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**Web Table 1: Risk of bias in included studies**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Nepal trial</b>	<b>Bangladesh trial</b>	<b>Pakistan trial</b>
<b>Sequence generation</b>	<p><b>Low risk</b></p> <p><b>Quote:</b> “Sectors (clusters) were randomised with a computerized random number generator, with assignment blocked on tertiles of sector-wise infant mortality risk estimated with data from a previous NNIPS study.”</p>	<p><b>Low Risk</b></p> <p><b>Quote:</b> “Randomization was done by generating random allocation sequences in STATA (version 10 9.2)”</p>	<p><b>Low risk</b></p> <p><b>Quote:</b> “Using a 2x2 factorial design, the clusters were randomly allocated to one of the four groups using computer-generated random numbers”</p>
<b>Allocation concealment</b>	<p><b>Low Risk</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Since it is a cluster randomized trial, allocation concealment should not be an issue as in this design all clusters are randomized at once.</p>	<p><b>Low Risk</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Since it is a cluster randomized trial, allocation concealment should not be an issue as in this design all clusters are randomized at once.</p>	<p><b>Low Risk</b></p> <p><b>Comment:</b> Since it is a cluster randomized trial, allocation concealment should not be an issue as in this design all clusters are randomized at once.</p>
<b>Blinding</b>	<p><b>Low risk</b></p> <p><b>Quote:</b> “Study investigators, analysts, project field workers, and participants were masked to the chlorhexidine and</p>	<p><b>High Risk</b></p> <p><b>Quote:</b> “Workers and participants in the study were not masked to group allocation.”</p>	<p><b>High Risk:</b></p> <p><b>Quote:</b> “The CHWs maintained close liaison with TBAs, were informed of all pregnancies 22 and</p>

Parameter	Nepal trial	Bangladesh trial	Pakistan trial
	to the soap and water treatments.”		provided TBAs with birth kits as per requirement” Comment: Most probably not done
Missing data	<b>Low risk</b> <b>Comment:</b> Number and reasons for those excluded and loss to follow up were given in the text.	<b>Low risk</b> <b>Comment:</b> Number and reasons for those excluded and loss to follow up were given in the text.	<b>Low risk</b> <b>Comment:</b> Number and reasons for those excluded and loss to follow up were given in the text.
Selective outcome reporting	<b>Low risk</b> <b>Comment:</b> All the <i>a priori</i> mentioned outcomes in protocol were reported.	<b>Low risk</b> <b>Comment:</b> All the <i>a priori</i> mentioned outcomes in protocol were reported.	<b>Low risk</b> <b>Comment:</b> All the <i>a priori</i> mentioned outcomes in protocol were reported.