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Commitment to 'PMNCH Call to Action on COVID-19'

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GOB) presents its compliments to the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (PMNCH) Secretariat and has the pleasure to recapitulate its continued commitment to protect and promote holistic physical, social, and psychosocial wellbeing of its citizenry with special emphasis in ensuring maternal, neonatal, and child health, against the backdrop of COVID-19. In this connection, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh expresses its solidarity with the global community through the 'PMNCH Call to Action on COVID-19'.

Vide this endorsement, the GOB reaffirms its commitments to pursue a whole-of-government & whole-of-society approach in improving infrastructural and skill capacity and build back better through mitigating the pandemic's ramifications on maternal, newborn, and child health, leaving no one behind. In this regard, the GOB, pursuant to **Asks-1,3,4, and 5**, affirms to continue:

- **Implementation** of the coordinated National Guideline to tackle pandemic-induced maternal, neonatal, and child health crisis
- **Massive vaccination.** So far, a total of 73181 persons have been vaccinated including expecting and lactating mothers
- **Prompt healthcare** related services are rendered to women and children through telemedicine services in Maternal and Neonatal Welfare Centers, and Family Welfare Centers at the furthest localities. In this regard, a Maternal Health Voucher scheme has already been introduced in 55 Upazillas for extremely poor expecting women
- **Garnering** mass awareness through *inter-alia* TV advertisement, scrolls, drama series, physiological and psychological health services and related information, events on family planning, maternal and neonatal health, and adolescent health services, and channeling information through digital and tele mediums
- **Specialized training** to 120 nurses on Infection Prevention and Control, and almost 600 nurses and midwives were given training on handling COVID-19 patients. Also **equipping** frontline fighters with safety equipment like PPE, masks and sanitizers for their own safety
- **Utilizing** the 400 infrastructures at Districts, Upazilas, and Union level. Mentionable, the first ever 'National Institute of Advanced Nursing Education and Research (NIANER)' has already trained 3833 midwives, and 480 nurses in FY 2020-21 to ensure better services for COVID-19 patients in ICU
- **Confirming access** to contraceptives, medicines and surgical instruments, worth BDT 892,68,21,000, all over the country at free of cost
- **Supporting** forcibly displaced citizens of Myanmar with family planning, maternity, childbirth, post-pregnancy, counseling and neonatal health services free of cost

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (PMNCH) Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.



PMNCH Secretariat
Genève