of health workers contributing to maternal and newborn care within the public, private, and NGO sectors; gathering all available data relevant to HBCI and converting it into a suitable format for analysis using internationally recognized tools such as the One Health Tool; and conducting secondary and primary data collection to fill the information gaps identified during the scoping mission using tools and methodologies finalized in collaboration with the HBCI secretariat and Steering group.

- **KAP Study on LA/PM** (April to July, 2012)
Client: Abt Associates/SHOPS Bangladesh

RTMI conducted a KAP study on Long Acting/Permanent Method. The purpose of this study was to learn more about healthcare providers' knowledge, opinions, and practices regarding long-acting and permanent family planning methods (referred to as "LA/PM" throughout the survey). This category included implants, IUDs, injectables, female sterilization, and male sterilization. Data were collected from 385 providers from Dhaka and Chittagong. In addition to these interviews, 15 Key Informant Interviews and 12 FGDs with LA/PM users were conducted. The report was submitted on time and accepted by the sponsor and the program.

- **Assessment of Local Health Management committees** (April to June 2012)
Client: Health Economics Unit

The Health Economics Unit (HEU) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, had been taking various efforts to improve health financing/health economics and equity, especially designed to assist the poor and achieve the target of the Millennium Development Goals. Under the leadership of HEU/MoHFW, discussions were conducted with key stakeholders and policymakers for the identification, design, and implementation of a health financing pilot in selected areas. The pilot was conceptualized as a social health protection scheme termed SHASTHYO SHUROKSHA KARMASUCHI (SSK). The SSK project aimed to i) improve access of the poor to hospital inpatient care by reducing financial barriers, ii) decentralize hospital activities for functional improvement in the health sector in phases as part of Local Level Planning (LLP) and development, and iii) introduce modern Information and Communication Technologies for increased efficiency and transparency in the health sector (e.g., claims processing, accounting, controlling, and electronic patient records). The prime goal of the proposed study was to assess the existing state of Health Management Committees, identify their strengths and weaknesses, and provide recommendations for strengthening their role, functionality, and participation in the implementation of SSK pilots. The study was purely qualitative, following a cross-sectional design and drawing information from both primary and secondary sources. The study design aimed to collect data through an in-depth review of past and present health care management committees and also to explore a proposed model for such committees for future implementation. The study sought to find a model for community participation through the local health care management committee in respect of planning, budgeting, and monitoring elements of social health insurance and health financing.

- **Baseline Survey of TARSAN-CSO project** (January to March 2012)
Client: Swisscontact – Katalyst

The TARSAN-CSO project of Swisscontact was implemented in collaboration with RTMI . The project aimed to ensure MCH and safe motherhood services in underserved and unreachable areas by developing a health workforce from the same community. It was implemented in Sunamganj, Patuakhali, and Nilphamari districts. RTMI personnel conducted a baseline survey to assess the current situation of care in the community, both at the facility and outreach levels. A mapping exercise was undertaken in the project locations, and a list of public facilities, private institutions, and existing committees was prepared.

- **Post Mass Drug Administration (MDA) Coverage Survey of MDA 2011 Round of Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (ELF) Programme in Bangladesh** (December 2011 to January 2012)
Client: JICA Bangladesh

Filariasis was endemic in 34 districts, with the highest levels of infection and disease in the northern part of the country. It was estimated that 70 million people were at risk of infection, with a large number suffering from various forms of clinical deformity. Over the previous decade, the national programme had concentrated its efforts on interrupting LF transmission through annual mass drug administration (MDA) of two drugs to the entire at-risk population. The National Lymphatic Filariasis Elimination Programme had requested RTMI to evaluate the MDA coverage in four districts with financial assistance from JICA. The study was conducted to determine the coverage status of mass drug administration, the reasons for not taking the MDA drugs, and the nature of drug reactions in the study area, with the aim of informing the authorities to take necessary steps towards the elimination of LF. The MDA coverage survey was completed in five northern districts (Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Panchagarh, and Thakurgaon) in January 2012, with a sample of 900 households per district, totaling 4,500 households. The report was submitted on time and was accepted by the sponsor and the programme.

- **Analysis of health policies including reference to public spending in eye health compared to other health programme** (October 2010 – January 2011)
Client: Sightsavers Bangladesh

RTMI conducted a study which aimed to review and analyze the existing policies related to eye health and assess the level of public spending for the same compared to the spending in other health programme. The scope of work under this assignment included: i) review of all relevant policy documents related to eye health care, promotion and prevention; ii) assess the allocation of public resources for eye health if possible separately for prevention and treatment; iii) calculate the actual proportion of spending on eye health compared to the spending in other health programme; iv) gather stakeholder views and opinions for improvement in eye health promotion; and v) make recommendations for necessary policy and strategy changes for eye health promotion. Literature review and key informant interviews were conducted. The report was submitted on time and accepted by the sponsor.

- **Rapid Qualitative Assessment of IEC/Communication Materials used in EPI Program** (February to March 2010)
Client: Micronutrient Initiative, Bangladesh

RTMI, on assignment from the development organization Micronutrient Initiative, assessed IEC materials used in EPI programs to identify strategies for a cost-effective and sustainable IEC campaign.

- **Formative research for Newborn Vitamin A Supplementation (NBVAS) in Bangladesh** (June 2010- July 2010)
Client: Micronutrient Initiative, Canada

Under a contract signed with Micronutrient Initiative, RTMI conducted formative research to identify feasible models for delivering newborn Vitamin A Supplementation (NBVAS) integrated within existing community-based maternal and newborn services. The aim was to recommend a scale-up to the GoB. The research mapped existing MNCH facilities and studied the needs and interests of different populations to design an integrated program. The study covered Sadar and Nesarabad (Swarupkathi) upazilas of Pirojpur district, Madhupur and Shakhipur upazilas of Tangail district, and Jaldhaka and Dimla upazilas of Nilphamari district.

- **Management System for Human Resource for Health (HRH) Information, Projection of Human Resource for Health (HRH) for Medical Technologist and Nursing Development Planning** (March to June, 2010)
Client: JICA

RTMI was commissioned by JICA and the MOHFW to conduct three studies for proposing an HRD plan for nursing up to 2021 based on existing projections of demand and supply of nurses. The studies included: i) Human Resource for Health (HRH) Information; ii) Projection of Human Resources in Health for Medical Technologists; and iii) A Plan for Nursing Development. The data collection methods included secondary data reviews, key informant interviews, in-depth interviews, and FGDs. The evaluation team covered nursing professionals and other related personnel, curriculum, and teaching materials. Central-level officials were also interviewed for insights into the communication and monitoring systems. Recommendations included improvements in curriculum, teaching materials, and projections of required nurses.

- **Assessment of quality at coverage of Youth Friendly Health Services in Bangladesh** (October 2010 – December 2010)
Client: WHO Bangladesh office

RTMI, in collaboration with ICDDR, conducted a study evaluating Youth-Friendly Health Services across different health facilities in Bangladesh. The study surveyed more than 2,700 samples, covering facilities like District Hospitals, Upazila Health Complexes, Union Health and Family Welfare Centers, NGO clinics, private hospitals, and pharmacies.

RTMI conducted the baseline survey for this project, recruiting 20 female interviewers and 5 supervisors to collect data by visiting 22 upazilas, conducting 3,300 household interviews, and 295 provider interviews.

- **Review, Analysis and Assessment of Issues Related to Health Care Financing and Health Economics in Bangladesh (2010)**

Client: Abt Associates

RTMI, in association with the US-based firm Abt Associates Inc., conducted a study titled “Review, Analysis, and Assessment of Issues Related to Health Care Financing and Health Economics in Bangladesh.” The study comprised the following components:

- Study A: Economic evaluation of the MOHFW’s demand-side financing (DSF) pilot maternal health voucher scheme, including an operational assessment and impact evaluation.
- Study B: Costing of maternal health services, including public and private providers, and an estimation of the cost of achieving MDG 5 by 2015.
- Study C: Design of human resource incentives, focusing on doctors and nurses.

- **Study on the effectiveness of Information Education Communication (IEC) materials for Vitamin A Supplementation in Bangladesh (January 2010)**

Client: Micronutrient Initiative

RTMI conducted an assessment study on IEC materials used at EPI programs to identify strategies for a cost effective and sustainable IEC campaign. The team visited different sites on the National Vaccination Day and interviewed the staff and clients to assess the effectiveness. The study report aimed to aid MI in designing appropriate and effective IEC materials.

- **Evaluation of the status of Smoke Free Policy Implementation and Law Compliance (Nov 2009 - December 2010)**

Client: The International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (the Union)

RTMI conducted a study to evaluate the implementation of the Smoke-Free Policy and compliance with the anti-tobacco law to assess the progress made and identify remaining steps towards ensuring a smoke-free environment. The study was carried out across six city cooperation areas, six district towns, and nine rural upazilas. This effort aimed to assist planners, administrators, and service providers in identifying challenges and opportunities to eliminate one of the major health hazards of modern times.

- **Health Facility Survey for Monitoring Pro-poor Performance, Inputs, Quality of Record Keeping, Availability and Knowledge of Staff and Patient Satisfaction (2009):**

Under an agreement with Director General of Health Services RTMI has conducted this study with the aim to improve the health status of the people of Bangladesh, specially the poor, through improved access to and use of efficient, effective and sustainable Essential Service Delivery (ESD) services. The study is based on both primary and secondary information. The requisite secondary data were collected through review of relevant documents, while the primary data were collected through field survey of selected PHC facilities. In order to make the study findings nationally representative all 6 divisions were considered. A representative sample of 71 primary health care facilities comprising 36 UHCs and 35 UHFWCs was selected for the study.

- **Evaluation of the process and impact of LLP** (Sep 2009 - Nov 2009)
Client: WHO Bangladesh Country Office

RTMI evaluated the process and impact of Local Level Planning (LLP) implemented by DG Planning. The study covered six districts from six divisions, with one upazila selected from each district. A total of 24 district and upazila health and family planning managers, along with 48 staff and service providers, were interviewed through structured key informant interviews (KII) and in-depth interviews. The survey team also conducted focus group discussions (FGDs) with 8-12 community members in each upazila. Central-level officials were interviewed to assess their understanding of the communication and monitoring systems.

- **Review of Basic Integrated Services for the Urban Poor in Chittagong** (July 2009-August 2009)
Client: UNICEF

RTMI reviewed the "Basic Integrated Services for the Urban Poor in Chittagong" project, implemented by Chittagong City Cooperation and facilitated by UNICEF Bangladesh. After two and a half years of project implementation, an assessment was conducted to evaluate the project's impact and progress.

- **Health Facility Survey for Monitoring Pro-poor Performance, Inputs, Quality of Record Keeping, Availability and Knowledge of Staff and Patient Satisfaction** (2009):

Under an agreement with the Director General of Health Services, RTMI conducted a study aimed at improving the health status of Bangladesh's population, especially the poor, by enhancing access to and utilization of efficient, effective, and sustainable Essential Service Delivery (ESD) services.

- **Pre (baseline) and Post Evaluation of Selected Targets groups of trainees in two border districts of Bangladesh on Knowledge of Avian Influenza** (Aug 2009 - Dec 2009)
Client: Academy for Educational Development (AED), US office

These studies were conducted for assessing the knowledge level of selected target groups belonging to 6 border districts of the country, who were provided training on Avian Influenza by AED. RTMI conducted a baseline survey and a post evaluation survey of the target groups in the districts of Jessore and Comilla, out of the six border districts, selected on a random basis. The study followed a cross-sectional design adopting the qualitative approaches of in-depth interview.

- **Pre-testing of the Flip Chart on Hand Washing Devices under SHEWA-B project** (March 2009 - April 2009)
Client: UNICEF

Sanitation, Hygiene Education, and Water Supply in Bangladesh (SHEWA-B) project is jointly implemented by Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and UNICEF since 2007. SHEWA- B is promoting hand wash with soap/ ash before eating, handling food and after defecation. UNICEF developed a flip chart on hand washing devices. RTMI was commissioned by UNICEF to verify whether the text and pictures of the flip chart were more

understandable and acceptable to both the Community Hygiene Promoters and Para Workers group to communicate with their local community people easily.

- **Risk Perception Analysis on HIV/AIDS among WFP beneficiaries** (Dec 2008 - Jan 2009)

Client: World Food Program

A study on the risk perception on HIV/AIDS among WFP beneficiaries was assessed the knowledge level as well as the perception of risk of HIV/AIDS among the ultra-poor women under VGD in Sylhet district. The study was undertaken in 13 unions of 12 upazilas of Sylhet district. This study was conducted for revising the HIV training module leading to further improvement of the beneficiary's knowledge on HIV/AIDS.

- **Secondhand Smoke Exposure Among Bar and Night Club Employees** (Jul 2008 - Mar 2009)

Client: The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health conducted the study to measure tobacco smoke exposure in Bars and Nightclubs in 22 countries worldwide. RTMI was their country partner to carry out the study in Bangladesh. To assess the employee's exposure status to second hand smoking, 10 bars and nightclubs were selected and up to 5 employees per bar/nightclub were interviewed. Two nicotine indoor air monitors were placed in different locations within the bar/nightclub. Personal hair nicotine concentration of non-smoking and smoking bars and nightclub employees were assessed by collecting approximately 50 strands of hair from the back of their head.

- **Evaluation of Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey** (Feb 2008 - Apr 2008)

Client: UNICEF

RTMI conducted an evaluation of Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey3, which was undertaken in 2006 to monitor the indicators of child development in Bangladesh. The MICS3 was coordinated by UNICEF with Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and Mitra and Associates as implementing partners. In addition to document review, RTMI team interviewed officials of UNICEF, BBS and Mitra and Associates as well as some field workers involved in the survey.

- **Study on Improving Hygiene Behavior in Hard-to-reach Areas** (Aug 2008 - Dec 2008)

Client: UNICEF

Under this contract, RTMI was assigned the task to conduct a study on improving hygiene behavior in hard-to-reach areas. The recommendation from the study would lead to designing a strategy under the Sanitation, Hygiene Education and Water Supply project (SHEWA-B) for effectively reaching underserved groups in haors, chars and tea gardens. To accomplish the task the project team (i) reviewed the methodology practiced under the SHEWA-B project (ii) assessed its applicability and effectiveness in reaching the underserved groups in hard-to-reach areas and (iii) made recommendation for required changes to the project methodology which might improve its success in reaching these areas. The study was conducted in the districts of Moulvibazar, Sunamganj, Gaibandha and Sirajganj.

- **Post-implementation Peer review of BHARP Project (2007)**
Client: European Union

European Union commissioned RTMI to review Bangladesh Health Action Research Project of icddr,b.

- **Public Expenditure Review (2003-2004)**
Client: HEU / MOHFW

The Health Economics Unit of MOHFW assigned RTMI the task of conducting a study on Public Expenditure Review 2003 in the health and population sector. The main goal of PER was to: assess the progress made towards stated goals in the health, nutrition and population sectors. The major data sources for the analysis of MoHFW expenditure comprise (a) Central Data Processing Unit (CDPU) of Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Ministry of Finance, (b) Annual Budgets for relevant years, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, and (c) other requisite secondary information from different published sources including NHA 1999-2001 and previous PERs provided by HEU.

- **Situation of maternal health in Bangladesh (June 2007 - October 2007)**
Client: UNICEF

Under this contract, RTMI compiled the Bangladesh Country paper on the situation of maternal health in the country, a fact sheet on the progress made towards MDG5 and a summary of the maternal health policy. These materials were prepared under the request of UNICEF Headquarters, for dissemination among the senior policy planners from SAARC countries during the SAARC Summit.

- **Assessment of the Effect of Folk Theatre as a Communication Media for Avian Influenza related (May 2007 - July 2007)**
Client: UNICEF

RTMI conducted this study to determine the effectiveness of theatre as a communication intervention in rural areas for channelizing selected Avian and Human Influenza (AHI) related messages. The themes of the messages included-(i) general information on avian influenza (ii) migratory birds and bird-flu (iii) bio-security (iv) cleanliness (v) and, cooking. The specific goals of the assignment were (i) to identify the socio-demographic background of the theatre participants (ii) to assess the level of comprehension of each of the five messages by the theatre participants (iii) to determine the proportion of participants who are able to recall the core messages received (iv) to assess the attitude and willingness of the theatre participants to change practices based on the messages and (v) to determine the effectiveness of a theatre as a communication media to raise awareness and understanding of the AHI. A total of 513 theatre participants from 14 districts of the 3 administrative divisions of Bangladesh were interviewed.

- **Assessment of Annual Development Program (ADP) for utilization of the National Sanitation Program (February 2007 - June 2007)**
Client: UNICEF

The use of ADP allocation in the National Sanitation Program was assessed by RTMI. The study reviewed the GoB's initiative on sanitation promotion with respect to cost, efficiency,

benefits, targeting, coverage, institutional arrangements, social and health benefits. The actual public expenditure in the sanitation sector as well as its pattern, allocation and use of ADP funds in different segments (like hardware and software) were reviewed. The study covered 50 clusters each representing 25 beneficiaries- 20 clusters from ESHWARA project area and 30 clusters from non- ESHWARA areas.

- **Beneficiary Incidence Analysis (2007)**

Client: HEU / MOHFW

RTMI conducted a Beneficiary Incidence Analysis (BIA) to assess the distribution of health service benefits among different socioeconomic groups in Bangladesh. The study aimed to help policymakers determine whether public health services were effectively reaching poor and marginalized populations. The study used both primary and secondary data sources, including exit interviews with approximately 6,500 patients across six divisions. The sample included one District Hospital (DH), two Upazila Health Complexes (UHC), and two Union Health and Family Welfare Centers (UHFWC) from each division, totaling 30 health facilities.

- **Evaluation of Country Program of GRCS (2006)**

Client: GRCS

RTMI conducted a review of the German Red Cross Society's country program in Bangladesh to evaluate its impact and effectiveness.

- **Rapid Situation Assessment of MARGs (May 2006 - September 2006)**

Client: Family Health International, Bangladesh Office

A Rapid Situation Assessment (RSA) was assessed the prevailing situation with regard to risk behaviour and network of Most At Risk Group's in Jessore, Jafflong and Burimari areas of the country. This assessment was aimed to strengthen HIV and STI prevention, care and support activities of Bangladesh AIDS Program (BAP). The RSA were conducted in two phases: at the first phase the survey team mapped the selected MARGs and in the second phase review of the status of risk behavior of selected MARGs was conducted.

- **Behavioral Surveillance Survey (July 2006 - December 2007)**

Client: Family Health International, Bangladesh Office

RTMI was commissioned to conduct the sixth round of the BSS. It collected data from 7,167 respondents of ten high-risk population groups such as Injecting drug users Heroin Smokers, Hijras, MSM, MSW, Hotel based sex worker, Street based sex workers, Brothel based sex workers, Rickshaw Pullers and Truckers spread over different geographical areas of Bangladesh. The team listed 5,638 spots/PSUs and identified nearly 48,000 risk group populations from Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Chandpur, Chapainawabganj, Khulna and Sylhet. Interviews were conducted with selected members of each group of MARP through a structured questionnaire. Separate data collection instruments were developed for each of the selected risk-practicing populations.

- **Assess Current Situation of Quality of Care in Reproductive Health and Family Planning Services (2006)**

Client: NIPORT

RTMI conducted a study to assess the quality of care (QoC) in reproductive health and family planning (RH-FP) services in Bangladesh. The study examined key indicators, including service preparedness, provider behavior, follow-up and referral systems, access to services, monitoring and supervision, and client satisfaction. The study was primarily based on primary data collected from service providers, recipients, and program managers in randomly selected facilities from 21 districts. Tertiary-level data were also collected from MCHTI for comparison. In addition, key informants were interviewed at Directorate of Family Planning (DFP) offices to gain insights into the QoC in RH-FP services.

- **Evaluation of Reproductive Health Projects (August 2005 - October 2005)**

Client: UNFPA Bangladesh

RTMI carried out evaluation of two government projects on reproductive health:

- 'Capacity Development through Training for RH Program', being implemented through the Directorate General of Health Services under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; and
- 'Strengthen BCC Unit to Support Advocacy Activities' being implemented by the IEM Unit of the Directorate of Family Planning under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- **Formulation of Bangladesh HNPSM monitoring and Evaluation Plan (May 2005 - August 2005)**

Client: GTZ Bangladesh / MOHFW

RTMI worked as a resource organization for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and development partners in designing a 'Monitoring and Evaluation Plan' of the Bangladesh health sector (HNPSM). The project team reviewed the existing data sources and identification of gaps with regard to data requirement, proposed rapid assessment procedures for timely generation of valid data or key measurable HNP outcome indicators, and developed a detailed impact evaluation for operationalizing the evaluation design. The support through this consultancy formed the basis of government M&E Plan for the health sector.

- **Review the Implementation of Facility-based IMCI (August 2005 - November 2005)**

Client: UNICEF

A review of the implementation of facility based IMCI was conducted by RTMI, for Service Provision with Trained Human Resources, Essential Supplies and Drugs, Facility Utilization, Coverage and Quality of Care.

- **Formulation of Bangladesh HNPSM monitoring and Evaluation Plan (May 2005 - August 2005)**

Client: GTZ Bangladesh / MOHFW

RTMI worked as a resource organization for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and development partners in designing a 'Monitoring and Evaluation Plan' of the Bangladesh

health sector (HNPS). The project team reviewed the existing data sources and identification of gaps with regard to data requirement, proposed rapid assessment procedures for timely generation of valid data or key measurable HNP outcome indicators, and developed a detailed impact evaluation for operationalizing the evaluation design. The support through this consultancy formed the basis of government M&E Plan for the health sector.

- **Study on the Injecting Drug Users** (September 2004 - March 2005)
Client: Family Health International, Bangladesh Office

RTMI undertook a study entitled "Assessment of Injecting Drug Users '(IDUs) Sexual Network and Risk Behavior in Indonesia and Bangladesh'. This study probed into the sexual behavior of IDUs who are considered to be the most vulnerable among the at risk populations to contact HIV/AIDS.

- **Review of Better Health for the Urban Poor project** (Oct 2003 - Nov 2003)
Client: DFID Bangladesh

RTMI was a member of the team to review DFID's Better Health for the Urban Poor (BHUP) project. The evaluation was helpful in using lessons learned and other information to apprise DFID and other development partners about the urban health situation in Bangladesh.

Nutrition

- **Endline evaluation of the Max Foundation ‘Max Nutri-WASH’ programme in South Coastal areas of Bangladesh (July - December 2021)**

Client: KIT Royal Tropical Institute

KIT Royal Tropical Institute contracted RTMI to conduct the endline evaluation named “Endline evaluation of the Max Foundation ‘Max Nutri-WASH’ programme in South Coastal areas of Bangladesh”. The overall goal of the evaluation was to assess whether a change in behavior around WASH, nutritional practices and growth monitoring has occurred, and how Max Foundation contributed to this change. A mixed method approach (quantitative and qualitative) method of data collection was used in this study. Qualitative data collection was conducted in 5 to be determined unions in Khulna and Barisal divisions, while the quantitative data collection covered a maximum of 40 unions within the entire intervention area. The intervention area covers a total of 62 unions in Patuakhali, Barguna, Khulna, Satkhira and Jessore district. Target population for this study included caretakers of children under the age of 5, caretakers of children under the age of 2, female caretakers, pregnant women, grandmothers, adolescents, government health workers, project health staff (HPA and CHP), union and village level stakeholders and school teachers. A total of 800 quantitative data were collected from the selected intervention unions and a total of 20 FGDs and 22 IDIs were conducted from the 5 selected unions.

- **School Nutrition for Adolescent Project (SNAP) (June 2019-July 2020)**

Client: Nutrition International (NI)

RTMI was involved in the School Nutrition for Adolescents Project (SNAP) designed and funded by Nutrition International – a Ottawa based multinational organization specializing in nutrition research and intervention. SNAP took place in 2 districts of northern Bangladesh from May 2019 to August 2020, with an aim to evaluate whether secondary schools are an effective platform to deliver weekly iron-folic acid supplementation co-delivered with WASH, menstrual hygiene management, nutrition education, and behavior change interventions for adolescent health and nutrition. A number of partner organizations including RTMI, CDC, NI and BRAC jointly implemented the SNAP project, while RTMI’s involvement was limited to conduct of starting point and end line surveys on a cross-section of 3600 adolescent boys and girls studying in class 8 and 9 of 75 schools at Jaypurhat district, Bangladesh. RTMI conducted Baseline survey in 75 schools at Joypurhat district. The ultimate purpose was to share the result with the Government of Bangladesh for effective policy making and intervention for nutrition.

- **Conduct an Endline Survey in the Intervention and Control population of the Max Foundation ‘GrowingUpUpUp’ project (October - December 2019)**

Client: KIT Royal Tropical Institute

The ‘GrowingUpUpUp’ project was a three-year initiative aimed at reducing stunting among children in the Sylhet division of Bangladesh. The project provided access to clean drinking water, improved sanitation, hygiene services, and nutrition education to drive behavioral changes that would reduce the prevalence of stunting.

RTMI was contracted to conduct the endline survey to evaluate the project's effectiveness. The evaluation aimed to measure the prevalence of stunting in the intervention areas at the end of the project and compare it to a control area. The goal was to understand how the intervention had impacted child health and the factors contributing to its success or limitations.

The endline survey employed a mixed-methods approach:

- Quantitative data were collected through interviews with 1,111 caretakers of children under two and under five years old across three unions (two intervention unions and one control union). The survey focused on health, hygiene, nutrition practices, and access to WASH services.
 - Qualitative data were gathered through 12 FGDs and 18 IDIs with caretakers, younger females of reproductive age, and local stakeholders in the intervention unions.
- **Conduct a Baseline survey in the control population of the Max Foundation 'Max Nutri-WASH' project aiming to reduce stunting in children under the age of 2 (April 2019- July 2019)**
Client: KIT Royal Tropical Institute

According to a recent statistic, 56% of all stunted children worldwide lived in Asia. Stunted children remained shorter in comparison to the standard height-for-age ratio. For example, the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014 reported that 36% of children under 5 were stunted. Rural children were more likely to be stunted (38%) than urban children (31%). The highest prevalence was in Sylhet division (50%) and the lowest in Khulna division (28%). To capture this variation, KIT Royal Tropical Institute contracted RTMI to conduct a baseline survey in the control population for the Max Foundation's 'Max Nutri-WASH' project, which aimed to reduce stunting in children under the age of 2. The objective of the study was to gather primary data on WASH, child nutrition, child health, and access to and services related to SRHR. A quantitative data collection method was employed using multi-stage cluster random sampling. The study randomly selected 23 households under 32 enumeration areas from four unions in Patuakhali, Barguna, and Satkhira districts. Data was collected from one child per household, and relevant factors contributing to stunting, such as diarrhea prevalence, WASH facilities, child health, and child nutrition, were obtained from the mothers or caregivers of the children.

- **Conduct a baseline survey in the control and midline survey in the intervention populations of the Max Foundation 'Max Value for Stunting Free Village' project aiming to reduce stunting in children under the age of 2 (July 2018- September 2018)**
Client: KIT Royal Tropical Institute

The Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 2014 indicated that 36% of children under 5 were stunted, with rural children more likely to be affected than urban children (38% vs. 31%). Stunting was most prevalent in Sylhet division (50%) and least prevalent in Khulna division (28%). A three-year project named 'Max Value for Stunting Free Village' was implemented to address this issue, focusing on the poorest populations in hard-to-reach areas of the Sylhet division in northeastern Bangladesh. The project required a baseline survey in the control area and a midline survey in the intervention area to assess the project's progress. KIT Royal Tropical Institute contracted RTMI to conduct these surveys. The overall objective was to collect primary data on WASH, child nutrition, child health, and access to SRHR services. The study was carried out in one control union (Charmohalla) and two intervention unions

(Islampur and Noarai) of Chhatak Upazila in Sylhet division. The target group for the study was the caretakers of children under 2 years of age. Using multi-stage cluster random sampling, baseline data was collected from 301 households in the control union, while midline data was gathered from 152 and 151 households in the intervention unions. Anthropometric measurements were taken from one child per household, and data on other factors related to stunting, such as diarrhea prevalence, WASH practices, child health, and child nutrition, were collected from the children's caretakers.

- **Perceived quality of nutrition services and satisfaction of community people regarding nutrition services and their utilization status (April-June 2013)**

Client: Institute of Public Health Nutrition

RTMI conducted a study to assess the perceived quality and satisfaction with nutrition services and their utilization among community members. The study used both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods and covered all seven divisions of Bangladesh to ensure representative and valid findings. The primary focus of the study was to explore the knowledge and satisfaction of users regarding nutrition care provided to children aged 0-5 years. The respondents included parents or caregivers of children under 5. Additionally, the study assessed the knowledge and practices of parents or caregivers regarding nutrition indicators, especially infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. The study also gathered data from pregnant women, lactating mothers, and adolescent girls on selected nutrition-related activities to provide a comprehensive understanding of the community's perceptions and satisfaction with nutrition services.

- **Development of PROFILES and Costing Models for Comprehensive Nutrition Program in Bangladesh for 2011-2021 (August 2010 - August 2011)**

Client: Academy for Educational Development (AED), US Office

Imagine Bangladesh free of the scourge of malnutrition - what will it take to achieve this? What would be the benefit? How much would it cost to achieve this goal? Over the past year, national stakeholders and technical experts gathered to attempt to answer these questions. RTMI contracted to generate new PROFILES estimates for and develop a national costing model for nutrition programming for Bangladesh under its Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance Project (FANTA-II). A series of stakeholder meetings, field-cum-site visits, expert opinions, and costing workshops are being organized to achieve this end. The study is being led by a Lead Economist of the country. This study presents the results of this consultative and consensus-building process and seeks to provide a better understanding of the value of investing in nutrition and the level of investment required to improve nutrition as a means to achieve the MDGs and Bangladesh Vision 2021 goals. For the period 2011 to 2021, this report presents first, the projections on the benefits of investing in nutrition in terms of gains in development outcomes; and second, the cost of providing maternal and child nutrition services at scale nationally. PROFILES, a data-based tool that provides estimates of economic and other benefits that would result from improved nutrition, was used to project the benefits of investing in nutrition in terms of improvements in development outcomes, specifically reduced maternal and child mortality and improved economic productivity. Second, the cost of providing maternal and child nutrition services at scale nationally was estimated by developing a national costing model for nutrition programs. The goal of this report was to share estimates that were generated from these two models to guide policy makers on the scope of nutrition interventions

and costs of nutrition programming for consideration as the operational plans for the HPN sector program are implemented.

- **Conducting Baseline Survey of the Project “Strengthening the Iron and Folic Acid Supplementation (IFA) Program to reduce Iron Deficiency Anemia among Pregnant Women”** (November 2011 to February 2012)
Client: Micronutrient Initiative, Bangladesh

The Micronutrient Initiative Bangladesh supported the Government of Bangladesh in demonstrating an effective program model aimed at increasing the coverage and utilization of iron and folic acid (IFA) supplements among pregnant women. This pilot initiative was implemented in Satkhira and Narsingdi districts. RTMI was contracted to conduct the baseline survey in these two districts, collecting data from both the intervention and control districts. At the household level, 200 pregnant women were interviewed in each of the four districts, totaling 800 interviews conducted across the sample. In addition to household data collection, a sub-study on knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) among health workers across the four districts was carried out. The field team visited relevant health facilities in each cluster to interview health workers and collect data regarding IFA stock availability. The report was submitted on schedule and received acceptance from the sponsor and the program.

- **Formative research for Newborn Vitamin A Supplementation (NBVAS) in Bangladesh** (June 2010- July 2010)
Client: Micronutrient Initiative, Bangladesh

Under a contract signed with Micronutrient Initiative, RTMI conducted a preliminary research to identify feasible models for delivering new born Vitamin Supplementation (NBVAS) integrated within existing community-based maternal and newborn services which can be recommended to GoB for scale-up. This preliminary research conducted a mapping of existing MNCH facilities and a study to understand needs and interest of the different populations and persons in their community towards designing an integrated program. The study areas covered Sadar and Nesarabad (Swarupkathi) upazilas of Pirojpur district, Madhupur and Shakhipur upazilas of Tangail district, and Jaldhaka and Dimla upazilas of Nilphamari district

- **Reconstruction, Economic Development and Livelihoods (REAL Project) Baseline Survey** (2009)
Client: Helen Keller International, Bangladesh

The purpose of the survey was to establish starting point data that would help in tracking progress and changes in the future resulting from HKI’s development interventions in the impact areas. The starting point survey for REAL project was conducted with the specific goals: to assess the household assets, income, expenditures and income-generating activities; to find out the existing status of the household food security; women empowerment; and to determine the nutritional status through dietary recall and anthropomorphic measurements. The survey covered all unions included in the program within the 4 upazilas of the two districts. Data were gathered through the successful completion of 180 interviews within the sample households of experimental group and 180 interviews within the sample households of control group with respondents. In each sample household, only one woman was identified as eligible for an interview. A household questionnaire was administered for the household interview with the eligible respondent.

Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- **A Ring Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Intervention to Reduce Cholera in Hotspots in Bangladesh (February 2022 to May 2025)**

Client: The Johns Hopkins University

RTMI and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHU) is jointly conducting the study titled “A Ring Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Intervention to Reduce Cholera in Hotspots in Bangladesh”. Cholera-Hospital-Based-Intervention-for-7-Days (Chobi means “picture” in Bangla), a WASH intervention promotes hand washing with soap and water treatment to cholera patients and their household members through a pictorial module and mobile health messages. Building on this previous CHoBI7 program, targeted WASH intervention has been developed and evaluated that aims to deliver in a ring around cholera patients’ households in Dhaka, Bangladesh to reduce cholera and cholera transmission among this high-risk population. To evaluate the efficacy of the targeted CHoBI7 intervention in reducing cholera infections among household members of cholera patients during their one-week high risk period after the presentation of the index cholera patient, a randomized controlled trial (RCT) will be conducted where the CHoBI7 intervention will be compared to the standard message given in Bangladesh to diarrhea patients at discharge on ORS use. Diarrhoea patients presenting with three or more loose stools over a 24 hour period will be recruited from both public and private sector hospitals (like Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Mugda General Hospital, Bangladesh Sishu Hospital, Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH) and NGO/Private sector Hospitals) in Dhaka City and there might be also a scope to make future collaboration with icddr,b. Participants will include cholera patients and individuals residing within close proximity to cholera patients, government officials in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and health facility staff and Directors. Cholera patients will be recruited from health facilities in Dhaka, Bangladesh. For the in-depth interviews and focus group discussions, only 12 years of age and older participants will be included. For the Intervention Planning Workshops, only adults 18 years of age or older will be included.

- **Testing a scalable model of the Cholera Hospital-Based Intervention (February 2022 to June 2025)**

Client: The Johns Hopkins University

RTMI and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHU) is jointly conducting the study titled “Testing a scalable model of the Cholera Hospital-Based Intervention”. RTMI is the in-country (Bangladesh) lead organization for the project implementation and will be responsible for overall project management, supervise in-country project team members, data collection, data management, and quality assurance. The CHoBI7 WASH mHealth program significantly decreased diarrhea and stunting among young children, and lead to sustained handwashing with soap practices and improved stored drinking water quality during the 12-month surveillance period in urban setting in Dhaka, Bangladesh. No evidence for impact of intervention in a rural setting. Therefore, it has become essential to scale the achievements: (1) To tailor the CHoBI7 program for delivery in rural health facilities and market test the CHoBI7 Program to determine the feasibility of providing a WASH package in rural settings through formative research and engagement of key stakeholders and (2) To evaluate the effectiveness of delivering the CHoBI7 program in community clinics, district hospitals, tertiary hospitals, and sub-district health complexes in catchment areas of these facilities in terms of increases in

WASH behaviors and decreases in diarrheal disease by conducting a randomized controlled trial (RCT). This study will be divided into two phases: (1) Formative Research Phase (12 Months) and (2) Intervention Implementation and Evaluation Phase (18 Months). Study activities will be conducted at Mugda General Hospital, community clinics, district hospitals, tertiary hospitals, sub-district health complexes, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh Dhaka Hospital, and General Referral Hospital complexes in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj, and Manikganj Districts of Bangladesh. Participants will include diarrhea patient household members, health providers, and government officials, beneficiaries and health workers. Children from newborns to 17 years of age will be included in this study.

Climate Change

- **Y-RISE Climate Change Adaptation Projects (Mar'24 – Dec'26)**

Client: Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE)

Yale Research Initiative on Innovation and Scale (Y-RISE) has selected RTMI as a Bangladesh-based research organization for the Y-RISE Climate Change Adaptation Projects, specifically those focusing on water salinity. Y-RISE has partnered with BRAC to systematically evaluate the impact and scaling complexities of programs designed to address the water crisis and livelihood adaptation challenges in the southwestern coastal areas of Bangladesh. In the first project, a clustered randomized controlled trial (RCT) will conduct to evaluate a water entrepreneurship program implemented by BRAC. In the second project, a longitudinal survey of a representative sample of communities and households will be conducted in the southwestern coastal regions. Finally, a longitudinal survey of a representative sample of communities and households will also be conducted in the southwestern coastal regions.

The Water Entrepreneurship program will be implemented for 2 years. For year-1, in 375 communities selected by Y-RISE in Assassuni and Shyamnagar, RTMI will conduct one short census (listing survey) of the households, a starting point survey of households, a starting point survey of entrepreneurs, and nine rounds of short monthly phone surveys with entrepreneurs. The starting point survey of the households will include biomarker tests of health outcomes of the household members and salinity measurements of drinking and cooking water stock. In year 2, RTMI will be responsible for conducting a follow-up survey of the households, a follow-up survey of the entrepreneurs, and three rounds of short monthly phone surveys with the entrepreneurs. They will also distribute discount water coupons to ultra-poor households. The follow-up survey of the households will include biomarker tests of health outcomes of the household members and salinity measurements of drinking and cooking water stock.

The Adaptation Clinic program will be conducted in year 1. RTMI will conduct short census surveys to list all households in 160 villages selected by Y-RISE in Assassuni and Shyamnagar. The census survey questionnaire will take 10 minutes, not including the introduction and consent script. Then Y-RISE will select 20 farms in each of the 375 communities. RTMI will also conduct a starting point survey with the 20 farm households selected by Y-RISE in each of the 160 villages. The starting point survey questionnaire will take 1 hour, not including the introduction and consent script.

The Longitudinal survey project will be conducted in year 1. In 170 villages selected by Y-RISE in Satkhira-Khulna region, RTMI will conduct short census surveys to list all farm households. In each of these villages, 20 households will be selected by Y-RISE to complete an informational questionnaire about the household. The survey questionnaires will take 75 minutes, not including the introduction and consent script. In these same 170 villages, RTMI will interview 5 key community leaders, such as union council members, teachers, imams, and large-scale farmers. Leaders will be selected according to Y-RISE's selection protocol. The leadership survey is expected to take 1 hour, not including the introduction and consent script.

- **Preparedness of Health Workforce in Providing Health Care Services during Disaster (May 2022 and January 2023)**

Client: National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT)

The National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT) assigned RTMI to conduct a study named “Preparedness of Health Workforce in Providing Health Care Services during Disaster.” The general objective of the study was to assess the preparedness of the health workforce in providing health care services during a disaster. The study also had specific objectives: to explore the health services needed during the disaster, to assess the availability of health services during the disaster at the nearest H-FP facilities, to assess the knowledge of managers, providers, and support staff about disaster preparedness, to know the status of training received by the health care providers on disaster preparedness, to assess the readiness of providing services during the disaster, and to investigate whether necessary medicine and equipment were available and workable at the facilities providing health services needed during the disaster. The study also aimed to know the responses of clinical and non-clinical staff regarding their personal needs, willingness to work in a disaster, and level of confidence in protecting their safety in the event of a disaster. The target population for this study included healthcare managers (Director (H), Director (FP), Deputy Director (FP), Civil Surgeon, Deputy Civil Surgeon, UH&FPO), service providers (Doctors, MOMCH-FP, Paramedics, Nurse, FWV, SACMO (FP)), and service recipients. The study area included selected districts from eight divisions of Bangladesh. A mixed-method approach was followed, which included face-to-face interviews with service recipients, health facility observation, in-depth interviews with service providers, and key informants' interviews (KII) with healthcare managers. For the quantitative study, a total of 3,600 service recipients were selected from all eight divisions, and 126 health facilities were observed using a health facility observation checklist. For the qualitative study, a total of 414 IDIs with service providers from the district level to the village level and 124 KIIs with the relevant key informants from the selected districts were conducted.

Education

- **Evaluation for the End Line Evaluation for the PRIO Project Bangladesh (PRIO-19-10001: Improving education for Rohingya refugees from Myanmar living in Bangladesh) (May to August 2022)**

Client: Innovations for Poverty Action

Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), in collaboration with Cornell University and the Peace Research Institute (PRIO) in Oslo, Norway, initiated the EducAid Project to study educational experiences in Bangladesh, aiming to gather insights for improving educational services. RTMI was contracted to conduct the endline evaluation of the project, focusing on understanding the educational needs, preferences, and expectations of Rohingya refugees. The evaluation took place in the camp and host communities of two upazilas (Ukhiya and Teknaf) in Cox's Bazar district. The target population included households with members aged 4 to 18 years living in these areas. A survey involving 1,200 households was conducted through face-to-face interviews, collecting demographic information, educational details of children, and respondents' perspectives on various issues, including gender. Household heads were prioritized for selection; if unavailable, other knowledgeable household members were chosen.

- **Comprehensive situation assessments of health professional education in Bangladesh (October 2011 to September 2012)**

Client: Rockefeller Foundation

RTMI received a grant from Rockefeller Foundation for conducting a comprehensive situation assessment of health professional education in the country especially with focus on MBBS, Nursing and Public Health courses. The study was conducted in collaboration with Directorate of Health Services (DGHS), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and James P Grant School of Public Health, BRAC University. This is part of the 'Transforming Health Systems' initiative of Rockefeller and a regional consensus on HRH education systems. This is a five-country (5C) project which also has been conducted in China, India, Singapore, and Vietnam at the same time. The data were collected at both national and institutional levels. We collected national level data from the key informants, who are the members of policy making committee for the health professional education of Bangladesh. We also interviewed the principals and departmental heads of 23 Medical colleges, 28 Nursing Institutions and 18 Public Health Institutions/departments for institutional level data. We also collected data from the final year students and health professionals (e.g. Medical doctors, Nurses, Public Health Professionals) who are the existing members and future members of the whole health profession of Bangladesh.

- **Third-party Validation - Monitoring of Textbook distribution (January to May 2012)**

Client: World Bank

The Directorate of Primary of the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education is responsible for implementing the largest-ever Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP 3) during the period from 2011 to 2016 jointly with the assistance of different development partners. One of the key elements of this programme aimed at improving the quality of learning environment ensuring that timely delivery of free textbooks to all eligible children so that each child learns. GOB committed to increasing the delivery of textbooks gradually from 75% in 2011 to 95%

of eligible children by 2014 within January each year. To ensure that the whether the monitoring system is adequate to provide reliable information RTMI in cooperation with WB and DPE was conducted a study Third Party Validation of distribution of text books at field level in the year 2012. With the financial assistance of World Bank RTMI interviewed around 25000-30000 primary school students in different rural and urban areas of Bangladesh from about 500-600 schools where the HT of each selected school also be interviewed. The survey assessed whether 85% children have received books before January 31st January 2012. The study was completed in May 2012.

- **Teaching in Primary School Classrooms: Do Teachers Understand and Use Interactive Teaching**

Period: May -July 2011 **Country:** Bangladesh

Client: ACER

RTMI conducted a study on Interactive Teaching in Primary Classrooms in collaboration with Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). This study focused on the effects of training programs provided under the Second Primary Education Development Program (PEDPII), which in turn focused on quality improvement in classrooms through the use of interactive teaching techniques. The study covered 591 primary schools all over Bangladesh mostly placed in remote areas. This study also examined the extent to which these techniques are understood and used by primary school teachers. A total of 34 Field Investigators under the supervision of 7 Quality Monitors were engaged for data collection using the instruments: School Observation, Classroom Observation, Teacher Questionnaire I and II, and Quality Monitor Record Sheet.

- **Study on the basic determinants of drop-out behavior in the learning centers of the BEHTRUWC (2010)**

Client: UNICEF, Bangladesh

RTMI conducted to investigate the basic determinants of drop-out behaviour, to identify the root causes of drop out and also to capture community' and other stakeholders' views of remedial measures to drop-out in the learning centres of the six divisional cities with the financial support of UNICEF.

- **Study on the basic determinants of drop-out behavior in the learning centers of BEHTRUWC (November 2009 - February 2010)**

Client: UNICEF Bangladesh office

RTMI conducted this study to investigate the basic determinants of the dropout behavior of the children attending the learning centers under the "Basic Education for Hard to Reach Urban Working Children (BEHTRUWC) project of UNICEF. In the identification of reasons for drop-out behavior, the views of the community and other stakeholders were taken and consulted on the possible measures to arrest the drop-out rate. A total of 50 learning centers from among 384 such centers throughout the country were selected. Quantitative data was collected from secondary sources and through physical visit to the learning centers. Qualitative data was collected through interviews with dropped-out children and their parents, KIIs, and FGDs with members of the Center Management Committees. In addition, case studies on dropped-out children were collected.

- **Internal quick assessment of the Basic Education Program implemented for Myanmar Refugees in UNHCR camp** (March 2010 – May 2010)

Client: UNICEF Bangladesh office

RTMI conducted an internal quick assessment of the Basic Education Program in the Rohingya Refugee Camps in Cox's Bazar. The study team randomly visited 3 schools in Nayapara camp and 4 schools in Kutupalong camp. Major data collection techniques included review of documents and reports including school records, key informant interviews, in-depth interviews, observation of school sessions for attendance and other information, and FGDs. To achieve the goals of the assessment, different stakeholders were interviewed and various sessions at different grades were observed.

- **Assessment of Education programs for Myanmar Refugees** (March 2010 – May 2010)

Client: UNICEF Bangladesh office

RTMI is working to contribute to the improved provision of accessible, high quality education services for the people especially for the poor and underserved. Under a contract with UNICEF on 21 October 2008 RTMI is implementing the 'Basic Education Program' in the two camps housing the Myanmar refugee in Ukhiya and Teknaf. The goals of the program are (i) to impart center-based Early Childhood Education (Play group and pre-school) to 90 percent of the children aged 4-6 years. (ii) to impart primary education to 90 percent of children aged 6-10 years and (iii) to assist 75 percent of the families having children under 3 years in practicing age-appropriate interactive care at home. The program was run with 7553 children and 108 teachers through 18 schools.

- **Participatory Evaluation-Causes of Primary School Drop-Out** (Mar 2009 - Jun 2009)

Client: UNICEF Bangladesh office and Directorate of Primary Education (DPE)

RTMI conducted this evaluation to identify basic determinants and root causes of dropout behavior in primary school and to capture school community's views of remedial measures to drop out. The study team visited 25 sites (17 rural and 8 urban). With the view to capture the geographical diversity, mostly the remote and inaccessible zones with reported high dropout rates, low completion rates and low literacy rate were given special attention in the selection process.

- **Bangladesh: An Assessment of the Current Situation** (2007)

Client: Swisscontact - Katalyst

RTMI conducted this study to assess the capacity of colleges/institutes to produce nurses, medical assistants and technicians; to examine the quality of education and training imparted at the colleges/institutes; to identify problems in expanding the institutional capacity; to identify the effectiveness the health workers (e) and to examine their relevance in the Bangladesh context. The study was also a part of the Bangladesh Health Watch study and its main theme for 2007 was 'Health workforce'.

Private Sector

- **Child Labor and Forced Child Labor in Garment Sector in Bangladesh**

Period: January 2012 to May 2012 **Country:** Bangladesh

Client: ICF Macro

ICF Macro has been commissioned by US Department of Labour to conduct research on Child Labor and Forced Child Labor in Informal Garment Production in Bangladesh. ICF Macro has partnered with RTMI to undertake this study. The assignment aimed to gather exploratory data on child labor and forced child labor in informal garment production in Bangladesh through the Supply Chain Methodology. The general goals of the research study were: To raise awareness about the issues related to child labor and forced child labor in the informal garment sector in Bangladesh; To contribute to international discourse on exploitive child labor and forced child labor; To inform current and future child labor/forced child labor technical assistance efforts of The U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT). The specific goal of this research was to collect data on the characteristics, nature, incidence, causes and consequences of child labor and forced child labor in informal garment production in Bangladesh.

- **Verifying Monthly CLP outputs (July 2010 - June 2012)**

Client: Chars Livelihoods Programme (CLP), Maxwell Stamp

CLP, a livelihood and food security programme, is being implemented by the Maxwell STAMP with financial support from DFID. It is focused on addressing extreme poverty in Bangladesh. RTMI assigned for verification of monthly outputs of CLP activities for 24 months (July 2010-June 2012) in the riverine island chars of 8 districts of Rajshahi and Rangpur Division. RTMI verified 10400 sample in the two years period.

- **Market assessment of Uniject® device with pentavalent vaccine (Oct 2010 - Nov 2010)**

Client: PATH US Office

RTMI was contracted to conduct a study through the qualitative in-person interviews with individuals involved with immunization in Bangladesh. The goal of the study was to obtain the feedback on the concept of pentavalent vaccine packaged in Uniject, to determine pentavalent use and average wastage rates over the past two years and to confirm the core benefits and differentiators of liquid pentavalent vaccine in Uniject versus other product formats (liquid or lyophilized vaccine in single- or multi-dose vials). RTMI had conducted a total of 22 interviews with EPI service providers, and officials of the DGHS involved with policy and procurement. In addition, there was also an observational visit to one routine immunization session to better understand the various contexts of use, benefits, and challenges that might be associated with use of Uniject to deliver pentavalent vaccine.

- **Establish and manage an External Monitoring system for NGOs (Oct 2008 - Jan 2009)**

Client: UNICEF

RTMI was contracted to function the role for an external Monitoring Agency (MA) in HIV and AIDS Targeted Intervention (HATI) project which is being implemented in 44 districts through 147 drop-in centers (DIC) run by 44 NGOs of 12 consortia each called a Lead Agency (LA). The monitoring was performed at three levels, i.e. DIC, NGO and LA levels. The specific

goals of the assignment were to: (i) identify the weaknesses in reporting and recording tools and recommend measures for improvement (ii) collect, compile, analyze and summarize the monthly programmatic and financial reports of the 12 consortia (iii) provide technical assistance to the NGOs in modifying the logical framework, reporting and recording formats and indicators (iv) validate the information provided by the NGOs (v) and, arrange dissemination event with the NGOs, NASP, UNICEF and other stakeholders.

- **Evaluation of the pilot initiative with JOBS-IRIS under the project "Providing Technical Assistance for Designing and Implementing Livelihood Strategies for Adolescent Girls in Specific intervention areas (February 2008 - March 2008)**

Client: UNICEF

RTMI conducted an evaluation of the technical assistance provided for designing and implementing livelihood strategies for adolescent girls in three districts. RTMI reviewed JOB's project approach and its relationship with local partners by way of linkages with local/international markets and its impact on the adolescent girls. The study also focused on the added- value of the general livelihood training, the intermediate outcomes of the technical trainings, important lessons learned and the elements of sustainability.

- **Pre-market assessment of the Chlorhexidine Product (CHX) product for Umbilical cord Care in Bangladesh (Aug 2008 - Oct 2009)**

Client: PATH US Office

RTMI conducted a study on pre-market assessment of the CHX product in Bangladesh. The purpose of the study was to identify the issues associated with the introduction of the CHX product and factors that might facilitate the introduction of the product in Bangladesh to prevent cord infection.

- **Need Assessment Study of Nurses in Bangladesh (February 2008 - June 2008)**

Client: Swisscontact - Katalyst

RTMI was requested by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to conduct a study to assess the current and future demand for nurses in the country. With financial support from Swisscontact's Katalyst project RTMI conducted the study. RTMI has collected secondary data in the form of national level statistics on the various regressors from MoHFW, DGHS, BBS, WHO and other sources. For reliable projections the coefficients were validated, based on primary data collection from various healthcare facilities. An econometric analysis was done to estimate the number of nurses which will be required in the country over the next 10 years.

- **Impact Studies under Private Sector Health (2008)**

Client: Swisscontact – Katalyst

Under Private Sector Health program of RTMI, a series of impact studies were conducted. The studies were funded by KATALYST. The overall impact of the interventions was assured to capture the real picture after implementation. As a part of Impact studies, a series of case studies of respondents were collected, interviews undertaken with target groups, observation of student's progress in health training schools were carried out and a rapid profiling of health paraprofessionals was undertaken.

- **A study on the Selected Health Service Provider Groups serving at the rural community level in Bangladesh** (July 2007 - October 2007)
Client: James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC

RTMI conducted this study to assess the services provided by some selected health service provider groups as well as the process of their recruitment, training and their incentives and salaries. The health service provider groups included non-accredited nurses, skilled birth attendants and community health workers. The study also assessed their jobs performance, job satisfaction and attrition. The study was a part of the Bangladesh Health Watch study and its main theme for 2007 was 'Health workforce'.

- **Training and Supply of Nurses, Medical Assistants and Health Technicians in Bangladesh: An Assessment of the Current Situation** (July 2007 - October 2007)
Client: James P. Grant School of Public Health, BRAC

RTMI conducted this study to assess the capacity of colleges/institutes to produce nurses, medical assistants and technicians; to examine the quality of education and training imparted at the colleges/institutes; to identify problems in expanding the institutional capacity; to identify the effectiveness the health workers (e) and to examine their relevance in the Bangladesh context. The study was also a part of the Bangladesh Health Watch study and its main theme for 2007 was 'Health workforce'.

- **Data collection of UNICEF/ICDP Support for BASIC Service in CHT**
(November 2006 - February 2007)
Client: UNICEF/NCG

UNICEF engaged Danish consulting firm-NORDIC Consulting Group A/S (NCG) to conduct an evaluation of the project. RTMI was selected by NCG as their local partner for pre-testing of questionnaire, data collection, training, data entry cleaning etc. Besides the above activities RTMI was also responsible for local liaison, coordination, logistics and support to NCG. RTMI conducted data collection from about 350 paracenters (selected by UNICEF) based on their ethnicity. Data was collected from 281 Para workers, 295 para center management committees, and 149 women at household level. RTMI also conducted 100 para centers observation and FGDs with all stakeholders separately in all the 3 hill districts with active participation of the NCG consultants.

- **Review of Child Survival Program** (August 2004 - September 2004)
Client: Concern Bangladesh

RTMI participated in the final evaluation of the USAID supported Child Survival Programs of CONCERN Bangladesh in two urban areas. This evaluation has been useful in taking up projects for replication in other municipalities.

For any additional information, please contact:

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