

USAID SHUKHI JIBON PROJECT: ADOLESCENT HEALTH ACTIVITIES

PROGRAM APPROACH

DECEMBER 2019

Project Background:

The USAID Accelerating Universal Access to Family Planning (AUAFP) project, also known as Shukhi Jibon, works alongside the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) to build the responsiveness of the health care system and improve the health and human capital of Bangladeshis by increasing the use of family planning (FP) services through universal health coverage. Shukhi Jibon supports the strengthening and expansion of access to quality FP services through a collaborative health system capacity building partnership with the GOB. Together, Shukhi Jibon will accelerate progress toward increased FP utilization in Chittagong, Dhaka, Mymensingh and Sylhet divisions by providing adaptive, needs-driven technical assistance (TA) and systems strengthening at national, divisional, district, and upazila level.



The project uses a flexible implementation model - led in partnership with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW), including its National Institute of Population Research and Training (NIPORT), the Directorate General of Family Planning (DGFP), and the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). This partnership with the GOB will result in a responsive health system—ultimately advancing the Government of Bangladesh’s commitment to reproductive health for adolescents, youth, and all Bangladeshis.



The MOHFW’s progressive National Strategy for Adolescent Health 2017-2030 recognizes that adolescents lack the structural and social support to “develop their full potential” due to patriarchal social norms, poverty, and lack of education. The strategy aims to ensure that:

“By 2030 all adolescents will lead a healthy and productive life in a socially secure and supportive environment where they will have easy access to quality and comprehensive information, education, and services.”

Shukhi Jibon supports the MOHFW to strengthen its ability to provide quality information and services to adolescents and youth by more centrally positioning adolescent health needs in FP/SRH programming. The Project applies a systems approach that examines and addresses the entire sector’s ability to respond to the specific needs of adolescents and youth alongside other underserved populations, ensuring evidence-based policies and guidelines, provider competencies at multiple levels and in multiple services, supportive facility environments, effective management and

supervision (including data collection and use), and supportive community norms.

Shukhi Jibon provides targeted technical assistance to the MOHFW toward achieving the goals of the National Strategy for Adolescent Health 2017 – 2030 and the National Postpartum Family Planning Action Plan.

Key Activities include:

Introduce innovative approaches to strengthen health providers capacity to provide respectful adolescent friendly services:

- Develop age appropriate messaging for providers to use
- Introduce counseling approaches that are tailored for adolescent clients
- Promote LARCs to married adolescents and youth to delaying and spacing pregnancy
- Sensitize providers to GBV
- Build the capacity of health managers at district and upazila levels on gender-responsive adolescent and youth friendly health services
- Provide technical support in facility readiness initiatives for AYFHS
- Support initiatives for School Health Clinic’s service providers on gender-responsive AYFHS
- Revitalize community engagements:
 - Expand DGFP newlywed initiative
 - Support adolescent committees
 - Identify and engage boys

Expected Outcomes:

- Delay age at first birth
- Improved birth spacing among married adolescents
- Improved health seeking behaviour of adolescents and increased health facilities visits
- Reduced unmet need for family planning among adolescents from current 17% to 10%

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Shukhi Jibon

