

Minutes of the second meeting of the Planning Group involved in developing GAVI HSS proposal held on 17th May 2007

Chairman- Dr. Ugen Dophu, Offtg. Secretary, MoH

Members present:

1. Mr. Jamtsho, Dy. Chief, HRD
2. Mrs. Neyzang, Lecturer, RIHS
3. Mrs. Karma Tshering, Program Officer, EPI
4. Ms. Sangay Wangmo, Planning Officer, PPD
5. Ms. Kinzang Wangmo, Asstt. Planning Officer, PPD
6. Mr. Norbu Wangchuk, National Program Officer, WHO
7. Dr. Thushara Fernando, Consultant, WHO-SEARO

The chairman appraised the members regarding the Ministry's intention to apply for the GAVI HSS funding.

Dr. Thushara Fernando, WHO consultant, presented a brief introduction on Health System Strengthening (HSS) through GAVI funding and also the guidelines of the GAVI HSS.

Dr. Thushara reminded the members on the following requirements that had to be fulfilled in compliance with the GAVI HSS guidelines:

- The country to have a high level steering group (Health Sector Coordination Committee - HSCC) in order to coordinate and monitor the proposal development process, implementation and monitoring
- The need to form Planning group comprising of members from MoH, WHO, UNICEF, other development partners, private sectors, civil society etc. to take the responsibility of proposal development
- The country should follow a systematic proposal development process
- To circulate the draft Proposal to internal stakeholders and to be reviewed by them.
- The final proposal to be submitted to the GAVI Secretariat by 5th October 2007.

The meeting discussed and decided on the following:

- Project Coordination Committee (PCM) to be used as the Health Sector Coordination Committee in order to coordinate the monitor the overall process of the proposal development and its implementation.

- Policy and Planning Division (PPD), MoH, is to take a lead role in coordinating the process involved in developing the proposal.
- WHO to give guidelines as to how to take a next step in developing the proposal.
- The dates for the remaining three rounds of meeting to be fixed in order to follow a systematic proposal development process as per GAVI HSS guidelines. The agenda for each of the next three meetings have ben already drafted
- Include representatives from other donor agencies like UNICEF, DANIDA etc. in next meeting.

The areas that were identified to include in the proposal during the past meetings are;

- Strengthening of the pre-service training component of Primary Health Care workers. Under this component several activities will be included to strengthen the RIHS
- Strengthening of the in-service training component of Primary Health Care workers who are responsible in providing child health and maternal health services.
- Organizing a pilot intervention to improve utilization of medical facilities for deliveries - Include the activities to strengthen the Village Health Workers (VHW) programme so that the VHWs will help in reaching the un-reached especially in case of helping promote the institutional delivery thereby improving the child health and reducing infant mortality rate. This could be done by giving some incentives to those VHWs who bring pregnant mothers to deliver in the health centers. Few districts may be piloted where MMR is high.

Recommendations of Dr. Thushara Fernando:

- **SEARO to assist MoH to develop long term projections for selected categories of HRH which in turn will facilitate identification of long-term HRH requirements**
- **SEARO to assist RIHS develop a comprehensive proposal to strengthen RIHS which could be implemented in a phased out manner - for this a consultant could be hired for a month to develop the proposal including all the plans to strengthen RIHS. The proposal can then be used to mobilize resources.**
- **SEARO to assist HRD to develop the Strategic HRH Plan.**

The meeting also decided that the RIHS consultancy and the HRH should happen simultaneously and if possible RIHS consultancy bit earlier so that the proposal can fit into the HRH Strategic Plan.