

## ***Rural Health Improvement Project (RHIP)***

### **Project**

FAIRMED Foundation Nepal has been implementing a Rural Health Improvement Project (RHIP) in three Municipalities of Baglung district with the financial assistance of Poristes Foundation. Through a fine mix of community and facility based health interventions, the project intends to increase service accessibility, strengthen health system and improve the quality of service delivery in working Municipalities. The project concept is in line with National Health Policy 2014 and Nepal Health Sector Strategy 2015-2020. It also seeks to contribute towards achieving the target of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #3 by reducing maternal, neonatal and childhood mortality and morbidity. The project targets the poorest families including persons with disability and those vulnerable to and affected by the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs). The major areas of interventions included in the project are:

- i. Maternal and New born health
- ii. Neglected Tropical Diseases and Disability
- iii. Water Sanitation and Hygiene

FAIRMED implements the activities in partnership with a local NGO by collaborating with Municipalities, and coordinating with Province Health Office (PHO) in the district. It also coordinates with other stakeholders working in health sector and engages with community health workers, Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) and communities to help improve maternal and neonatal health in the area.



*Project Coordinator interacting with members of Health Mothers Group*

The project is guided by two approaches i) strengthening the service delivery system and ii) demand generation for the service utilization. To strengthen service delivery, FAIRMED helps developing the capacities of health workers and management committees, provides need-based support to the Municipality Health office, local health facilities in the form of essential training & orientation, medical equipment to establish new Birthing Centres.

Likewise, to generate demand for service utilizations FAIRMED's activities encompass raising awareness through Behaviour Change Communication (BCC)

materials, empowering FCHVs, community women, and activating Health Mothers Groups. These activities help create enabling environment where communities develop health-seeking behaviour and service providers practice their responsiveness in service delivery mechanisms in their communities.

## Our Interventions

- Support local government to establish basic laboratory service, upgrade health Facilities to provide service of child delivery (Birthing Centres), and provision of maternity waiting space
- Training to Health Workers, community health volunteers, and HFOMCs to increase capacity of community health systems Promote health seeking behaviours among women & their families to adapt preventive measures, service utilization practice, giving up harmful practices including stigma and discrimination against common NTDs such as leprosy, lymphatic filariasis
- Effective monitoring, strengthen coordination, networking & advocacy with government line agencies & other stakeholders at local, & provincial level

Following are the targeted beneficiaries of the project;

- **Direct beneficiary** : 4000 pregnant and 3500 lactating mothers, 3500 newborns, people with disability, 50 health workers, 140 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs), 135 Mother's groups, 15 Health Facility Operation and Management Committees (HFOMCs)
- **Indirect beneficiaries:** 75,0000 community people