



# PULSE

UPDATING YOU ON HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS

## Quarterly Highlights: July to September 2014

This brief presents the achievements of MoHP's technical assistance support team in the third quarter of 2014 against the three output areas of Phase 2 of the Nepal Health Sector Support Programme (NHSSP). Each of the activities described was led by the respective MoHP section, division and centre and supported by NHSSP technical assistance and funding. Visit [www.nhssp.org.np](http://www.nhssp.org.np) for the full quarterly report and other publications, and follow us on Facebook (**Nepal Health Sector Support Programme**) and Twitter (**@NHSSP**) to keep up with latest developments.

### Highlights:

- ▲ Management Division's upgraded health management information system (HMIS) was taken into use in all health facilities across the country.
- ▲ MoHP's Transactional Accounting and Budget Control System (TABUCS) was introduced at all 278 cost centres; 90% of all financial data to September 2014 has now been entered.
- ▲ DoHS' director general approved the remote areas maternal and neonatal (MNH) pilot (RAMP) in Taplejung district and local planning, procurement and training began.
- ▲ Management Division prepared consolidated annual procurement plans for equipment and drugs, and for health infrastructure. These are the most comprehensive seen to date.

## Strengthening Core Health System Functions (Output 1)



### Health financing and financial management

- ▲ TABUCS was rolled out to all 278 cost centres in the country with 90% of all financial data to September 2014 now entered.
- ▲ MoHP's Internal Control and Audit Clearance Guidelines were adopted by all cost centres and have already resulted in 39% of 2013/14's audit queries being cleared.
- ▲ The Ministry's second Financial Monitoring Report (FMR) for FY 2013/14 was prepared following the rationalisation of the number of reporting templates from 33 down to 6.
- ▲ A report on performance based grant agreements (PBGAs) for 11 hospitals was completed and a follow up review of financial management systems planned.

### Health procurement and infrastructure development

- ▲ Management Division's Consolidated Annual Procurement Plan (CAPP) for equipment and drugs, and its Infrastructure Procurement Plan (IPP) for 2014/15 were finalised.
- ▲ Logistic Management Division's, Technical Specification Bank reached over 1100 items, while its Contract Management Information System (CMS) added several new functions and reports.



## Strengthening the Information and Monitoring System (Output 2)



### Monitoring, evaluation and research

- ▲ Management Division's upgraded health management information system (HMIS) was taken into use across the country and five specialists were hired to troubleshoot any teething problems.
- ▲ Management Division, supported by EDPs, acted to improve hospital medical record keeping through a situational analysis and planning exercise at Lumbini Zonal Hospital.
- ▲ MoHP prepared a national registry of health institutions, with each allocated a unique identification number.

### Essential health care services

- ▲ Management Division approved national quality improvement (QI) indicators and QI committees in Taplejung and Hetauda district hospitals reviewed progress and updated their action plans.
- ▲ Efforts to avert overcrowding at referral hospitals continued by tracking progress made against action plans in three referral hospitals and through the siting of five strategic birthing centres in Banke district.
- ▲ Following district level review, FHD instructed all DHOs/hospitals to renew local service contracts for comprehensive emergency obstetric care (CEONC) service providers. 54/75 districts now have functioning CEONC services.
- ▲ DoHS' director general approved implementation of the remote areas MNH pilot (RAMP) in Taplejung district and local planning, procurement and training began, including equity and access inputs.
- ▲ Save the Children finalised its rapid assessment tools and implemented its new born care programme in three districts.

## Supporting Institutional Reform (Output 3)



### Policy and planning

- ▲ MoHP prepared a zero draft of the third Nepal Health Sector Programme (NHSP-3) document together with a monitoring and evaluation strategy and results framework.
- ▲ Preparation of the NHSP-3 Implementation Plan (NHSP-3 IP) began with MoHP recruiting a national expert to facilitate the planning process funded by the technical assistant resource fund (TARF).
- ▲ In an important new initiative, MoHP allocated NPR 2.11 million to improve service delivery and service quality at district hospitals. An additional NPR 3.60 million was made available for facility repair and maintenance work.

### Gender equality and social inclusion

- ▲ The equity and access programme (EAP) integration study in Dhading and Rupandehi districts was completed and a draft report submitted to Population Division and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development.
- ▲ MoHP's revised social service unit (SSU) guidelines were submitted to the health secretary for approval. An annual review based on the five SSUs is planned for the coming quarter.
- ▲ A process evaluation of social auditing in Jhapa and Ilam districts in 2014 was completed.
- ▲ A cross-ministry group of officials travelled to Sri Lanka on a UNFPA supported gender based violence (GBV) exposure visit. National GBV clinical protocols were developed and support provided to the Asia Foundation to run three GBV awareness raising events for police officers.

### Public financial management

- ▲ An eighth Aama rapid review carried out by the Nepal Environment Protection Agency (NEPA) under contract to FHD.

## Progress of the Technical Assistance Response Fund

Under Phase 2 of NHSSP a Technical Assistance Response Fund (TARF) has been established to fund initiatives proposed by MoHP and EDPs. TARF funding has so far primarily been used by DoHS divisions to hire expert technical advice. In this quarter:

1. Two consultants and one secretary were hired for the NHSP-3 Project Development Team.
2. Two additional procurement specialists were hired at the request of LMD.
3. A senior safe motherhood coordinator and CEONC mentor were continued as requested by FHD.
4. Payment was made for MoHP's organisation and management survey as requested by MoHP's HR and Finance Unit.

The Nepal Health Sector Support Programme (NHSSP) is funded and managed by DFID to provide technical assistance to the Nepal Health Sector Programme (NHSP-2). Since it began in January 2011, NHSSP has facilitated a wide variety of activities in support of NHSP-2, covering health policy and planning, human resource management, gender equality and social inclusion (GESI), health financing, public financial management, procurement and infrastructure, essential health care services (EHCS) and monitoring and evaluation. NHSSP supports system strengthening, the development of policies and strategies, the carrying out of studies, reviews on areas of concern, and the taking forward of solutions.