

Appendix 4

Birth across the Borders 3

Aim and Objectives

Project Title: Birth across the Borders: An exploratory study of cultural and contextual challenges of maternal healthcare in Myanmar.

Funding Organisation: Global Challenges Research Fund Global Health call

Deadline for application: October 2018

Aim: To explore the cultural and contextual challenges of maternal healthcare between ethnic groups in remote areas of Myanmar

Overall Objectives:

- 1) Complete a Systematic Review of literature related to maternal healthcare in Myanmar with a focus on cultural practices
- 2) Analyse the current health systems and policies related to maternal healthcare in Myanmar
- 3) Build partnerships and capacity and evaluate the service provision of maternal healthcare for Burmese and ethnic groups in remote areas of Myanmar
- 4) Explore the cultural and contextual influences in maternal healthcare in within ethnic groups in Myanmar. Develop an action plan for implementation of local initiatives to improve service provision, training and delivery
- 5) Develop a conceptual model for maternal healthcare in ethnically diverse settings.

Using Hodges (1989) model of structure and domain to guide the process the following objectives have been agreed.

Objective 1: Conduct a rapid appraisal of literature on maternal healthcare in Myanmar.

- a) Search 4 databases for research related to maternal health
- b) Examine papers for relevance to maternal health, policy and practices
- c) Identify qualitative papers related to maternal healthcare in Myanmar

Objective 2: A health needs and policy analysis will be undertaken to examine the political and government policies and practices.

- a) Collect and analyse all national public policy related to maternal and infant healthcare
- b) Analyse and map all maternal healthcare provision at primary, secondary and tertiary levels of care
- c) Map statistics, methods and reliability of all data collection of maternal and infant health rates including MMR and IMR. This will include socio-economic data related to maternal mortality

Objective 3: Community needs assessment

- a) Identify and map all healthcare providers of maternal and infant healthcare
- b) Map all providers of maternal health education at government and NGO levels
- c) Map community level provision of healthcare (access to care, skills base etc)
- d) Completion of 3 focus groups (n=5 per group) of midwives in three areas of Myanmar to identify key issues that need to be addressed to facilitate them in delivering or providing more evidence-informed, relevant and timely care to mothers and families they serve in their local communities.

Objective 4: Ethnographic study of women's experiences and cultural practices

- a) Map individual care of mothers during and after birth in each ethnic context (5 ethnic groups: Burman, Shan, Mon, Karen, Kachin)
- b) Identify cultural and contextual practices and beliefs related to maternal and infant health in ethnic conflict settings of Myanmar
- c) Examine family practices and customs through interviews with women (n=10 per group)
- d) Identify common cultural beliefs and practices to facilitate the design of a maternal health care programme relevant and applicable to the ethnically diverse population of Myanmar

Objective 5: Conceptual model for maternal healthcare in ethnically diverse settings

Synthesize all data obtained and develop a conceptual framework to describe the context of maternity care within ethnically diverse settings

- a) Identify and examine maternal healthcare models
- b) Collate all data from the study and examine the layers and complexity from emerging data
- c) Examine theoretical models of health for transfer ability to maternal health care

Outcomes

Outcomes from this research may include education programmes in emergency obstetric and maternal health for traditional birth attendants and midwives practicing in remote areas and a maternal health education programme designed to identify common cultural values and distinct ethnic beliefs and practices which may be incorporated to increase relevancy and knowledge and to reduce poor maternal health outcomes. Policy recommendations may also be developed in partnership with local stakeholders within Myanmar.

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