



Brief on PPD's Activities under STEP-UP Project

Project Title:	Strengthening Evidence for Programming on Unintended Pregnancy (STEP-UP Project)
Donor:	DFID (through Population Council as the lead)
Duration:	6 years (2011-2016 but current funding for PPD is up to June 2013)
Beneficiary Countries:	Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Ghana and Senegal

What Is STEP-UP

The STEP UP (Strengthening Evidence for Programming on Unintended Pregnancy) Research Program is commenced to generate policy-relevant research to promote an evidence-based approach for improving access to family planning and safe abortion. The **goal** of the project is to improve the health of the poorest and most vulnerable, particularly women, in the developing world. STEP UP activities are focused in **five countries (Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Kenya, and Senegal)**. The project is coordinated by Population Council (as the lead) in partnership with Partners in Population and Development, the African Population and Health Research Center; ICDDR-B; the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Marie Stopes International. STEP UP, funded by UKaid from the Department for International Development. STEP-UP will strengthen evidence based programming through a coordinated series of activities leading to the delivery of **four integrated outputs**:

- A coherent body of robust research based evidence generated (policy-relevant research) for strengthening and broadening RH program to reduce unintended pregnancies.
- High quality, policy and program relevant evidence effectively communicated.
- Capacity of STEP-UP partners and stakeholders increased to identify, generate, communicate and use evidence for policy and programming.
- Partnerships and networking strengthened to enable demand for and uptake of evidence.

The Role of PPD In STEP-UP Project

- PPD is engaged in increasing research uptake through its stakeholders' meetings and other channels of communication to ensure its relevance and utilization.
- STEP-UP activities should strengthen decision maker's capacity to use evidence based research for programming, increasing resources and policy making.
- PPD will engage in intensive advocacy and discussions with its governance constituency and provide technical assistance to translate the research based evidence into decision making processes in order to strengthen service delivery guidelines, protocols and practices.

Activities of PPD under STEP-UP Project

1. Validation/endorsement of the Country Profiles in Bangladesh, India and Kenya

Consortium partners are engaged in preparing country profiles in Bangladesh (ICDDR & Population Council) and India (Population Council). The country profiles will address the status of and identify the gaps in services and policies pertinent to family planning and safe abortion in the project implementation countries. After receiving the draft from the partners, PPD will conduct the following activities for their validation:

- Organize Partner Country Coordinator (PCC) and other stakeholder briefing meetings to review country profiles, provide inputs, identify gaps and ensure that country needs are addressed.



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- PCCs will coordinate to validate/endorse the country profiles in Bangladesh, India and Kenya.
- PPD and PCCs will work together to produce policy briefs and messages focusing on salient issues for policy decisions.
- PCCs will coordinate and support PPD to forward the policy briefs and messages to the honorable PPD board members/health ministers.
- Based on the ministers' commitments and willingness, PCCs may constitute a drafting or review committee for drafting/reviewing policy decisions or guidelines and advocate with the policy makers.
- Disseminate the policy briefs and messages during PPD events

2. **Communicate STEP UP framework and evidence with PCCs of 25 member countries in Bangladesh (PPD SEC, Bangladesh)**

A dissemination meeting will be organized with PPD Partner Country Coordinators to share evidence upon completion of the research activity during PPD's annual governance meetings to be held in November 2012 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

3. **Communicate STEP UP issues through PPD International Conference and PPD Governance Meetings (Bangladesh)**

Research findings will be presented at PPD annual international conference on "Sharing Evidence Based Information, SRH Policy and Programs in Developing Countries" in Dhaka Bangladesh in November 2012 where STEP-UP representatives will be invited as keynote speakers

4. **Meeting and discussions with National Taskforce for South-South Cooperation in Bangladesh, India and Ghana (PPD SEC and PPD ARO)**

PPD will disseminate evidence through PPD National Taskforces (NTF) Meetings in Bangladesh, India and Ghana to support the use of STEP-UP generated research evidence for decision-making and to monitor the success of its activities. The NTF meetings are scheduled once in every six months in the PPD lead countries. PCCs from Bangladesh, India and Ghana will coordinate the meetings with the NTF.

5. **Share STEP-UP evidence based information with its existing networks at regional and international levels (PPD SEC and PPD ARO)**

PPD will share STEP-UP evidence based information with its existing networks at regional and international levels including the UN permanent observer position based in the PPD New York, Eastern African Reproductive Health Network, Western African Reproductive Health Network, Southern Eastern African Parliamentary Alliance of Committees of Health, African Union, other regional bodies and African First Ladies.

6. **Share policy briefs and documents with Ministers and PPD Board (PPD SEC and PPD ARO)**

PPD will share policy briefs through e-mails, PPD web, SharePoint, PPD Watch etc.

Contact/STEP UP project senior management team member

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