

July - December 2002



**PRIME II Regional Office
Asia**

Tamara Smith, Regional Director
Bangkok, Thailand
Email: tsmith@intrah.org

India Country Office

Wilda Campbell, Director
50 M Shanti Path
Gate No. 3, Niti Marg
Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110021, India
Tel: 91-11-2410-0996, 2410-9775,
2410-1541, 2410-4283, 2410-4289
Fax: 91-11-2410-0968
Email: intrah@vsnl.com

Bangladesh Country Office

Mark A. Robbins, Executive Program Advisor
Road no. 23
House no.1/A (First Floor)
Gulshan-1
Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh
Tel: 880-2-9882587,
9895056, 9895001
Fax: 880-2-988-2587
Email: prime@bol-online.com

India: Launching a New Cadre of Community Midwives

Under the USAID-funded Innovations in Family Planning Services project in Uttar Pradesh, PRIME II is helping the State Innovations in Family Planning Services Agency (SIFPSA) initiate a new cadre of community-level, private-sector midwives (CMWs). PRIME's technical assistance includes the preparation of an 18-month pre-service curriculum with a clinical manual and detailed trainers' guidelines. In addition, PRIME is helping public-sector clinical providers at selected district training sites develop the skills necessary to train CMWs in this primary health care curriculum.

The modules correspond with the job descriptions of public-sector Auxiliary Nurse-Midwives (ANMs), as the private-sector CMWs will be certified by the government of Uttar Pradesh as ANMs. The modules have been reviewed alongside national and World Health Organization (WHO) standards and a gender sensitivity tool has been applied to the entire curriculum.

The training guidelines for each module focus on participatory adult learning, hands-on skill building using models, supervised treatment of clients, and the development of trainee competency. Role plays, case studies and step-by-step instructions for developing competency in a skill are all part of this learner-focused curriculum. Besides providing supervised experience at district hospitals, the training plan includes the assignment of CMW trainees to community health centers where they are mentored by physicians. The full curriculum has been reviewed by Indian and international clinicians and health training professionals and translated from English into Hindi.

The trainees will be selected from communities currently underserved by the overworked public-sector ANMs and will be 10th class graduates with a science background. In addition to clinical skills, the curriculum will guide the CMWs in medical ethics, setting up a private clinic, establishing rates for services, and ensuring client-friendly services. There is also information on finding small loans, procuring equipment and supplies, and referring clients whose needs exceed the CMWs' skill levels. After graduation, the CMWs will meet regularly with district medical staff and receive follow-up visits at their clinics to ensure their facilities are adequate for the provision of safe, basic health care.

Project planners are hoping that before the CMWs complete their training, the governments of India and Uttar Pradesh will have revised standards and guidelines to allow CMWs to handle active management of the third stage of labor. PRIME is working with SIFPSA, WHO and members of the White Ribbon Alliance to facilitate this important policy change.



As the CMW curriculum represents a major potential resource for other efforts to educate primary providers in India, PRIME also has plans for a dissemination effort in conjunction with SIFPSA and USAID. Initial plans are to share the curriculum with key health care officials in Jharkhand, a recently created Indian state soon to receive assistance from Innovations in Family Planning Services.

Bangladesh: Workshop Sheds Light on Transfer of Learning Framework

PRIME II conducted and supported a five-day workshop on the transfer of learning for lead training organization and Technical Training Unit personnel, November 17-21, 2002. The workshop was designed to introduce the transfer of learning framework in the context of Bangladesh's performance-based, in-service training strategy and standards. The objectives of the course were to orient the participants to the concept of performance improvement and factors that influence performance; the roles of trainers, supervisors, learners, and co-workers before, during and after training; critical responsibilities and tasks as per National In-service Training Standards; and the concept of the Essential Learning Methodology.

Each day's program began with an overview of the previous day's learning, presented by the participants themselves. A mix of mostly participatory methods was used throughout the workshop, including discussion, group work and interactive presentations. Daily "mood meters" were used to gauge the overall reaction of the participants, and a final course evaluation form was completed by the participants to assess overall achievement of the course objectives.

Thailand: PRIME II Greets New Regional Director and Prepares to Open Bangkok Office

PRIME II makes its official debut in Bangkok, Thailand, in early 2003. Tamara Smith, the Regional Director for Asia, came to Intrah in December and will be the first employee in the new regional office. PRIME II joins other reproductive health organizations with Bangkok offices, including Family Health International, the Population Council and the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

Smith comes to Intrah from JHPIEGO and EngenderHealth, with a stop in Spain along the way. At JHPIEGO, she was the team leader for Asia, an experience sure to benefit her in her new role. At EngenderHealth, Smith was the Program Manager for Africa. While in Spain, she worked with chimpanzees at the largest registered chimpanzee rehabilitation center in the country. She received a BS in nutrition from the University of California at Davis and an MPH from Columbia University.



Tamara Smith is the new PRIME II Asia Regional Director.



This publication was produced by Intrah at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for the PRIME II Project and was made possible through support provided by the Center for Population, Health and Nutrition, Global Bureau, U.S. Agency for International Development, under the terms of Grant Number HRN-A-00-99-00022-00. The views expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development.