Project NIGRAAN: Addressing Structural Gaps in Supervisory System of Pakistan's Lady Health Worker Program to Achieve MDG 4

Department: Community Health Sciences
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NIGRAAN is an implementation research project being conducted in district Badin in Sindh province of Pakistan.

Project Aim:
NIGRAAN aims to provide an opportunity for improving structured supportive supervision of lady health workers (LHWs) by lady health supervisors (LHS) in order to reduce deaths due to pneumonia and diarrhea in children under five.

Study Objectives:
1. To assess stakeholder (decision makers, implementers, LHSs, LHWs) perspectives regarding an evidence-based supervisory intervention to improve LHW performance
2. To study the effect of promoting context-specific *"structured supportive supervision"* of LHWs by LHS for reducing pneumonia and diarrhea in children under five.
3. To understand the enablers and barriers for SSS implementation and recommend strategies for scaling up the intervention in the context of Pakistan.

Methods:
This community-based intervention trial will be implemented over a period of two years in the following three phases. Phase I: Pre-intervention formative research to build the optimized supervisory intervention. FGDs and KI Interviews will be conducted with LHWs, LHS, Implementers and Policy makers and the results will be fed into an evidence-based intervention. Phase II: the supervisory intervention using quantitative methods including baseline-endline household survey, pre and post intervention LHS and LHW knowledge scoring and independently evaluated structured skill assessment. Concurrent FGDs and KI interviews during Phase II will explore stakeholder experiences of the intervention. Phase III: Post-intervention qualitative research will employ FGDs and KI Interviews to explore stakeholder perspectives regarding scaling up of the intervention.
Seventeen clusters each will be randomly allocated to intervention and control arms respectively. An LHS serves as a cluster in NIGRAAN.
The study participants include LHS, LHW, Primary caregivers, implementers and policy makers.

Expected Outcomes:
- Improved knowledge, skills and supervisory processes among LHSs for CCM of pneumonia and diarrhoea in children under five.
- Improvement in LHW knowledge, skills and performance as a result of structured supportive supervision by LHSs.

Increased knowledge of community caregivers about the presence and role of LHWs for CCM of pneumonia and diarrhoea in children under five.