

Sukh Initiative shares its learning with different stakeholder in a seminar held in Islamabad

A seminar titled ***“Sharing Project Implementation and Post Project Impact across Different Geographies of Pakistan”*** under Sukh Initiative, was held on December 12, 2017, in Islamabad. Results of Midline Evaluation of Sukh Initiative was shared with diverse audience which included Family Planning experts, Government dignitaries and civil society representatives.

The Sukh Initiative is Pakistan’s first urban family planning project launched in November 2013 with assistance from The Aman Foundation, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and The David and Lucile Packard Foundation. The project goal is to increase prevalence of modern contraceptives by 15 percentage points, from the baseline, in selected one million, underserved peri-urban population of Karachi, Sindh. The project has successfully completed its 4 years of implementation and have demonstrated remarkable results by achieving 9 out of fifteen percentage of modern contraceptive prevalence rate in selected areas of Korangi; Landhi; Bin Qasim; and Malir.

While presenting Technical review of the project, Dr. Haris Ahmed, Head of Sukh Initiative appreciated support of Health Department, and Government of Sindh for a momentous decision to allow LHWs to provide first dose of 2 month Family Planning Injection (of Depo Provera) after training and supervision. This is a concrete contribution to FP2020 goals. He further commented, “I am honored to lead this unique project which actively engages and connects demand generation, service delivery, youth engagement, system strengthening and sustainably. With a focus on peri-urban areas in Karachi, it is essential to engage communities by acknowledging their culture, providing access and holding their hands to progress to next level of well-being. I am grateful to our supporters, Government stakeholders and our implementing partners for their commitment to make Sukh an inspiration for Family Planning projects in Pakistan.”

Dr. Yasmeen Qazi, Senior Country Advisor, David and Lucile Packard Foundation, Pakistan commented, “This project is yet another value addition to women empowerment and increased access to Family Planning services in Pakistan. Access to and provision of quality health care services is the key that can transform the population issues. We are hopeful that projects like Sukh Initiative will significantly contribute to FP2020 goals in Pakistan.”

Malik Ahmad Jalal – CEO, Aman Foundation, reflected on the project’s success. The collaborative efforts of Sukh along with the diverse portfolio of partner organizations is creating an impact with sustainable solutions. With the continued support of various stakeholders across multiple levels, he said he is confident that this program will make an indelible mark in health sector of Pakistan.

The experts said that under Sukh initiative, Aman Community health program (ACHP) trained 200 lady health workers (LHWs) of the National Program for Family Planning and Primary healthcare (LHW Program) to strengthen the program and increase their efficiency and effectiveness. These LHWs provide basic contraceptive methods like oral pills, condoms and follow-up dose of injectable contraceptives. They said that Pakistan was the sixth most populous country and was grappling with several challenges, including rapid population growth. The contraceptive prevalence³ Rate⁴ (CPR) stands at 35%, which include 26% of modern contraceptive users and 9 percent traditional users and one out of every five women in Pakistan has an unmet need for contraception.

The seminar concluded with encouragement and appreciation from all stakeholders and participants for Sukh's valuable contribution to Health Sector in Pakistan.