

ToR Final Evaluation of SIMESON Project

Final evaluation of a project titled **“Improving access to quality health care for mothers and children under 2 in the Kurigram District of Bangladesh”** through a Simulation of Essential Skills on Obstetric and Neonatal Care (SIMESON) in Kurigram district of Bangladesh.

Background:

Bangladesh Maternal Mortality and Healthcare Survey 2016 shows that the maternal mortality rate in the country is 196 per 100,000 live births, which is a slight increase from the 2010 figure which was 194 per 100,000 live births. In contrast, the percentage of births attended by trained health professionals increased from 27% in 2010 to 50% in 2016.

While we have seen an increase in the proportion of deliveries that have happened in the presence of skilled service providers, there is still concerns related to the quality of care in the health facilities. The report also shows that there is an increase in deliveries in the facilities from 23% (BMMS 2010) to 47% (BMMS 2016), however this is not enough to reduce maternal and child mortality rates. The above presented data points towards a need for improvement of the quality of care that is being offered in these facilities. Quality of care is essential to improve maternal health outcomes in any given setting.

SIMESON - an innovative and effective solution

The Balzan prize winning solution, Simulation of Essential Skills for Obstetrical and Neonatal Care (SIMESON), has been developed as a response to need of birthing service providers in hard to reach locations. The solution has been developed with guidance from the “Helping Mothers Survive” and “Helping Babies Survive” curricula and using Laerdal Global Health simulation and teaching materials. The SIMESON mobile trainers are specifically trained to handle simulation practices and scenarios within the scope of essential obstetrical and neonatal care, that includes - active management of the third stage labor, identification and management of post-partum haemorrhage, newborn resuscitation, kangaroo mother care, and correct use of partograph. SIMESON relies on low dose high frequency approach for in-situ simulation training and follow up of birth attendants at frontline health care facilities with the objective to improve their knowledge and skills for birthing. Terre des Hommes (Tdh) foundation has successfully piloted this training protocol in Mali and expanded this positive experience to other settings with similar needs, such as in Bangladesh. The Mali project has been evaluated by the Swiss TPH and has shown promising results in improving both skills and knowledge of the birthing service providers.

Specific objective of the project:

1. The capacity of local health providers to deliver perinatal health services to children and their mothers is improved.
2. Improved linkages between the health service providers and the communities they serve contribute to improved access to quality health care for mothers and neonates.

Purpose of Evaluation:

Description of the service to be provided:

Performance analysis of the SIMESON project. This will consist of

- Establishment of a comparison between the results of the base line study and end line results on the impact SIMESON
- Analysis of achievements, challenges, opportunities and risk ("SWOT" type analysis) arising from the SIMESON intervention
- Acceptability analysis of the project among stakeholders of SIMESON (National, District, CS, SBAs and beneficiaries)
- To carry out a retrospective analysis of SIMESON's cost estimates (preparation, implementation, sustainability) while comparing these costs with conventional training.

Compare experience of SIMESON in a perspective of applicability in other countries in Africa/Asia

The representative will integrate the following methodological elements:

- Document Review
- Comparative study of baseline with end-line
- Interviews with KoLs, stakeholders, beneficiaries and project staff
- Retrospective analysis of SIMESON costs
- Feedback during a feedback workshop to validate the results and conclusions

The expected deliverables are:

- A workshop to report the results of the study in Dhaka
- A feedback workshop in Kurigram and a subsequent report on the workshop findings
- A provisional evaluation report of the SIMESON project to be submitted no later than December 10, 2019
- A final evaluation report of the SIMESON project based on the structure as indicated in the ToR and incorporating the observations of the Tdh teams, to be submitted no later than December 31st, 2019.