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**Research and Evaluation Activities**

**by**

**Research Training and Management  
International (RTMI)**

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**Health and Population**



## Health and Population

- **Gender Identity, Employment, and Psychosocial Wellbeing (Apr'24 – Oct'24)**  
*Client: Harvard Business School*

RTM International 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)*

RTM International had recently 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)*

RTM International 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)*

RTM International recently 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)*

RTM International recently 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. Additionally, 30 interviews were conducted with service providers from all identified relevant DHT 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 RTM International 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 RTM International 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 RTM 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*

RTM International 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)*

RTM International 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. RTM 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 RTM International 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*

RTM International 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)*

RTM International 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)*

RTM International 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, Moulvibazar, 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 RTM International. The recruited data collectors from RTM collected the qualitative data (Midline and Endline), and RTM 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*

RTM International 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 RTM International 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)*

RTM International 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 RTM International 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 RTM International 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 successfully implemented an Operations Research (OR) project titled 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 the People’s Republic of Bangladesh (GoB). The project, carried out between July 2017 and June 2019, was conducted in 30 unions—15 intervention and 15 control unions—from three Upazilas (Chandpur Sadar, Kachua, and Faridganj) in Chandpur district. icddr,b partnered with RTM International and SHIMANTIK, a joint consortium, to



implement a comprehensive intervention package that targeted both facilities and communities and aimed to strengthen linkages between health facilities and communities. The facility-based interventions, which were carried out in both intervention and comparison areas, included health facility assessments, minor renovations, capacity building for service providers, and campaigns focusing on antenatal and postnatal care (ANC/PNC). Community interventions involved engaging Community Group (CG) and Community Support Group (CSG) members, as well as promoting Birth Planning, ANC, PNC, and Essential Newborn Care (ENC) counseling. The project also focused on improving referral linkages and organizing awareness days like Safe Motherhood Day and World Prematurity Day.

- **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 RTM International 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.

- **Monitored 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*

RTM International 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. RTM International 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 RTM International 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*

RTM International was engaged by Shushilan to conduct a baseline survey for the "Nirapod-2" project, aimed at empowering women in sexual and reproductive health and promoting safe options for menstrual regulation (MR) and family planning (FP). The survey, conducted from September to December 2016, covered seven districts, including Barguna, Patuakhali, and Narayanganj, to assess the current state of sexual and reproductive health services and family planning. Both quantitative and qualitative methods were utilized, involving interviews with married women of reproductive age, married men, adolescents, and garment workers. The survey gathered 2,200 quantitative data points and 51 qualitative interviews with NGO staff, government officials, and other key stakeholders.

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

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

RTM International 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)*

RTM International 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, RTM International 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.

- **Monitored 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*

RTM International was responsible for monitoring and evaluating the pilot project "Health Insurance/Card for Ready-Made Garments (RMG) Workers," conducted in partnership with Gonoshasthaya Kendra (GK) in Savar and supported by Auchan International. The project aimed to provide health insurance to RMG workers, starting with 20,000 beneficiaries in the first year and increasing by 10% annually to reach 26,000 in the fourth year. The factories involved were located around



Tongi, Konabari, Ashulia, EPZ, Hemayetpur, and Kalampur. RTM International collected monitoring data and provided feedback on key indicators, conducting four surveys over the project period. Data were gathered from 230 garment workers, along with interviews with service providers and factory managers.

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

*Client: Micronutrient Initiative*

RTM International 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.

- **Conducted 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)*

RTM International, 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*

RTM International conducted an end-line study for Marie Stopes Bangladesh titled “A Harm Reduction Approach to Improve Access to Menstrual Regulation with Medication (MRM) through Selected Pharmacies.” The study aimed to address the high rates of maternal mortality and morbidity linked to unsafe MR and abortions, particularly in areas with limited access to formal healthcare. Despite progress in maternal health, Bangladesh continued to face challenges in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) related to maternal mortality, largely due to socio-economic barriers, poor service quality, and limited awareness about safe MR practices. To reduce these risks, Marie Stopes trained 2,000 drug sellers and 60 medical representatives to improve the accessibility and safe dispensing of MRM. The project aimed to build capacity among informal healthcare providers, such as pharmacy staff, ensuring they were better equipped to offer safe services. RTM International employed a mixed-method approach to evaluate the project’s effectiveness, combining qualitative and quantitative research. Data collection included face-to-face interviews, in-depth interviews, key informant interviews (KII), and focus group discussions (FGD) with informal practitioners, private service providers, selected pharmaceutical companies, and members of the Drug-Shop Owners’ Association. Additionally, the study focused on assessing the experiences of women of reproductive age who accessed MRM services. By evaluating both the service providers and beneficiaries, RTM provided critical insights into the project's impact on improving access to safe MRM and reducing maternal health risks.

- **Conducted Mapping Study and Size Estimation of Key Populations in selected priority districts in Bangladesh** (Oct 2015-Jan 2016)  
*Client: Save the Children*

RTM International undertook a comprehensive "Mapping Study and Size Estimation of Key Populations in Selected Priority Districts" on behalf of Save the Children. Bangladesh, while maintaining a low national HIV prevalence, has specific geographical areas where key populations are at significantly higher risk due to socio-economic vulnerabilities and cultural contexts. Key populations (KPs) such as male and female sex workers, men who have sex with men (MSM), people who inject drugs (PWID), and the hijra community face disproportionate risks of HIV transmission.

The study aimed to estimate the size and geographical distribution of these KPs and young key populations (YKPs) across 21 priority districts. The districts were classified into three categories based on program concentration: high, moderate, and low. The target groups included individuals aged 10-19 and 20-24, reflecting the young population's vulnerability to HIV. RTM International used a participatory research approach, employing eight teams to conduct stakeholder meetings, identify hotspots, and locate KPs and YKPs within these areas. The study included broad mapping, participatory rural appraisals (PRA), and interviews with individuals from KPs and YKPs, service providers, and local stakeholders. The data generated were critical for guiding national HIV prevention policies and programs, as well as for monitoring progress toward the programmatic goals set by the government and development partners. The study's outcomes played a vital role in shaping targeted interventions aimed at reducing HIV transmission in these high-risk areas, ensuring that resources were allocated effectively to the most vulnerable populations.

- **Conducted a "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. RTM 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*

RTM International, 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. RTM contributed to stakeholder mapping, field team training, monitoring, and data collection. Policy advocacy was also a significant aspect, with RTM 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*

RTM International, in collaboration with icddr,b, conducted an extensive study titled "Assessment of Contribution of MoHFW to the Urban Health Services," funded through the JDFTA fund by Crown Agents. The primary focus was on the contribution of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW) in delivering healthcare services to urban populations. This was particularly critical in light of Bangladesh's rapid urbanization and the growing pressure this placed on healthcare services in urban areas. The rapid growth of urban regions necessitated a reevaluation of healthcare delivery models. The MoHFW, through its hospitals and healthcare facilities, had been offering a wide range of services, including preventive healthcare, to urban populations. However, despite the growing urban density, there was limited documentation of how these services were being utilized and what improvements were necessary to enhance service delivery.

The study's objective was to provide a comprehensive analysis of MoHFW's healthcare services in urban areas, examining both the accessibility and uptake of these services by urban residents. Specifically, it sought to determine the extent to which urban populations were utilizing public health services and how effectively MoHFW's doorstep or nearby healthcare centers were catering to these populations.

The assessment covered a broad spectrum of regions, including Dhaka, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Moulvibazar, Pirojpur, and Dinajpur districts. Both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies were applied to gather data. Through this approach, the study captured a detailed understanding of urban residents' healthcare-seeking behaviors and the challenges they faced in accessing healthcare services.

RTM International played a pivotal role in supporting field implementation and data processing. Their efforts were concentrated on identifying whether service users were urban or rural residents and determining how well the MoHFW services reached those living within reasonable distances from healthcare facilities. The findings of the study provided a clear picture of the gaps in healthcare access for urban residents and highlighted areas where improvements were urgently needed.

The study's outcomes were also instrumental in developing several policy briefs. These advocacy materials were aimed at influencing the next sector program and advocating for better healthcare services tailored to urban populations. Barriers to effective service delivery, such as the growing urban populations and the inability to maintain healthcare standards, were also thoroughly documented, providing essential insights for future planning.

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

RTM International, with financial support from Auchan Group SA, conducted the "Health Need Assessment in Textile and Hard Good Industries in Bangladesh." Auchan, a French multinational corporation and one of the world's leading retail groups, had established the foundation "Weave Our Future" in 2014 to improve the health and living conditions of workers in textiles and hard goods industries in developing countries. This initiative aimed to address the health challenges faced by workers and their families in Bangladesh's garment sector.

The primary objective of the assessment was to evaluate the health needs of workers in textile and hard goods industries, focusing on physical, psychological, and environmental health issues. Workplace accidents and related health risks were also a focal point, given the hazardous conditions many workers faced daily. The study aimed to assess the existing health facilities available to these workers and identify gaps in the services provided.

The study was conducted in 20 factories located in the districts of Dhaka, Gazipur, and Narayanganj. It involved capturing information from both factory workers and the health service providers within these factories, such as nurses and factory supervisors. This provided a comprehensive view of the health issues workers encountered and the effectiveness of the healthcare services they had access to.

The findings of the survey were crucial in understanding the health-seeking behaviors of garment workers and identifying areas where interventions were necessary. The ultimate goal was to increase workers' awareness of their health and improve access to health services through sustainable workplace programs. The study's results were instrumental in developing strategies to address the health needs of workers and improve their overall well-being, contributing to a healthier, more productive workforce in the garment sector.

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

RTM International, 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*

RTM International conducted the "Capacity Assessment of NGOs/Private Service Provider Organizations" at the request of SNV Netherlands Development Organization. The focus of this assessment was on the provision of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) services to female workers in the Ready-Made Garments (RMG) industry. The RMG industry is the largest employer of female workers in Bangladesh, most of whom come from rural and disadvantaged backgrounds. These workers face a range of health issues, including malnutrition, communicable diseases, pregnancy complications, and reproductive infections.

The purpose of the assessment was to evaluate the existing strengths, needs, and gaps of NGOs and private service providers working in this area. This would enable the design of capacity development programs aimed at improving SRHR services for female workers in RMG factories. The assessment was conducted in key RMG hubs, including Dhaka, Gazipur, Mirzapur, and Savar, where the majority of the industry is concentrated.

A total of 20 NGOs and private service providers were included in the assessment. The findings provided valuable insights into how these organizations could better align their services with the needs of the RMG industry, ensuring that female workers received the necessary SRHR services and that health and safety standards were maintained.

The assessment findings were crucial in helping to develop business models for NGOs and private service providers, based on a deep understanding of the business needs and health concerns of the RMG industry. These models aimed to build a more effective and sustainable SRHR service delivery system for female workers in the garment sector.

- **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)*

RTM International 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 RTM International 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)*

RTM International 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 RTM International 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 RTM International 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 proposed 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 RTM International 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 RTM International 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 RTM International 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*

RTM International 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)*

RTM International 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 RTM International 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*

RTM International 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*

RTM International 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*

RTM International 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. RTM International 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*

RTM International 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 SHUROKSHHA 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 RTM International. 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. RTM International 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*

RTM International conducted a study aimed at reviewing and analyzing existing policies related to eye health and assessing the level of public spending on eye health compared to other health programmes. The scope of the assignment included: i) reviewing all relevant policy documents related to eye health care, promotion, and prevention; ii) assessing the allocation of public resources for eye health, if possible, separately for prevention and treatment; iii) calculating the actual proportion of spending on eye health compared to other health programmes; iv) gathering stakeholder views and opinions for improvement in eye health promotion; and v) making recommendations for necessary policy and strategy changes for eye health promotion. Literature reviews 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*

RTM International, on assignment from the international 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, RTM International 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*

RTM International 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*

RTM International, in collaboration with ICDDR,B, 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.

RTM International 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*

RTM International, 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*

RTM International conducted an assessment study of IEC materials used in EPI programs to identify strategies for a cost-effective and sustainable IEC campaign. The team visited different sites during National Vaccination Day and interviewed staff and clients to assess the materials' effectiveness.

- **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)*

RTM International 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):

RTM International, under an agreement with the Director General of Health Services, conducted this study to improve the health status of the people of Bangladesh, particularly the poor, through enhanced access to efficient, effective, and sustainable Essential Service Delivery (ESD) services. The study utilized both primary and secondary information. Secondary data were collected through the review of

relevant documents, while primary data were gathered via field surveys of selected primary healthcare (PHC) facilities. All six divisions of Bangladesh were included to ensure the findings were nationally representative. A sample of 71 PHC facilities, including 36 Upazila Health Complexes (UHCs) and 35 Union Health and Family Welfare Centers (UHFWCs), was selected for the study.

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

RTM International 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*

RTM International 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, RTM International 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*

RTM International conducted baseline and post-evaluation surveys to assess the knowledge levels of selected target groups from six border districts in Bangladesh who received training on Avian Influenza from AED. The surveys were conducted in Jessore and Comilla districts, randomly selected from the six. The study adopted a cross-sectional design and employed qualitative approaches, including in-depth interviews.

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

The Sanitation, Hygiene Education, and Water Supply in Bangladesh (SHEWA-B) project, jointly implemented by the Department of Public Health Engineering (DPHE) and UNICEF, has been promoting handwashing with soap/ash before eating, handling food, and after defecation since 2007. RTM International was commissioned by UNICEF to pre-test a flip chart on handwashing devices to determine whether the text and images were understandable and acceptable to both Community Hygiene Promoters and Para Workers, allowing them to communicate effectively with local community members.



- **Risk Perception Analysis on HIV/AIDS among WFP beneficiaries** (Dec 2008 - Jan 2009)  
*Client: World Food Program*

RTM International conducted a study on the risk perception of HIV/AIDS among the ultra-poor women beneficiaries of the World Food Program's Vulnerable Group Development (VGD) program in the Sylhet district. The study was carried out in 13 unions across 12 upazilas of Sylhet to assess the knowledge and perception of HIV/AIDS risks. The findings were used to revise the HIV training module, leading to improved knowledge of the beneficiaries 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*

RTM International partnered with The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health to conduct a study measuring secondhand smoke exposure among employees in bars and nightclubs in Bangladesh. As part of a global study in 22 countries, 10 bars and nightclubs were selected, and interviews were conducted with up to five employees from each venue. Additionally, two nicotine air monitors were placed in different locations within each venue, and personal hair nicotine concentrations were measured by collecting approximately 50 strands of hair from the back of the employees' heads.

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

RTM International evaluated the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS3), which was conducted in 2006 to monitor child development indicators in Bangladesh. The survey was coordinated by UNICEF, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and Mitra and Associates. The RTM team conducted interviews with officials from UNICEF, BBS, and Mitra and Associates, as well as some field workers involved in the survey, in addition to reviewing key documents.

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

Under this contract, RTM International conducted a study on improving hygiene behavior in hard-to-reach areas. The study's recommendations were used to design strategies under the Sanitation, Hygiene Education, and Water Supply (SHEWA-B) project for effectively reaching underserved groups in haors, chars, and tea gardens. The project team reviewed the methodology used in SHEWA-B, assessed its effectiveness in reaching underserved populations, and recommended changes to improve the project's success. The study was conducted in Moulvibazar, Sunamgonj, Gaibandha, and Sirajgonj districts.

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

The European Union commissioned RTM International to conduct a post-implementation peer review of the Bangladesh Health Action Research Project (BHARP) led by the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B).

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

RTM International was assigned by the Health Economics Unit of MOHFW to conduct a Public Expenditure Review (PER) for 2003 in the health and population sector. The primary objectives of the PER were to assess progress towards the stated goals in health, nutrition, and population. The study utilized data from several sources, including the Central Data Processing Unit of the Controller General

of Accounts, annual budgets, and other secondary data from published reports, including the National Health Accounts (1999-2001) and previous PERs.

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

*Client: UNICEF*

RTM International compiled the Bangladesh Country Paper on maternal health, a fact sheet on progress towards Millennium Development Goal 5 (MDG5), and a summary of maternal health policies. These materials were prepared for UNICEF Headquarters for dissemination among 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*

RTM International conducted a study to evaluate the effectiveness of folk theatre as a communication tool in rural areas to disseminate messages related to Avian and Human Influenza (AHI). The messages covered themes such as general information on avian influenza, the role of migratory birds, bio-security, cleanliness, and safe cooking practices. The study's specific objectives were to assess the socio-demographic background of theatre participants, their comprehension of the messages, the recall of core messages, and the participants' attitudes toward adopting recommended practices. The study surveyed 513 participants from 14 districts across three administrative divisions of Bangladesh.

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

*Client: UNICEF*

RTM International assessed the utilization of ADP allocation for the National Sanitation Program. The study evaluated the Government of Bangladesh's initiatives related to sanitation promotion in terms of cost, efficiency, benefits, targeting, coverage, and institutional arrangements. It also reviewed public expenditure patterns and the allocation of ADP funds across different areas of the sanitation sector. The assessment covered 50 clusters, each representing 25 beneficiaries, including 20 clusters from the ESHWARA project area and 30 from non-ESHWARA areas.

- **Beneficiary Incidence Analysis** (2007)

*Client: HEU / MOHFW*

RTM International 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*

RTM International 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*

RTM International conducted a Rapid Situation Assessment (RSA) to assess the risk behaviors and networks of Most at Risk Groups (MARGs) in Jessore, Jafflong, and Burimari. The assessment aimed to strengthen HIV and STI prevention and care initiatives under the Bangladesh AIDS Program (BAP). The assessment was conducted in two phases: mapping of selected MARGs and a review of their risk behaviors.

- **Behavioral Surveillance Survey** (July 2006 - December 2007)  
*Client: Family Health International, Bangladesh Office*

RTM International carried out the sixth round of the Behavioral Surveillance Survey (BSS) to collect data from 7,167 respondents across ten high-risk population groups, including injecting drug users, heroin smokers, hijras, MSM, hotel-based sex workers, street-based sex workers, brothel-based sex workers, rickshaw pullers, and truckers. The study was conducted in multiple regions, including Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, and Khulna. The team identified approximately 48,000 individuals from 5,638 spots across these regions, with interviews conducted using tailored questionnaires for each group.

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

RTM International 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*

RTM International evaluated two government projects on reproductive health: "Capacity Development through Training for RH Program" under the Directorate General of Health Services, and "Strengthen BCC Unit to Support Advocacy Activities" under the IEM Unit of the Directorate of Family Planning. Both projects were under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

- **Formulation of Bangladesh HNPSPP monitoring and Evaluation Plan**  
(May 2005 - August 2005)  
*Client: GTZ Bangladesh / MOHFW*

RTM International worked as a resource organization for the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to design a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) plan for the Bangladesh health sector under the Health, Nutrition and Population Sector Program (HNPSPP). The project reviewed existing data sources, identified gaps, proposed rapid assessment procedures, and developed an impact evaluation plan for key health outcome indicators. This consultancy formed the foundation for the government's M&E plan in the health sector.

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

RTM International reviewed the implementation of facility-based Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI) in Bangladesh. The review focused on service provision, human resources, essential supplies, facility utilization, coverage, and quality of care.

- **Formulation of Bangladesh HNPSp monitoring and Evaluation Plan**  
(May 2005 - August 2005)  
*Client: GTZ Bangladesh / MOHFW*

RTM International 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 (HNPSp). 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*

RTM International conducted a study titled "Assessment of Injecting Drug Users' (IDUs) Sexual Network and Risk Behavior in Indonesia and Bangladesh." The study explored the sexual behaviors of IDUs, a high-risk group for HIV/AIDS transmission.

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

RTM International was part of the team that reviewed DFID's "Better Health for the Urban Poor" (BHUP) project in Bangladesh. The review aimed to inform DFID and development partners on the urban health situation and to provide lessons for future projects.

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