

Annex: Private sector engagement to deliver maternal, newborn, child health and family planning services during COVID-19 in Uganda, Bangladesh and Pakistan

Introduction

The spread of COVID-19 - together with the need to harmonize national and international health emergency response - has made clear that efforts to achieve Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and to respond to health crises are reliant on a whole-of-society approach. Leveraging the private sector for healthcare service delivery is key to advance the UHC agenda and to efficiently respond to health emergencies, ensuring that all health-related services and goods are available, accessible, acceptable, and high-quality for all, irrespective of where people seek care.

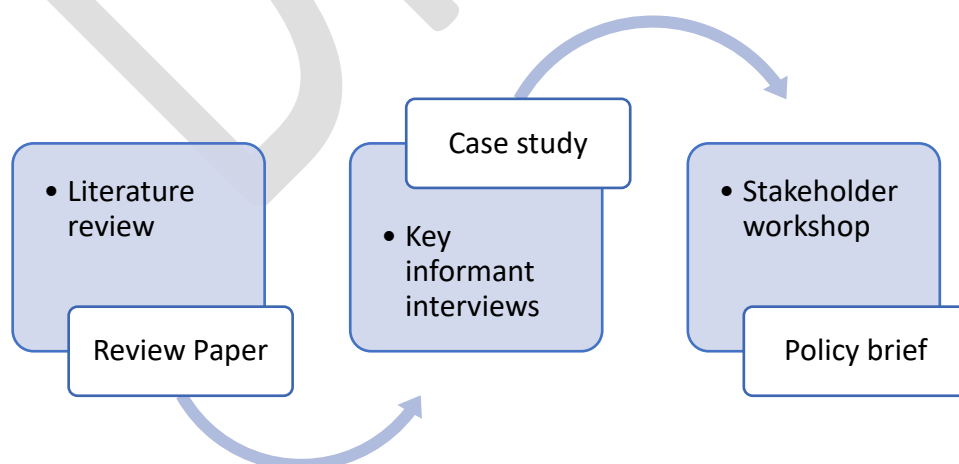
In this context, teams at WHO have intensified their work on private sector engagement to achieve UHC goals. The Health System Governance and Financing (HGF) department in 2020 launched the WHO Private Health Sector for COVID-19 Initiative (WHO-PCI) to offer rapid, real-time, evidence-based, and tailored support for countries to better respond to the pandemic and to prepare their health systems for the post COVID-19 period. Likewise, the department of Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health and Ageing (MCA) has been supporting 19 countries in five regions to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on essential maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH) and family planning (FP) services.

Building on the existing efforts of HGF and MCA, this study will document the experience, benefits, challenges and lessons of engaging with the private sector to maintain the delivery and use of MNCH and FP services and protect UHC outcomes (quality, access, financial protection) during and post-COVID-19 pandemic. Three countries, corresponding to three different WHO regions, have been selected for this study: Bangladesh, Pakistan and Uganda.

This annex summarises the approach and methodology for the study. The search strategies used for the literature review are also provided.

Approach to the study

The approach will entail the development of sequential products to facilitate progressive and diverse engagement of country stakeholders (Figure 1). This approach was adopted to promote ownership of the findings, and co-creation of policy recommendations.



1. Literature review and paper

A literature search was performed in August 2021 utilising a comprehensive search strategy on the WHO COVID-19 electronic bibliographic database for articles published between January 2020 and June 2021. The search strategy was developed with Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) and text words, using Boolean operators to combine the search strings. We initially combined private sector with MNCH and FP terms in the WHO COVID-19 electronic bibliographic database search string. However, this combination produced zero results so private sector-related terms were subsequently removed as a filter in the WHO COVID-19 electronic bibliographic database. In parallel, we performed a google scholar search through Publish or Perish software, filtered per country of interest – i.e. Bangladesh, Pakistan or Uganda – applying a detailed search string.

The two searches produced 257 citations for Uganda, 295 for Bangladesh and 392 for Pakistan. We used Rayyan as support software to screen and select the studies identified through the strategy search. Through Rayyan the titles and abstracts of the articles were firstly screened with the aim to exclude articles with titles and/or abstracts unrelated to essential service delivery during COVID-19. Through the search and screening process, we identified 18 citations for full analysis in Uganda, 24 for Bangladesh while screening and 32 for Pakistan.

Uganda citations: These included eight research articles (inclusive of one modelling impact on essential services), five commentaries (one was not specific to Uganda but included two authors from Uganda) and six articles from the grey literature; these included Government of Uganda guiding documents, a case study and presentations/reports. The research literature covered communicable diseases (HIV, malaria), non-communicable diseases (cancer), maternal, neonatal, child, sexual and reproductive health as well as cross cutting areas (self-medication, equity and human rights). The literature included a mix of Ugandan and international authors but was predominantly based on Ugandan authorship.

Bangladesh citations: In total 24 articles were included in the literature review. These included 10 research articles, seven commentaries, five reviews, one regional WHO assessment and one Government of Bangladesh guideline on the national preparedness and response plan for COVID-19. The research literature covered non-communicable diseases (cancer, diabetes), nutrition, maternal, neonatal, child, sexual and reproductive health. There was a systems, service delivery and equity focus. The literature was predominantly Bangladeshi; authors were academics, medical or programme professionals based in country and from the diaspora.

Pakistan citations: In total 32 articles were included in the literature review. These included 10 research articles, 10 commentaries, 11 reviews and one Government of Pakistan guideline on the national preparedness and response plan for COVID-19. The research literature covered maternal, neonatal, child, sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning, abortion care routine immunisation and polio campaigns, as well as communicable diseases, such as TB. There was a policy, systems, service delivery and equity focus. The literature was predominantly Pakistani; authors were academics, medical or programme professionals based in country and from the diaspora.

2. Key informant interviews and case study

The literature review informed the 2nd phase of the study which entailed key informant interviews and the development of a country case study. We sought diversity in respondents, from the public and private sectors as well as service user perspectives through representative organisations. The

relative weight of informant category varied by country, informed through country consultation. Respondents were also identified through the literature review based on the relevance of their research to the study. WHO headquarter and national ethical clearance was sought as part of this phase of the study from respective ethics review committees.

In collaboration with WHO Regional and interested Country Office, individuals for participation in the key informant interviews will be identified. Eligible interview participants will be selected purposively using a sampling matrix (Table 1) to capture a range of viewpoints and experiences on the engagement with the private sector in health. Key informants will be identified so that there is at least one respondent for each category listed in the sampling matrix.

Table 1. *Key Informant Interview sampling matrix*

User Representatives	MoH representative	PS for-profit representative	PS not-for profit representative	Public sector healthcare representative	Community-based representative
Women Association	PS focal point	Hospital/facility director	Faith-based facilities/Non-governmental facility director	Hospital/facility director	Community-based healthcare representative (rural)
International and national NGOs promoting and advancing MNCH in the country.	M&E responsible	Healthcare rural service provider	Healthcare rural service provider	Healthcare rural service provider	Community-based healthcare representative (urban)
CSOs/CBOs representatives	MNCH focal point	Healthcare urban service provider	Healthcare urban service provider	Healthcare urban service provider	
		PS Association representative	PS Association representative		

A participants information sheet together with the Informed Consent Form will be sent to the identified key informants, with the aim to provide them with adequate background on the study and on their rights in case they agree to participate.

Interviews will be carried out using a semi-structured interview guide. Information collected will be stored anonymously in an extraction sheet to capture relevant findings. Qualitative analysis will be then performed to review the data collected and compiled for the draft final documents; these will be reviewed by two independent experts to ensure accuracy.

3. Stakeholder workshops and policy briefs

A multi-stakeholder workshop will be held to validate findings from the literature review and case study, distil insights and policy recommendations. The output of the workshop will be the formulation of a policy brief to improve engagement of the private sector for the delivery of essential health services. Finally, country literature reviews and case studies will be used to prepare a manuscript for peer-review publication.

Search strategies

WHO COVID-19 Database

<https://search.bvsalud.org/global-literature-on-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov/>

Concept	Search string	Results 24.08.2021
#1 - MNCH Specific	<p>MNCH OR Antenatal OR antepartum OR Pregnant OR Pregnac* OR birth* OR childbirth OR intrapartum OR matern* OR obstetric* OR Parturition OR perinatal OR mother* OR newborn* OR infant* OR neonat* OR *natal OR Childhood OR OR Postnatal OR Postpartum* OR *partum OR puerper* OR gestation* OR "child bearing" OR childbearing OR gynaecol* OR Cesarean OR caesarean OR "Abdominal Deliveries" OR "Abdominal Delivery" OR "Post caesarean"</p> <p>OR "Family Planning" OR contracepti* OR malnutrition OR reproductive OR fertility OR Vagina* OR Childcare OR "child care" OR "Pediatric surgery" OR "routine immunization" OR "routine vaccination"</p>	
MNCH Sensitive	<p>MNCH OR Antenatal OR antepartum OR Pregnant OR Pregnac* OR birth* OR childbirth OR intrapartum OR matern* OR obstetric* OR Parturition OR perinatal OR mother* OR newborn* OR infant* OR neonat* OR *natal OR Childhood OR fetal OR fetus OR Postnatal OR Postpartum* OR *partum OR puerper* OR gestation* OR "child bearing" OR childbearing OR gynaecol* OR Cesarean OR caesarean OR "Abdominal Deliveries" OR "Abdominal Delivery" OR "Post caesarean" OR *eclampsia OR parturition OR Miscarriage OR "induced labour" OR "induced labor" OR preterm OR Gravidity OR placenta* OR umbilical</p> <p>OR "Family Planning" OR contracepti* OR malnutrition OR reproductive OR fertility OR Vagina* OR cervix OR cervical OR *uterine OR Childcare OR "child care" OR "Pediatric surgery" OR "routine immunization" OR "routine vaccination"</p> <p>OR "folic acid" OR "B12" OR syphilis OR Chlamydia OR Gonorrh* OR toxoplasma* OR HPV OR Papilloma\$virus OR "Papilloma virus" OR sexual* OR Condom OR Condoms OR Diaphragm OR "Cervical Cap" OR "Vaginal sponge" OR Diaphragms OR "Cervical Caps" OR "Vaginal sponges" OR "Birth Control" OR Contraceptive OR Contraceptives OR "Psychosexual Dysfunctions" OR Abortion OR abortions OR dystocia OR embryo OR embryos OR Amniotic OR "obstructed labour" OR "obstructed labor" OR Postcesarean OR Postcaesarean OR "Post cesarean" OR "C-sections" OR "C-section"</p> <p>OR Mumps OR measles OR Rubella OR MMR OR OPV OR Polio OR rotavirus OR Rotarix OR Diptheria OR tetanus OR Pertussis OR "whooping cough" OR DPT OR Meningococcal OR Pneumococcal OR HiB OR HepB OR PCV13 OR "vaccination of children" OR ("hepatitis B"</p>	30,012

	OR "hepatitis C" OR "hep b" OR "hep C" OR HPV OR "haemophilus influenzae") AND (vaccin* OR immuniz* OR inocul*))	
#2 - Pakistan	Pakistan OR pakistani* OR Pashtun* OR Niazi* OR OR "Azad Jammu AND Kashmir" OR Balochistan OR "Gilgit-Baltistan" OR "Islamabad Capital Territory" OR "Khyber Pakhtunkhwa" OR Khyber OR "Azad Kashmir" OR Karachi OR Lahore OR Faisalabad OR Rawalpindi OR Pakhtunkhwa OR Gujranwala OR Gilgit OR Peshawar OR Multan OR Islamabad OR Quetta OR Bahawalpur OR Sargodha OR Sialkot OR Sukkur OR Larkana OR Sheikhupura OR "Rahim Yar Khan" OR "Dera Ghazi Khan" OR "Wah Cantonment" OR Mingora OR Nawabshah OR Chiniot OR Kāmoke OR Hafizabad OR Sadiqabad OR "Mirpur Khas" OR Burewala OR Khanewal OR "Dera Ismail Khan" OR Muzaffargarh OR Abbotabad OR "Mandi Bahauddin" OR Shikarpur OR Jacobabad OR Jhelum OR Khanpur OR Khairpur OR Khuzdar OR Pakpattan OR Muridke OR Bahawalnagar OR Samundri OR "Tando Allahyar" OR "Tando Adam" OR Jaranwala OR Chishtian OR Muzaffarabad OR Attock OR Vehari OR "Kot Abdul Malik" OR Ferozwala OR Chakwal OR "Gujranwala Cantonment" OR Kamalia OR Umerkot OR "Ahmedpur East" OR "Kot Addu" OR Wazirabad OR Mansehra OR Layyah OR Mirpur OR Taxila OR Nowshera OR Shahdadt OR Mianwali OR Lodhran OR Hasilpur OR Charsadda OR Bhakkar OR Arif Wala OR Ghotki OR Sambrial OR Haroonabad OR Daharki OR Narowal OR "Tando Muhammad Khan" OR "Kamber Ali Khan" OR "Mirpur Mathelo" OR Kandhkot OR Bhalwal OR Jhang OR Gujrat OR Mardan OR Kasur OR Kotri OR Turbat OR Daska OR Gojra OR Kohat OR Khushab OR Kabal OR Swabi OR Chaman	
#3	#1 AND #2	192
#4 Bangladesh	Bangladesh* OR Bangladesh* OR Bangladesh* OR Bengali* OR Bangla OR Barisal OR Chittagong OR Dhaka OR Khulna OR Mymensingh OR Rajshahi OR Rangpur OR Sylhet OR Gazipur OR Khulna OR Narayanganj OR Comilla OR Bogra OR Kushtia OR Jessore OR "Cox's Bazar" OR Manikganj OR Brahmanbaria OR Dinajpur OR Nawabganj OR Tangail OR Sirajganj OR Chandpur OR Jamalpur OR Naogaon OR Narsingdi OR Pabna OR Maijdee OR Faridpur OR Jhenaidah OR Satkhira OR Chowmuhani OR Kishoreganj OR Bhairab OR Saidpur OR Savar OR Siddhirganj OR Kaliakair OR Chuadanga OR Sreepur OR Bhola OR Patuakhali OR Pirojpur OR Jhalokati OR Barguna OR Amtali OR Bakerganj OR "Char Fasson" OR Gournadi OR Swarupkati OR Kuakata OR Muwallad OR Bhandaria OR Mathbaria OR Lalmohan OR Borhanuddin OR Daulatkhan OR Banaripara OR Mehendiganj OR Nalchity OR Patharghata OR Kalapara OR Betagi OR Chhagalnaiya OR Daganbhuiyan OR Parshuram OR Sonagazi OR Bandarban OR Khagrachhari OR Rangamati OR Rangunia OR Sandwip OR Fatikchhari	

	<p>OR "Kazirhat" OR Baroiyarhat OR Mirsharai OR Sitakunda OR Hathazari OR Raozan OR Patiya OR "Brahmanpara Upazila" OR Chandanaish OR Satkania OR Boalkhali OR Akhaura OR Sarail OR Chowmuhan OR Laksam OR Hatiya OR Maijdee OR Lakshmipur OR Burichong OR Ghorashal OR Monohardi OR Shibpur OR Raipura OR Madhabdi OR Mirzapur OR Dhanbari OR Madhupur OR Gopalpur OR Ghatail OR Kalihati OR Bhuapur OR Karatia OR Aricha OR Basail OR Bhairab OR Kishoreganj OR Pakundia OR Manikganj OR Munshiganj OR Gopalganj OR Shariatpur OR Madaripur OR Rajbari OR Baliakandi OR Pangsha OR Bagherhat OR Chuadanga OR "Darshana, Chuadanga" OR Jhenaidah OR Kaliganj OR Magura OR Meherpur OR Narail OR Noapara OR Shatkira OR Shambhuganj OR Muktagachha OR Bhaluka OR Gouripur OR Phulpur OR Trishal OR Nandail OR Gaffargaon OR Ishwarganj OR Haluaghat OR Fulbaria OR Netrokona OR Sherpur OR Joypurhat OR Rahanpur OR Khetlal OR Akkelpur OR Panchbibi OR Mundumala OR Naogaon OR Natore OR Shahjadpur OR Ullapara OR Iswardi OR Santhia OR Dhunat OR "Sherpur, Bogra" OR Tanore OR Gaibandha OR Kurigram OR Lalmonirhat OR Nilphamari OR Panchagarh OR Thakurgaon OR Saidpur OR Ulipur OR Nageshwari OR Parbatipur OR Badarganj OR Pirganj OR Patgram OR Fulbari OR Golapganj OR Habiganj OR Maulvibazar OR Sreemangal OR Sunamganj OR Beanibazar OR Barlekha OR Zakiganj OR Chhatak OR Balagonj OR Osmaninogor OR Joggonathpur OR Bisawanth</p>	
#5	#1 AND #4	95
#6 Uganda	<p>Uganda OR Uganda* OR Ugandan* OR Wakiso OR Mbarara OR Mukono OR Gulu OR Buikwe OR Kasese OR Busoga OR Bunyoro OR Buganda OR Rwenzururu Kampala OR Nansana OR Ssabagabo OR Mbarara OR Mukono OR Njeru OR Gulu OR Lugazi OR Kasese OR Hoima OR Mityana OR Mubende OR Masindi OR Mbale OR Jinja OR Entebbe OR Kitgum OR Adjumani OR Alebtong OR Amolatar OR Amuria OR Amuru OR Arua OR Budaka OR Bugembe OR Bugiri OR Buikwe OR Bukedea OR Bukomansimbi OR Bukungu OR Buliisa OR Bundibugyo OR Busembatya OR Bushenyi OR Busolwe OR Butaleja OR Buwenge OR Buyende OR Dokolo OR Elegu OR Entebbe OR "Fort Portal" OR "Gombe, Butambala" OR Hoima OR Ibanda OR Iganga OR Isingiro OR Jinja OR Kaabong OR Kabale OR Kaberamaido OR Kabuyanda OR Kabwohe OR Kagadi OR Kakinga OR Kakira OR Kakiri OR Kalangala OR Kaliro OR Kalisizo OR Kalongo OR Kalungu OR Kamuli OR Kamwenge OR Kanoni OR Kanungu OR Kapchorwa OR Kasese OR Katakwi OR Kayunga OR Kibaale OR Kibingo OR Kiboga OR Kihiihi OR Kiruhura OR Kiryandongo OR Kisoro OR Kitgum OR Koboko OR Kotido OR Kumi OR Kyazanga OR Kyegegwa OR Kyenjojo OR Kyotera OR Lugazi OR Lukaya OR Luweero OR Lwakhakha OR Lwengo OR Lyantonde OR Malaba OR Manafwa OR Masaka OR Masindi OR Masindi Port OR Masulita OR Matugga OR Mayuge OR Mbale OR</p>	

	Mbarara OR Mitooma OR Mityana OR Moroto OR Mpigi OR Mpondwe OR Mubende OR Mukono OR Mutukula OR Nagongera OR Nakaseke OR Nakapiripirit OR Nakasongola OR Namayingo OR Namayumba OR Namutumba OR Nansana OR Nebbi OR Ngora OR Njeru OR Nkokonjeru OR Ntungamo OR Oyam OR Pader OR Paidha OR Pakwach OR Pallisa OR Rakai OR Rukungiri OR Rwimi OR Sembabule OR Sironko OR Soroti OR Ssabagabo OR Tororo OR Wakiso OR Wobulenzi	
#7	#1 AND #6	57

Google Scholar

Concept	Search string
#1- COVID	COVID* OR corona* OR "sars cov"
#2 – Private organization terms	"private health" OR "public-private" OR "for profit" OR enterprise* OR NGO* OR "non-government" OR "Non governmental" OR self-financ* OR charit* OR "Faith-based" OR "private organizations" OR "private organisations" OR "private organization" OR "private organisation" OR "profit-driven" OR "Private Sector"
#3 – MNCH	MNCH OR Antenatal OR antepartum OR Pregnant OR Pregnac* OR birth* OR childbirth OR intrapartum OR matern* OR obstetric* OR Parturition OR perinatal OR mother* OR newborn* OR infant* OR neonat* OR *natal OR Childhood OR Postnatal OR Postpartum* OR *partum OR puerper* OR gestation* OR "child bearing" OR childbearing OR gynaecol* OR Cesarean OR caesarean OR "Abdominal Deliveries" OR "Abdominal Delivery" OR "Post caesarean" OR "Family Planning" OR contracepti* OR malnutrition OR reproductive OR fertility OR Vagina* OR Childcare OR "child care" OR "Pediatric surgery" OR "routine immunization" OR "routine vaccination"
#4- Country	Pakistan* / Uganda* / Blangadesh*
#5 – Combined below	#1 AND #2 AND #3 AND #4
Combined	filetype:pdf Uganda* AND ((COVID* OR corona* OR "sars cov") AND (("private health" OR "public-private" OR "for profit" OR enterprise* OR NGO* OR "non-government" OR "Non governmental" OR self-financ* OR charit* OR "Faith-based" OR "private organizations" OR "private organisations" OR "private organization" OR "private organisation" OR "profit-driven" OR "Private Sector")) AND (MNCH OR Antenatal OR antepartum OR Pregnant OR Pregnac* OR birth* OR childbirth OR intrapartum OR matern* OR obstetric* OR Parturition OR perinatal OR mother* OR newborn* OR infant* OR neonat* OR *natal OR Childhood OR Postnatal OR Postpartum* OR *partum OR puerper* OR gestation* OR "child bearing" OR

	<p> childbearing OR gynaecol* OR Cesarean OR caesarean OR "Abdominal Deliveries" OR "Abdominal Delivery" OR "Post caesarean" OR "Family Planning" OR contracepti* OR malnutrition OR reproductive OR fertility OR Vagina* OR Childcare OR "child care" OR "Pediatric surgery" OR "routine immunization" OR "routine vaccination"))) </p> <p>-----</p> <p> filetype:pdf Pakistan* AND ((COVID* OR corona* OR "sars cov") AND (("private health" OR "public-private" OR "for profit" OR enterprise* OR NGO* OR "non- government" OR "Non governmental" OR self-financ* OR charit* OR "Faith-based" OR "private organizations" OR "private organisations" OR "private organization" OR "private organisation" OR "profit-driven" OR "Private Sector")) AND (MNCH OR Antenatal OR antepartum OR Pregnant OR Pregnac* OR birth* OR childbirth OR intrapartum OR matern* OR obstetric* OR Parturition OR perinatal OR mother* OR newborn* OR infant* OR neonat* OR *natal OR Childhood OR Postnatal OR Postpartum* OR *partum OR puerper* OR gestation* OR "child bearing" OR childbearing OR gynaecol* OR Cesarean OR caesarean OR "Abdominal Deliveries" OR "Abdominal Delivery" OR "Post caesarean" OR "Family Planning" OR contracepti* OR malnutrition OR reproductive OR fertility OR Vagina* OR Childcare OR "child care" OR "Pediatric surgery" OR "routine immunization" OR "routine vaccination"))) </p> <p>-----</p> <p> filetype:pdf Bangladesh* AND ((COVID* OR corona* OR "sars cov") AND (("private health" OR "public-private" OR "for profit" OR enterprise* OR NGO* OR "non- government" OR "Non governmental" OR self-financ* OR charit* OR "Faith-based" OR "private organizations" OR "private organisations" OR "private organization" OR "private organisation" OR "profit-driven" OR "Private Sector")) AND (MNCH OR Antenatal OR antepartum OR Pregnant OR Pregnac* OR birth* OR childbirth OR intrapartum OR matern* OR obstetric* OR Parturition OR perinatal OR mother* OR newborn* OR infant* OR neonat* OR *natal OR Childhood OR Postnatal OR Postpartum* OR *partum OR puerper* OR gestation* OR "child bearing" OR childbearing OR gynaecol* OR Cesarean OR caesarean OR "Abdominal Deliveries" OR "Abdominal Delivery" OR "Post caesarean" OR "Family Planning" OR contracepti* OR malnutrition OR reproductive OR fertility OR Vagina* OR Childcare OR "child care" OR "Pediatric surgery" OR "routine immunization" OR "routine vaccination"))) </p>
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