

# Strengthening local health system by capacity building of Health Facility Operation and Management Committee (HFOMC)

## BACKGROUND

The effectiveness of Health Facilities depends on the proficient management, monitoring, and supervision carried out by the Health Facility Operational Management Committee (HFOMC). Recognizing the significance of community involvement in overseeing local health facilities and services, and in alignment with the Local Self-Governance Act of 1999, the Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP) has opted for the decentralization policy, transferring the responsibility of local health institutions to local bodies.

By this policy, Health Facility Operation and Management Committees (HFOMC) are entrusted with the governance of all aspects related to local health facilities. The HFOMC is a legitimate local body formed at each health facility, designed with an inclusive structure. However, the mere transfer of health facilities to the local body and HFOMC was deemed insufficient. The primary objective of this initiative is to foster greater community responsibility in the management of local-level health facilities and health programs.

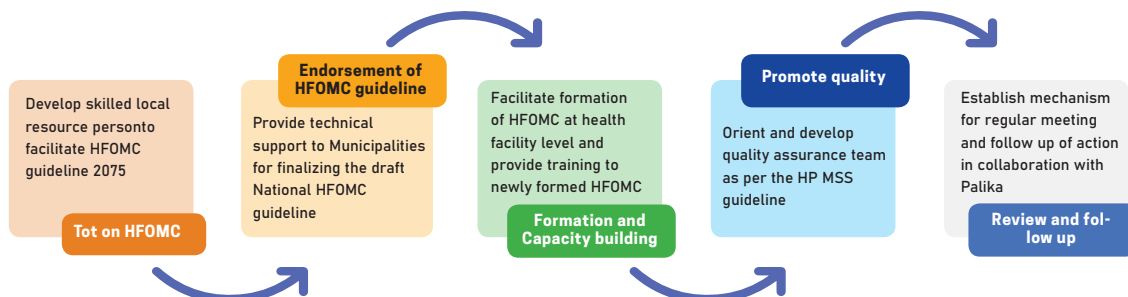
## ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF HFOMC

1. Conduct monthly meetings and discuss the performance of the health facility including the challenges/issues hindering its operation and management.
2. Develop an annual health plan and budget for the health facility based on the evidence (achievements and need of health facility)
3. Function as Quality Assurance Team (as conceptualized by HP\_MSS program guideline) and discuss issues related to quality service and develop action plans for improving quality.
4. Engage in field-level activities and public health programs (Mothers group meeting, preventive awareness activities, and others)
5. Conduct a social audit and address the issues of community people making health facilities accountable.

Kalika Self-Reliance Social Centre, in collaboration with FAIRMED Nepal's Essential Health project, has been collaborating with the local government of Kapilvastu district. The focus has been on enhancing the management skills of the Health Facility Operation and Management Committee (HFOMC). Given the committee's role in governing all aspects of local health facilities under the decentralization policy, capacity building is essential. This program aims to empower HFOMCs to effectively lead and fulfill their responsibilities, actively contributing to health governance and overall health facility performance.



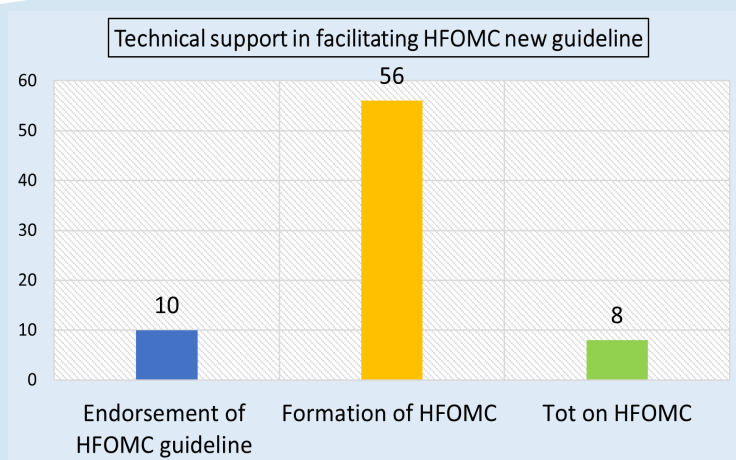
## PROCESS OF STRENGTHENING HFOMC



Facilitating HFOMC Training at Sihakhori health post, Yasodhara Rural Municipality



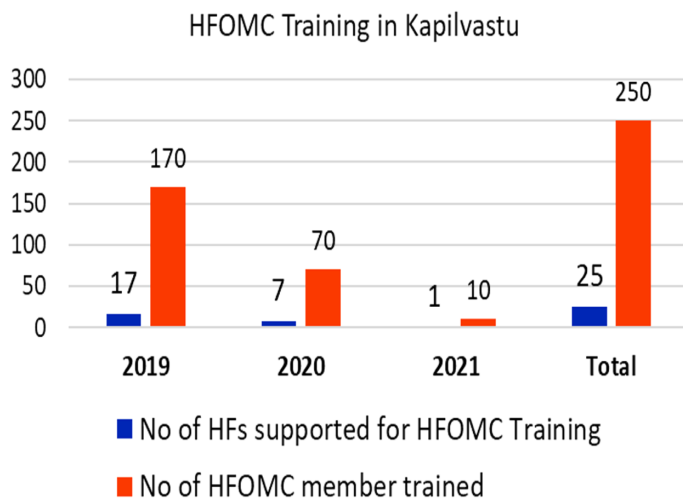
Facilitating HFOMC monthly meeting at Baluhawa Health Post, Mayadevi Rural Municipality



- ⇒ The Essential Health project offered technical assistance to endorse the HFOMC guideline 2075 across all 10 Municipalities of Kapilvastu.
- ⇒ Conducted a Training of Trainers program to develop eight resource persons for facilitating HFOMC training.
- ⇒ Collaborated with the local government to establish HFOMCs in 56 health facilities.

## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

Years	Health Facilities Supported for HFOMC Training
2019	Kushuwa, Kajrahawa, Bishanpur, Hardauna, Sisawa, Baraipur, Shivpur, Shivgadhi, Birpur, Gugauli, Khurariya, Ganeshpur, Pathardeiya, Jawabirat, Vidhyanagar, Pursottampur, Bhagwanpur)
2020	Pateriya, Mauwa, Bijuwa, Rangapur, Dubiya, Motipur, Bhalwar
2021	Gotihawa



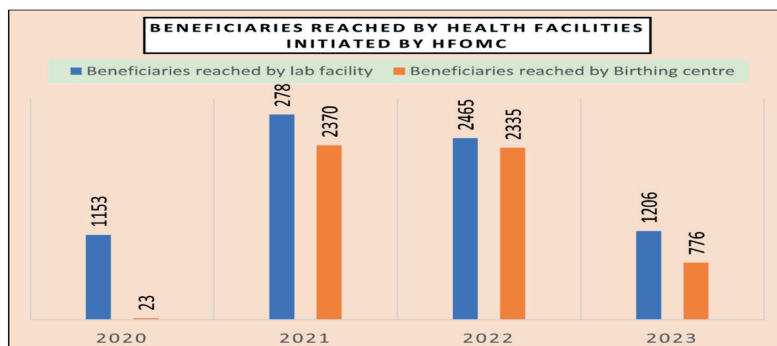
S. No	Action plan completed by HFOMCs after Training	Number of Health Facilities	Name of Health Facility
1	Establishment of lab facility	3	Chanai, Mauwa, Pateriya
2	Boundary Wall construction for safety and security	3	Mauwa, Hardauna, Gugauli
3	Establishment of a Birthing center	5	Birpur, Pateriya, Kajarhawa, Shivgadhi, Pathardeiya
4	Recruitment of Nursing staff	4	Birpur, Pateriya, Ganeshpur, Bhalward
5	Placenta pit construction	2	Shivgadhi, Basic Health Service Hospital shivraj
6	Establishment of citizen charter, name list of FCHVs, HFOMCs	17	
7	Establishment of self-care corner	3	Motipur, Dubiya, Mauhwa
8	Establishment of Toilet	1	Bishanpur



7604 utilized lab service

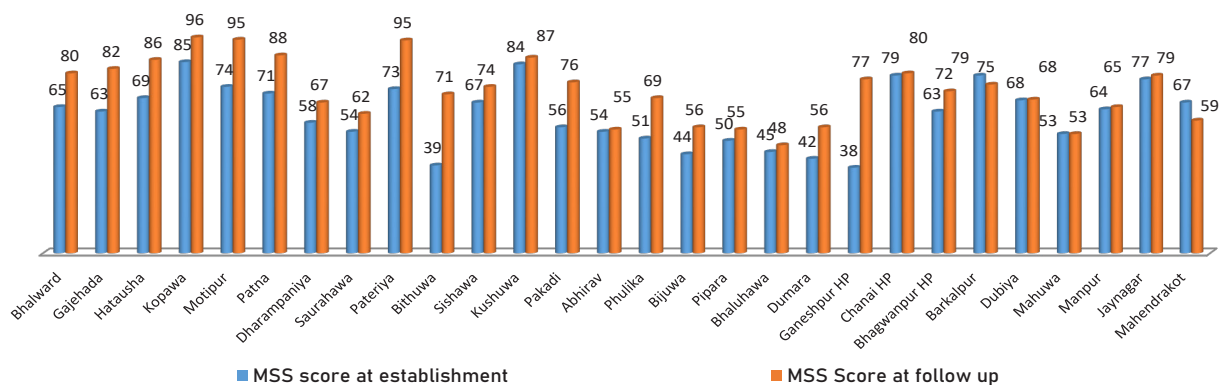


5504 pregnant Mothers delivered at birthing centre



# PROMOTING SERVICE QUALITY

## Minimum Service Standard Score Of Health Facilities



- ⇒ HFOMC members from 28 health facilities underwent training on the HP\_MSS Program and actively functioned as a quality assurance team.
- ⇒ Following the HFOMC's involvement in addressing identified gaps during the initial phase and subsequent six-month follow-ups, there was a noticeable improvement in the MSS Score, reflecting enhanced service quality across all 28 health facilities.

Chudamani Bhattarai, a seasoned health worker with 34 years of experience in the health sector, currently serves as the health coordinator in Shivraj Municipality for the past four years. In this municipality, comprising 11 health facilities, HFOMCs were established following the National Guideline 2075. Post the endorsement of HFOMCs, we conducted training for four health facilities as part of the Essential Health project, a partnership between Kalika Self Reliance Social Center and FAIRMED Foundation Nepal. Bhattarai emphasizes the pivotal role of active HFOMCs and health workers in planning and management, citing instances where their engagement led to the successful completion of essential projects. This included the construction of six new PHC/ORC clinics, EPI clinics, three birthing centers, three LAB facilities, and a Basic Health Service Hospital, all delivering quality services. Moreover, responding to requests from health units and facilities, HFOMCs facilitated the construction of four new health facility buildings and initiated a free ambulance service for pregnant mothers' referrals. Additionally, as part of the Essential Health Project, HFOMC and the municipality collaborated to form a Self-Help Group for NTD-affected people, registered it with the Agriculture unit of the Municipality, and allocated an annual budget of Rs. 100,000 for income generation. Bhattarai concludes by stressing that achieving good health is a collective responsibility involving local stakeholders, HFOMCs, and relevant authorities. Regular monitoring, specific planning, and sufficient budget allocation in health are imperative for community health improvement.



Nathuram Tharu, a health worker with 24 years of experience, served as the Health Post In-charge at Pateriya HP. His journey began in a single room in the VDC, facing challenges in building infrastructure, staffing, and medicine shortages, leading to a lack of community trust in the health facility. Currently serving as the secretary of HFOMC, Nathuram received training on HFOMC roles and responsibilities. Initiating discussions during HFOMC meetings about the health facility's challenges, they formulated an action plan, coordinating with various stakeholders to successfully develop the health facility building in accordance with National protocol. Subsequently, basic health services commenced in their own facility. Recognizing the need for a birthing center and LAB facility due to high home deliveries and distant testing centers, HFOMC collaborated with the municipality and stakeholders for support. Following the establishment of the Birthing Center and Lab Facility, the Essential Health project (a collaboration between Kalika Self Reliance Social Center and FAIRMED Foundation Nepal) provided necessary equipment. HFOMC proposed an ambulance service, which gained approval, leading to the initiation of free services for pregnant mothers. This resulted in a gradual reduction in home deliveries, an increase in ANC, and improved access to normal testing services, fostering a stronger bond between the community and the health facility. Presently, HFOMC and the Municipality continue to provide regular support to ensure the delivery of quality services at this health facility.



Dinesh Kumar Chaudhary has been serving as the Chairperson and HFOMC of Ganeshpur for the past 7 years. In his role, he has encountered numerous challenges in managing the health facility. Upon his election, he underwent training on HFOMC roles and responsibilities, supported by the Essential Health project. During the training, a comprehensive plan for enhancing the quality of services at their health facility was developed. Dinesh emphasizes the pivotal role of active collaboration between health workers and HFOMC in addressing health issues. Recognizing the absence of a birthing center, which posed risks for mothers and infants, he initiated discussions during HFOMC meetings and coordinated with the Essential Health Project (a partnership between Kalika Self Reliance Social Center and FAIRMED Foundation Nepal). This collaboration resulted in the acquisition of essential birthing center equipment as per national protocol. The positive impact was evident as the birthing center was inaugurated, leading to 26 deliveries in 78/79 and 74 in 79/80. The opening of the birthing center contributed to a decrease in maternal and neonatal deaths, while simultaneously increasing institutional deliveries, ANC, and PNC. To address ongoing challenges, HFOMC, under Dinesh's leadership, developed checklists and conducted monitoring visits, formulating action plans to address observed gaps. Additionally, they initiated free ambulance services and nutrition packages for pregnant mothers, further promoting institutional deliveries. The establishment of the birthing center not only reduced the need for community members to travel long distances at risk during deliveries but also created a positive impact on the overall health and well-being of the community.

*-Dinesh Chaudhary, Chairperson, Ganeshpur – BijayNagar Rural Municipality*

Teklal Shapkota has served as the Chairperson and HFOMC Chairperson of Chanai Health Post for the past seven years. When he assumed the role of chairperson, the primary health challenges included issues such as lack of education, diversity, low awareness, and insufficient priority from the local government. Following his election, Teklal underwent a 2-day HFOMC training on roles and responsibilities, generously supported by the Essential Health project. The training inspired them to organize and plan health activities effectively. Subsequently, they conducted regular monthly meetings, engaged in discussions on health issues, formulated implementation plans, and carried out routine monitoring visits to PHC/ORC clinics.

Coordination with various stakeholders was a key aspect to ensure the delivery of quality services. Teklal mentioned that their vice-chairperson, a former health worker, took on health-related responsibilities. Attending monthly meetings with FCHVs and health workers, they actively discussed issues and plans, enhancing collaboration.

Recognizing the challenges faced by community members in traveling for institutional deliveries, HFOMC formulated a plan to establish a birthing center. Seeking support from the Essential Health project, they received ideas and assistance to open the birthing center. Essential Health project provided necessary equipment, and the birthing center was successfully inaugurated in 2076, serving 218 mothers last year.

During monitoring visits, HFOMC identified the community's long journeys for normal tests. To address this, they developed an action plan to start lab services, seeking support from the Essential Health project. Essential Health project provided necessary equipment, and the lab services were initiated with minimal cost, benefiting 1036 individuals last year. Highlighting an average of 30-35 patients visiting the health facility, Teklal emphasized the collaboration between health workers responsible for service quality and HFOMC tasked with managing necessary equipment. They have successfully constructed two PHC/ORC buildings, delivering quality services, with plans for further construction as needed. In conclusion, Teklal highlighted HFOMC's commitment to regular monitoring visits, action plan formulation, and discussions during monthly meetings, all aimed at ensuring the consistent delivery of quality health services.

*-Teklal Sapkota*



Archana Tripathi, a 21-year-old resident of Kajrahawa village, resides with her family. As a housewife, Archana's husband works as a driver. She got married at the age of 20 and became pregnant at 21. Initially, she felt anxious about her pregnancy after witnessing challenges faced by her sister-in-law during ANC, delivery, and PNC due to the absence of a birthing center at Kajrahawa Health Post. Concerned about potential difficulties, Archana was relieved when FCHVs visited her home and provided counseling on ANC, institutional delivery, and PNC. They informed her about the

birthing center initiated by the HFOMC at Kajrahawa Health Post, offering free services since 2078/79 with the support of the Municipality and Essential Health Project (EHP). EHP also contributed necessary equipment to the birthing center. Upon visiting the birthing center, Archana met with health workers who further counseled her on ANC, institutional delivery, PNC, and the growth monitoring of the baby. Following their guidance, she completed eight ANC sessions. Delighted to learn about the birthing center at Kajrahawa Health Post, Archana successfully gave birth to a baby girl on 2080/9/25, diligently following the instructions provided by the health workers. Archana reflects on the potential challenges she might have faced without the birthing center, either delivering at home or undertaking a risky journey to distant locations like Maharajgunj, Tauliahawa, or Bhairawa. She urges others to heed the advice of health workers and choose to deliver in health facilities to minimize risks.

## PHOTOS RELATED TO HFOMCS







Visit from Fairmed Foundation Nepal



HFOMC Training



Birthing Center equipment handover



Door to Door Mobilization of FCHVs to screen leprosy Cases



Strengthening HFOMC by conducting Training





Self Help Group Formation and Training



Lab & Birthing Center equipment handover



Integrated Service Provided by HWs



Support Municipality to develop Placenta Pit at Health Facility



Equipment Handover to Develop Referral Unit



Monitoring Visit to SHG Group

Contact  
**Essential Health Project**  
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