

Midwives Service Scheme

The programme continues to support the deployment of midwives and CHEWs under the Midwives Service Scheme. Key activities include supervisory visits and in-service training. MSS midwives are also encouraged to keep reflective diaries.

Problems experienced by the midwives continue to be largely administrative and systems related: e.g. payment issues, accommodation, poor working environment. Although there has been progress in most of these areas, it is critical to continuously monitor these aspects so as to retain these important health workers.

“Most of the facilities are not connected with the National grid and so, no electricity; in some there are generators supplied but they are not functioning for reasons like lack of fuel, or some minor mechanical faults, making shift duty so difficult especially in the night... as a result deliveries and other MCH care is provided in the night using torch light.”¹

Many of the midwives found the use of the reflective diaries particularly beneficial.

“By keeping a reflective diary you can go back to reflect on what you wrote with a view to improving the practice, you can also see it as learning from experience, looking at what happened you can also go back to read your books to improve on the procedure.”

¹ Quotes from the report on the in-service workshop for MSS midwives in late 2011