

Local Health Governance

(Decentralized Planning)

Pre – JAR field visits to Jhapa and Saptari districts

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Presented by

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Presentation Outline

- Background
- Findings
- Issues
- Recommendations

BACKGROUND

Team Members

1. Dr. Dipendra R Singh, Director, PHAMED
2. Mr. Bhaktaraj Joshi, Planning Section Chief, MOH
3. Mr. Sagar Ghimire, SPHA, MD/DoHS
4. Mr. Krishna Murari Neupane, Program Director, NPC
5. Mr. Jeevan Gyawali, SO, MOFALD
6. Mr. Dan VerSchneider USAID
7. Nur Pant, USAID
8. Latika Maskey Pradhan, UNFPA
9. Rob Timmons, H4L
10. Damodar Adhikari, H4L
11. Sitaram Prasai, NHSSP
12. Dhruba Thapa, H4L
13. Mina Thapa, UNICEF

Field Sites

- Team interacted with DPHO staff and District Health Governance Strengthening Task Force (DHGSTF) members in Jhapa and DPHO staff in Saptari.
- Team visited the following health facilities in two districts:

Jhapa	Saptari
a) Shantinagar HP	a) Hanuman Nagar HP
b) Baniyani PHCC	b) Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital
c) Lakhanpur HP	
d) Damak Hospital	
e) AMDA Hospital	

Program Introduction

- MOH and MoFALD signed important and one of the most promising reforms, in Nepal's health sector in recent memory: **Collaborative Framework (CF) on Strengthening Local Health Governance**
- CF provides platform to integrate public health into MOFALD's existing local development agenda
- Jhapa is one of the six demonstration districts, where Health for Life provides TA on MoH's request
- Health for Life helped to reform & build HFOMCs' capacity to collaborate, mobilize civil society organizations, explore and mobilize local funds to address local health needs

Program Introduction contd...

- HFOMCs enabled to draft Village Health Situation Analysis Report (VHSAR) using HMIS and other local data – evidence for planning, and Annual Health Plans that are responsive to local needs
- Draft of local annual health plans discussed in Ward Citizen's Forums, endorsed by local Village/Municipal Councils with budget commitments and integrated into the larger development plans
- Collaborate with local stakeholders and partners to improve health service utilization and quality

FINDINGS

Field Observation: Jhapa

Observation Findings

- First year (2014/15) focused on formation of District Health Governance Strengthening Task Force (DHGSTF) and reformation of HFOMCs
- CF Flexible Health Grant directly /evenly distributed to all 56 HFs, which was mainly spent on orientation, procuring basic medical supplies and drugs to run the service - Jhapa
- Year two (2015/16) started with greater clarity, HFOMCs prepared VHSAR and health plans with prioritization for local and CF fund

Observation Findings

- Real collaboration took place between DDC and DPHO when DDC **allocated good amount to VDCs for health** which gradually helped to achieve three milestones:
 - a) open defecation free (ODF) status;*
 - b) full immunization declaration; and*
 - c) establishment of child friendly program at local level*
- FHG encouraged local resource mobilization (DDC- **NPR 165,000** and VDC- **NPR 315,000**) that helped to expand outreach clinics and medical waste management



Observation Findings

- CF provision has supported to:
 - revitalize HFOMCs (mobilized local resources for HF building and placenta pit, ANM quarter)
 - Facilitate evidence based local planning (VHSAR, Ward Citizen Form)
 - Generate revenues (VDC provided NPR 700,000 for health program)
 - form quality improvement (QI) teams (oriented and conducting self assessment to find gaps and plan)
 - strengthen capacity to develop VHSAR and formulate plans, d) meet HFOMCs regularly
 - conduct Social Audit

Observation Findings

- Fund from VDC used on repair and maintenance of HF, infection prevention, and socio-psychosocial counseling
- NRN Hong Kong provided **NPR 100,000** for lab staff and **NPR 127,400** to establish lab in the health facility
- HFI shared – “health workers behave humanly to clients and community needs addressed after CF implementation.”
- Plan to **open HF round the clock** if some additional support provided, have prepared VDC health plan, are poised to implement whether they get FHG or not

Innovations

- Some local innovations pioneered:
 - ✓ **Mobile health services:** *planned to bring services closer to community through mobile health services camps in nine locations*
 - ✓ **Monitoring BP in the community:** *FCHVs trained to take vital sign and provided first aid kit with BP set*
 - ✓ **Offered a gift package** *to mothers who has completed four ANC visits; has birth certificate of child; has vaccinated their child with BCG; and has constructed toilet*
 - ✓ *VDC procured drugs for HF from local resources*
 - ✓ *Teak wood plans cultivated for future income*

Issues

- Institutionalization of entire CF provisions
- With reduction of FHG, DHGSTF finds hard time allocating limited funds to HFs that are best performing and marginalized low performing HFs leaving further behind
- How to bring low performing health facilities into FHG fold in addressing GESI?
- Policy provision for drugs procurement by VDC for HF; BP monitoring by FCHV in community?

Issues....

- Decreasing attendance in PHC/ORC needs to be critically reviewed to maintain the existing CPR rate- Saptari
- Community Health Units on high demand
- All positions are vacant in Kalyanpur PHCC
- Overall cleanliness/ services of Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital looks poor
- AMDA Jhapa supportive to peripheral HFs and positive in establishing functional referral system

Issues....

- Consistency of GoN programs across country would benefit evenly for example ASRH/AFHS program is available in Saptari district whereas Child Friendly Program is available in Jhapa
- Integration/institutionalization of Government endorsed programs/services across nation would be better rather than fragmentation of services based on donor support

Recommendations

- Flexible Health Grant under Collaborative Framework proved instrumental in mobilizing communities so the volume of grant needs to be continued /increased based on performance of all 6 districts
- Policy clarity needed for innovative activities carried out at local level- drug purchase, BP measurement by FCHVs

Thank You

