



Tracking progress, Fine-tuning Approaches

A note from the Program Director

As we unpack our goals for the year ahead, our commitment to learning and course-correction underpins the importance of our mid-term review, currently being rolled out across all three countries.



Mother in Ethiopia with her new baby

Awareness Sessions LINC Communities with Knowledge

This quarter, *Born on Time* Mali conducted 1,414 awareness sessions on Lifestyle, Infection, Nutrition and Contraception (LINC) factors, which are risks that can lead to preterm birth. These awareness sessions also discussed gender equality components. All Community Health Workers (CHWs) who completed the training of their community associations and organizations started awareness-raising sessions, which reached 33,482 individuals including 26,471 females and 7,011 males.



Children in Mali thanking Born on Time for their work



A critical part of assessing the impact of any project is a rigorous monitoring and evaluation plan to assess progress against a set of intended outcomes. For *Born on Time*, this includes our cross-sectional mid-term study, which will help us:

- Determine the capacity to, and quality with which, *BoT*-supported health care facilities provide gender-responsive, adolescent friendly Antenatal Care (ANC) services to pregnant women and adolescent girls in Bangladesh, Mali and Ethiopia – including from a patient’s perspective
- Describe the social and gender equality dimensions and barriers related to: access to and use of health services, and LINC factors

A Quality of Care study will be conducted at a sample of *BoT* health facilities, complemented by a rapid qualitative assessment with community stakeholders, and a secondary data review. As part of *Born On Time’s* Midterm Assessment, qualitative methods will be applied to explore the potential unintended outcomes that interventions might have generated with regards to gender equality. The results of this mini qualitative study will provide critical information on whether our program interventions have inadvertently created any harm to women and adolescent girls or other family members.

We know the significant role gender inequality plays in driving preterm birth and are looking forward to the key findings of our study; not only to learn from but also to share with key stakeholders interested in the important nexus between gender and health outcomes for women and girls.

In partnership with women, girls and their families for better health,

Marie Bettings



“With the arrival of Born on Time, I have understood that the **hard labour** women do can impact both the health of the mother and the baby.”

— Father-to-be, Mali



Q3 Achievements at a Glance

IN BANGLADESH:

- 1,534 normal deliveries were conducted at Union Health and Family Welfare Centres, (UH&FWCs) compared to 971 in Q2
- 11,130 antenatal care (ANC) and 3,240 post-natal care (PNC) check-ups were conducted in UH&FWCs.

IN ETHIOPIA:

- 495 (171 male, 324 female) youth received counselling from out-of-school peer leaders on various SRHR issues.
- 186 Fathers’ Groups were formed in 62 unions, and 4,183 Fathers’ Groups sessions were conducted.

IN MALI

- 1,414 awareness sessions conducted on LINC factors and gender equality components
- 7,709 individuals trained on topics such as: preterm birth prevention; healthy pregnancy aspects; nutrition; child, early and forced marriages; preterm birth taboos; gender equality; life-skills; male engagement; intimate partner violence; breastfeeding promotion.



In Ethiopia, 14-year-old Tigist saved her friend from a child marriage

World Prematurity Day Engagement

Media: *Born on Time* was featured in an article in the Hill Times, Canada’s politics and government newspaper. The opinion piece entitled *Canada tackling link between early marriage, preterm birth* highlighted the critical work *BoT* is taking to address child, early and forced marriage, authored by Marie Bettings.

CanWaCH: Leah Siversky at Plan Canada wrote a *BoT* blog on the CanWaCH database, where women and girls shared why they or their friends continued heavy-duty domestic work throughout their pregnancy and what role (or lack-there-of) their husbands played in supporting them.

Social Media: *BoT* is using social media, especially Twitter, to spread the word about the project and the important work being done to prevent preterm birth.

“The secret to development is women’s empowerment”

Dr. Abebaw, Regional Health Bureau Head
Amhara Region, Ethiopia



Change Maker Groups Support Safe Deliveries

In Adam, a remote village in Bangladesh, there is no health facility, only a Union Health and Family Welfare Centre (UH&FWC) over 3 kilometres away from the village. Josna (age 20) and her husband Anarul Islam live in Adam, and Josna was pregnant with her first child. Unfortunately, she was not well taken care of as Anarul did not have adequate knowledge on maternal care.

When *Born on Time* sent a CHW to Josna's home and she showed interest in travelling to the centre, her mother-in-law objected. The situation was discussed at the local Change Makers Group meeting, which was one of 744 group sessions taking place across Rangpur, Bangladesh this quarter. Following the meeting, a Change Maker representative visited Josna's home to have a series of discussions with her mother-in-law and husband. Thanks to this counselling, her husband supported her to rest, take nutritious food and take iron-folic acid and calcium supplements. Her mother-in-law even attended several UH&FWC visits with Josna.

On 14 August 2018, Josna delivered a baby girl, weighing 2.6 kg, at the UH&FWC, with her husband and mother-in-law by her side. Josna's baby was one of the 1,534 normal deliveries that happened in the last quarter in Rangpur, Bangladesh.

"CHW Apa is like the God, she saved me and my child," said Josna.



Josna's husband and mother-in-law taking care of her after delivery at UH&FWC

Male Engagement Changes Views on Parenthood

Gebre Ayele, 26, and his wife, Tiruken Hibret, 20, are from Adama Kebele in South Gondar, Ethiopia. Before the couple got married four years ago, Tiruken did not know about the marriage arrangement and had never met Gebre. At 16, her parents decided that after the marriage she would drop out of school to become a housewife, even though Gebre continued to go. After participating in male dialogue sessions, his view on gender roles completely changed, and he now supports his wife as she continues her studies.



Gebre cooking a meal for his son

"I thought I was a really modern and educated man because I didn't beat my wife. I thought that it was the woman's job to do the house chores and cook," Gebre says, "After I participated in the male engagement dialogue sessions and I heard how the other older men in the town treated their wives, I felt that we still have a long way to go. So, I decided that I will be a better husband to my wife. I started helping her with house chores. Now, I even help wash the baby and prepare meals for him when Tiruken is not around."

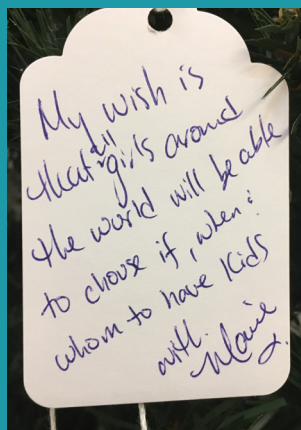
Gebre is one of the 2831 members in 75 male groups which have conducted dialogue sessions in Ethiopia this quarter, which helped shift views on gender roles and positively reshape relationships.

"Gebre didn't think that I needed help with housework before," Tiruken says, "But these days, he is involved in discussions with the other men and I have seen a lot of change in him. He offers to help with cooking and taking care of the baby. It is amazing to me how much he has changed."



Events Showcase

ICFP 2018 – On November 15-18 2018 the International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) took place in Rwanda, bringing together the family planning community to share best practices, celebrate successes, and chart a course forward. This was an opportunity to meet key stakeholders and partners focused on the empowerment of women and girls regarding sexual and reproductive health. Marie Bettings was pleased to meet with the Canadian Minister of International Development and La Francophonie Marie-Claude Bibeau and share highlights of how *BoT* is serving the SRHR needs of adolescent girls and boys.



Marie's wish, hanging on the Johns Hopkins University Wish Tree at the ICFP

FIGO 2018 – *Born on Time* participated in the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) conference from October 14-19, 2018 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. *BoT* partnered with the *Global Alliance for Prevention of Prematurity and Stillbirth* and the *Preterm Birth Initiative* to host a panel discussion on Implementation Science Approaches to Preterm Birth, with *BoT* focusing on the role of social behavioral change approaches.

International Day of the Girl – On October 28th, as the world celebrated the International Day of the Girl, *Born on Time* joined the celebration in Kadiolo, Mali. This event included welcome speeches from the community leaders, *BoT* staff and local and municipal authorities, as well as traditional music and dancing, rousing speeches on Gender Equality from young women, a co-ed foot race (where all top three winners were girls), a blood donation drive, and a *BoT* Question & Answer period.



Children starting the co-ed race

American Evaluation Association (AEA) – Colleen Keilty, Monitoring and Evaluation Lead, attended the AEA conference from October 28 to November 3, 2018 in Cleveland, USA. Aligned with the conference theme of "*Speaking Truth to Power*", Colleen presented as part of a multi-paper panel on "*Innovative Methods in Youth Focused Evaluation*." Colleen's presentation covered *BoT*'s measurement approach for adolescent SRHR, focusing on lessons learned from a recent Bangladesh survey – where an Audio-enhanced Personal Digital Assistant method was used for an ASRHR questionnaire with participants in *BoT*'s Adolescent Groups.

"The Community Skilled Birth Attendants (CSBAs) are expert for conducting delivery. I am very much pleased with their services. During postnatal care, the CSBA told me about birth spacing,"

Lisa - Project beneficiary, wife and new mother of a healthy baby boy
Rural Village in Rangpur, Bangladesh



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