
Ministry of Health and Population
National Joint Annual Review
December 4-6, 2019
Aide Memoire

The following action points are agreed between the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) and External Development Partners (EDP) on the Business Meeting held on December 6, 2019.

1. Staff Adjustment/Human Resource

Recent staff redeployment following civil service readjustment process has created mismatch between the human resource requirement and health care services provided by the health facilities. Upgrading of and new health facilities at subnational levels also has put pressure on human resource need. Provinces have initiated organization and management(O&M) surveys and started to work on establishing Public Service Commission. It is essential that O&M surveys need to be comprehensive and need to be guided by the human resource for health (HRH). Similarly, there has been a greater realization of the need of having an integrated capacity development package for province and local level.

Actions:

- In order to ensure service delivery to the citizens, MoHP will implement a mechanism in close coordination with province and local levels to fulfill human resource gap including vacant positions, and capacity development with EDPs support, where necessary and possible.
 - Jointly review the progress on regular basis
- Assess capacity development need, develop and implement an integrated capacity development package for province and local level
- Develop a central database to incorporate the details of the health workers in the country to better inform the human resource planning process

2. Basic Health Service Package

The Basic Health Service Package (BHSP), which defines the basic health care services to be delivered by the Local Levels, is pending endorsement for last two years. The costing of BHSP has been completed. The financing of BHSP needs to be assured. There were concerns related to delayed communication of the guidelines for spending conditional grants after the budget is announced.

Actions:

- Public Health Service Regulations with the content of BHSP to be endorsed and disseminated to Provinces and Local Levels by March 31, 2020.
- MoHP, MoFAGA and MoFto work jointly to reduce numbers of line items and allow more flexibility in health related conditional grants in the AWPB 2020/21
- Guidelines for health related conditional grants to be given simultaneously with the budget
- Establish monitoring and assessment mechanism of BHSP in close coordination with provinces and local levels by July 15, 2020

3. Quality assurance of drugs procured by subnational governments and Supply Chain Assurance

Both Provincial Governments and Local Levels have started procuring essential drugs. There is risk of overstock of some drugs and undersupply of others if the type/quantity of drugs procured at different

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levels are not determined. Quality of drugs procured is questionable given lack of mechanism to ensure it. E-Logistic Management Information System (eLMIS) is operating only in two provinces with technical assistance from USAID. Without functional and real time LMIS operational across the entire country will lead to expiry and understock of drugs at health facilities.

Actions:

- Guidelines/policy for the type of drugs procured and its supply chain at different levels of government developed and disseminated to Province and local levels by March 15, 2020
- Assessment of the need for Framework Contracting, by July 15, 2020, including the variation of pricing and quality, and endorse it by advocating with appropriate stakeholders
- Post shipment/delivery drug quality assurance mechanism for all three tiers established by July 15, 2020
- MoHP and EDP discuss and settle issues related to eLMIS scale up by January 15, 2020

4. Next Health Sector Strategy

The Mid Term Review (MTR) of the current NHSS, which is ending on July 15, 2021, has been completed and key findings were discussed in the National Joint Annual Review. The MTR, which will soon be approved by the MoHP, provides recommendations for future directions. Development partners need to support next strategy and thus channel finance and technical assistance accordingly.

Actions:

- Formulate technical working group with ToR by January 15, 2020 to develop next sector strategy
- Final draft of the health sector strategy to be submitted to cabinet, ready by end of 2020
- External Development Partners in consultation with MoHP and MoF to communicate options of their financial and technical assistance modality in the health sector in the federal context by March 2020

5. Information Systems

All three tiers of governments need to abide by the recent decision made by the Cabinet on the use of national information system.

Actions:

- MoHP in collaboration with provinces and local governments ensure regular hands-on support (training and monitoring) to MoHP spending units, province and municipalities and their health facilities for the use of HMIS, SUTRA, TABUCS, PLMBIS, health facility registry and other information systems.
- Ensure online reporting from 2000 health facilities by November 2020 and implement routine data quality assessment in 100 health facilities with geographic spread with the leadership of local government and engagement of provinces
- EHR standards and software in compliance with HMIS developed by end of 2020.

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- Explore the Ayurvedic Management Information System developed by province one to align with HMIS by Nov 2020

6. Disaster/Emergency Response

All three tiers of governments are responsible for disaster and emergency response and MoHP is mandated to take lead. Health Emergency Operation Plan should encompass all levels and all levels need to be made accountable for preparedness and response.

Actions:

- Establish and operationalise PHEOC in all provinces by November 2020
- Finalize standard operating procedure of HEOC and PHEOC by November 2020
- Develop and pilot the disaster information management system by integrating relevant health information systems to provide real time data by end of 2020

7. Improving health indicators

Some of the health indicators are declining in the last few years. It is imperative to explore reasons, such as quality of care, for such declining trend.

Actions:

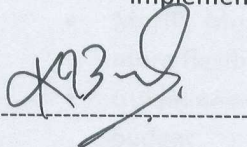
- Convene high level stakeholders meeting by March 2020 to assess and develop action plan to address declining health indicators and to achieve SDGs
- EDPs support to be tailored to address the equity gap and reaching the unreached and changing pattern of burden of disease
- Technical Assistance aligned with MoHP priority

8. Government policies and programs

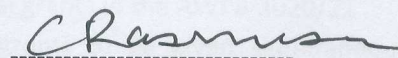
There are policies and programs announced by government of Nepal which needs joint efforts for its proper implementation and to achieve the desired outcomes. The progress on the listed policies and programs provides the basis for the overall progress monitoring of MoHP. EDP's support is crucial in the implementation of annual policies and programs of health.

Action:

- EDP's support to be aligned with government's annual policies and programs and implement jointly by giving it a high priority.



Mr. Khaga Raj Baral
Secretary
Ministry of Health and Population



Ms. Carrie Rasmussen
Chair
External Development Partners (Health)