

“Char Maqzak and Safid Chehr clinics opened the doors for around 250 pregnant women, their mother in laws and school girls”

Safe Motherhood is more than the prevention of death and disability...It is respect for every woman's humanity, feelings, choices, and preferences. Therefore, it is essential need to mobilize communities to demand respectful maternity care and discuss about fears on disrespect, abuse (D&A), misconceptions and barriers about the procedures required to assist women during childbirth negatively influence their decisions to seek care at a health facility.

Maternity Open Day is part of the respectful maternity care (RMC) Resource Package and focuses on policy, health system and community levels. The package includes the most effective interventions, and provides practical, low cost, and easily adaptable strategies for facilities and communities to reduce disrespectful and abusive treatment during childbirth.

The Maternity open Day (MoD) as part of Respectful Maternity Care (RMC) was held in Char Maqzak and Safid Chehr CHC of Panjshir province on 15th and 17th August 2016. Around 250 pregnant women, their mothers in law and school girls attended the program to interact with health care providers and visit the health facility including maternity unit to demystify birthing practices, mitigate any fears regarding childbirth, and raise the mothers concerns and challenges for providing high quality respectful cares.

In traditional society like Panjshir, always it is difficult to bring women together. But the Maternity Open Days in Panjshir province provide an opportunity for pregnant women, their mothers in law and school girls to have a tour inside the clinic including maternity unit to see the facilities for birthing practices, raise any fears or concerns regarding childbirth for providing high quality respectful cares in Char Maqzak and Safid Chehr clinics.

Bibi Asia -50 years old Woman- from Keraman village: “It is the first time that we have a group of delegates from MoPH to come here and sit with us and hear the problems. So I walked 5 hours to come here

To improve relation between health facility and community, coordination meetings with Panjshir PHD, health Shora, community elders conducted in both districts. Meanwhile, a joint group from AMA and HEMAYAT conducted a

several coordination meetings with Panjshir Provincial Council and Women Affairs Directorate, Girls high schools to have multi-sectoral approaches to promote RMC and mobilize community to attend the program.

Susan representative of Panjshir women affairs directorate: "I think this program is a good initiative to bring women together and enable them to walk around the clinic, to discuss about the services, to know about their rights and then finally share their fears and expectation about the level of