

# EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

TEL: 880-2-883-7150-4

FAX: 880-2-9881677, 9885688

E-MAIL: [DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov)

WEBSITE: <http://dhaka.usembassy.gov>



## PRESS RELEASE

### **AMBASSADOR MORIARTY ANNOUNCES NEW SUPPORT FOR MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH SERVICES IN SYLHET**

**SYLHET, AUGUST 4** – U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh James F. Moriarty announced today a new U.S. Government-sponsored \$13.5 million health initiative called “MAMONI” (Ma) that will promote maternal and child health care in Sylhet. The project aims to address the high death rates among women and infants in Sylhet through improved outreach by field workers, increased education for safe pregnancy and delivery, and improved family planning and child spacing. The Bangladesh Minister of Health, Dr. A.F.M. Ruhul Haque, participated in the announcement of the program in Sylhet with Ambassador Moriarty. The project will be implemented through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

According to the latest Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey, only 51% of women see a medically trained provider at least once during their pregnancy and nearly half of newborns die within 30 days of birth. The MAMONI Project will increase pregnancy related care, support safe delivery, and increase community involvement in caring for pregnant women (including active involvement by men). The program will also organize emergency transport for pregnant women in labor. MAMONI will work to increase awareness and use of proven, low cost methods for saving newborns and will provide education on the use of family planning to protect the lives of women and children. In all, MAMONI will work in 15 upazilas and reach out to 3.5 million people.

Through USAID, the U.S. Government is making a difference in improving the lives of the people of Bangladesh, and in particular, the poor. USAID’s work in Bangladesh comprises of five broad areas: improving health and pre-primary education, creating income opportunities for rural poor, supporting good governance at all levels, enhancing food security, and strengthening disaster preparedness and providing emergency assistance following natural disasters. The U.S. Government has provided over \$5 billion in assistance to Bangladesh since 1971. In 2009, USAID’s planned assistance will total about US\$172 million, including specific assistance for people living in the Cyclone Sidr affected regions.

**GR/2009**

Note: *A Bangla translation of this press release is also available at the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section, Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail:*

*[DhakaPA@state.gov](mailto:DhakaPA@state.gov); Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov)*