

LAMB success stories 2020

In 2020, one community wholistic health initiative is through local churches, where 'Mongol Mela' (Blessings Fair) material provides simple children's scripture teaching. Church groups pursue local projects with encouragement from scripture truth. 2020



*"I have learned to study the scripture and how to make a vegetable garden in the home yard from our scripture reading group."
Kajoli, Nawabganj*



Birthing centres in Badarganj have provided health services since 1998. Caring community midwives uphold LAMB values and provide some spiritual care with the support of the local committee and community.



After receiving curative fistula repair surgery, 12 women were trained as tailors and received sewing machines. When the Covid pandemic hit NW Bangladesh, these women went to work. They produced 2500 masks, prepared and packaged for sale. LAMB coordinated with them to facilitate market linkage at no cost to the women.



Mukta Ara Akhtar stepped into her role as quality assurance coordinator for community delivery centres just as the Covid lockdown hit in March. On the job learning was propelled by the need to help design and deliver Covid 19-related practical training on PPE use, as well as strengthen the community midwives' commitment to remaining in contact with pregnant mothers. As a result, there was a less-than-expected dip in deliveries at community birth centres. Deliveries at LAMB Hospital actually increased from 2017/18 levels.

A Midwife's Duty. "At the end of April [2020], a pregnant mother came to deliver her baby at our Family Welfare Clinic. No hospitals or clinics were admitting her, as she had just returned from Dhaka, a [Covid] high-risk zone. I and my colleagues were committed to help her. That is what we were trained for. By the grace of God Almighty she delivered a healthy baby boy. Later some journalists asked why I performed the delivery knowing the woman could have been COVID-19 positive. I said that as a front-line health worker it was my duty to respond. My co-workers and I were quarantined for 15 days after the delivery. Though a difficult and uncertain time, I felt proud I could fulfill my duty."



Hand Washing Shows Love

An MBBS doctor trained at LAMB for 6 years has worked since 2019 in a Rohingya camp medical clinic. When asked what is different about his practice of medicine after his time at LAMB, he mentioned the simple practice of handwashing before seeing any patient. He observed senior physicians at LAMB regularly washing hands during rounds and in OPD, and recognized it as part of the LAMB 'culture.' It had also become his unconscious habit, that he only recognized as different seeing its contrast with his current setting. He connected this to following the example of Jesus as a servant and healer, a practical action which demonstrates the priority of God's loving care for people (and is of course a best practice in infection control). He encouraged his current employer to install washbasins in their clinic. When Covid 19 came, the clinic was ready for the increased need of handwashing. In a time of increased sensitivity to this habit, we believe this young professional is acting as a model himself.



Community Managed Health Care

Committees and groups sat with many government officials many times to finally receive authorization for local UH-FWC management committees to deploy C-SBAs for the safe delivery units to continue 24/7 services. At those close of a large project in 2020, more than 90% of UH-FWC management committees in the 6 sub-districts of Rangpur, and 100% in Parbatipur sub-district are continuing services with local funds for salaries and materials.



Churches Engage Neighbours

A local school teacher commented: “I would like to give thanks to the scripture study group for the campaign on hand washing in our school. This is a very important education initiative. I like to give thanks those who are involved with the initiative.”



5 Cents a Week Keeps Girls in School. One reason adolescent girls miss school is because of no way to manage menstrual bleeding. Engaged through an Ending Child Marriage project, one school developed a scheme where teachers contributed 25 cents a week, and girls 5 cents a week. The funds are used to purchase a supply of sanitary pads, which are given to the girls as needed. Committed teachers also made disposal arrangements.



LAMB's part in the BRACU-midwifery program and the UNFPA campaign pictured, "Leave no one Behind," demonstrate the value of midwives in key roles as part of a strategy to improve maternal and newborn survival and prevent fistula.

