

# evaluation of a five year twinning partnership

## between Bangladesh and the UK, 2017-2022

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### 1. Aims of the partnership

- To transition BMS from a nurse-led to a midwife-led organisation
- To develop midwife leaders in Bangladesh
- To build the organisational capacity of BMS
- To strengthen evidence for midwifery twinning partnerships
- To bring reciprocal learning to the UK

### 5. Conclusions

- Twinning is a powerful tool for organisational capacity building, leadership development, gender empowerment and quality improvement
- Twinning put midwives in power and raised their voices
- Volunteering keeps costs low but is resource-intensive
- Cross-cultural twinning requires experienced project managers
- Expectations of twinning partners must be clearly articulated and communicated
- Senior leaders must be involved to ensure sustainability and to embed learning
- Research should be built-in to project plans and budgets

### 2. Activities of the partnership

- Organisational twinning between RCM and BMS
- Individual twinning between midwives in UK and Bangladesh
- 51 young midwife leaders developed
- Midwifery association governance and systems transformed
- Five quality improvement projects
- Three COVID-19 response projects

### 3. Evaluation methodology

Mixed methods participatory evaluation in 2022 using OECD/DAC<sup>1</sup> Criteria (relevance, coherence, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, sustainability)

- Document review
- Surveys
- Semi-structured interviews
- Stakeholder workshops
- Observational site visits
- Focus group discussions
- Qualitative and quantitative analysis

<sup>1</sup>The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee

### 4. Results

The partnership:

- Fitted with national and regional priorities
- Achieved its objectives
- Adapted to COVID-19 innovatively
- Helped both RCM and BMS achieve their strategic goals
- An important enabler in the professionalisation of midwifery in Bangladesh
- Improved the quality of midwifery care
- Contributed to gender equity
- Did not have a clear exit strategy

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