

M-HSCC Executive Working Group Meeting

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM, Wednesday, 29 September 2014

Disease Control Meeting Room, Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw

Summary of Discussion

1. Welcome by the Chair of the M-HSCC Executive Working Group

Deputy Director General Dr Soe Lwin Nyein welcomed the attendees and introduced the meeting's agenda. This ExWG meeting is held to discuss PR Transition, the Agenda for the Upcoming M-HSCC meeting to be held in November, OIG Audit Report and the upcoming oversight field visit. The agenda also included current update on Ebola Preparedness in Myanmar. Dr Soe Lwin Nyein noted the progress of the Technical Strategic Groups (TSGs). Six TSGs are now functioning: HIV, TB, Malaria, HSS, RMNCAH TSG and Public Health Emergency & Disaster Preparedness (PHEDP) TSG. But, the M&E and research TSG is still in the process of being established.

2. OIG Audit Mission Report

Mr. Eamonn Murphy presented on the OIG Audit Mission report findings.

Dr Myint Shwe Discuss NAP is now working closely in collaboration with CHAI, Burnet Institute, USAID and Save the Children SCMS for the Strategic Plan on Procurement and Supply Chain Management to improve weakness in LMIS. To prevent some issues on stock problems, starting from this year, ART commodities quantification was made for all the SRs with the technical assistant of SCMS.

Dr Soe Lwin Nyein noted that LMIS weakness is one of the important issues in OIG report. He advised Program Managers to submit the brief points of the final OIG report to Ministry so that they can know about the situations and make some policy level changes. He also requested HSCC secretariat to share Final OIG audit report to all HSCC members prior the upcoming M-HSCC meeting.

3. PR Transition

Mr. Eamonn Murphy explained about the Global Fund PR Transition process. There is a transition road map for Ministry of Health in order to attain the Global Fund PR capacity in 2016. UNOPS PR is going to support the process and assist with the guidance from Global Fund and the Ministry so that the areas need to focus for the transition can be easily identified.

The very first step of the PR transition, with the support of the French FEI Initiative 5%, is a process where consultants will do an assessment of the MoH system particularly on three specific areas; finance, procurement & supply chain management and M&E. The 5% FEI have proposed consultants to the Ministry and among them, 3 will be selected by MoH. After the assessment, there is a plan to

have a meeting with the Ministry and development partners including PR, bi-lateral donors and multi-lateral organizations to discuss support for the PR transition process; identify the resources and their sources.

The decision from the Ministry is now pending for almost 2 months and so, the process needs to be facilitated in order to start the assessment as early as possible. We might lose the selected consultants if the decision is not made soon.

Dr Soe Lwin Nyein emphasized the importance of PR transition and he committed to check this with IHD on the selection of consultants.

The current grant of The Global Fund will finish at the end of 2016. For the 2017, because of the time frame of developing the new grants, there is a risk of a gap in providing services at the early part of 2017. So, to have some buffer stocks of ARVs and treatment of OIs and other commodities, Global Fund will reduce the activities costs and commodities costs in 2015-2016 at about 5 - 6 million USD. Some colleagues were under the impression that, in the Global Fund meeting with the Minister, the Minister mentioned that MoH will contribute 5 million USD for ART for 2015-2016 (2.5 million USD per year) in order provide sufficient service delivery to communities. Now, a confirmation request letter has been sent to the Ministry through IHD regarding this government contribution.

Dr Soe Lwin Nyein requested NAP to prepare the planning and budget estimation process for 2015-2016.

4. Update on Ebola Preparedness

Dr Htun Tin, Deputy Director from Epidemiology unit presented on Ebola Preparedness in Myanmar.

(See full presentation for details)

Dr Soe Lwin Nyein advised the Ebola Virus Disease Prevention and Control Committee to discuss and share the updates in next time Public Health Emergency and Disaster Preparedness TSG meeting. The SOP for infection control of Ebola is now in Myanmar Language and in the process of translated into English. Once finalized, it will be shared with all International Organizations and Embassies.

Dr Soe Lwin Nyein also mentioned that the Myanmar Government is now planning to fund the upgrade of the National Health Laboratory to Biosafety Level 3.

5. Agenda for Upcoming M-HSCC meeting

The expected timing of the next M-HSCC meeting is sometime after 17 November 2014; after the ASEAN Summit Meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. Dr Soe Lwin Nyein will confirm with the Deputy Minister and share with M-HSCC members.

Discussion points:

- An update on the Health Sector Reform Plan in Myanmar and World Bank support to health system strengthening and progress towards UHC was requested by one member.
- Ms Amber Cernovs on behalf of the 3MDG Fund Board proposed a presentation on the outcomes and recommendations of the strategic review of 3MDG activities.
- An update on progress of UHC in Myanmar from the Ministry of Health and implementing partners was suggested by Ms Kaori Nakatani.
- Dr Soe Lwin Nyein suggested having an update on the ExWG meeting in the M-HSCC meeting. He also requested the secretariat team to prepare the agenda, all the documents and presentation and share with the M-HSCC members one week before the meeting.
- An update from all the TSGs will be presented by one representative. Dr Soe Lwin Nyein suggested including Ebola update in this session.
- An update report on the two PR will be presented by the Secretariat.

6. AOB

a. Upcoming SEAR constituency meeting on 6-7 November

Dr Than Htike, Deputy Director from IHD confirmed that MoH has nominated 2 representatives on behalf of Myanmar HSCC to attend the SEAR constituency meeting; Dr Samuel Kyaw Hla, Chairman of Myanmar Medical Association and Dr Thar Htun Kyaw, Director of Administration from Department of Health.

b. Travel Authorization

Dr Than Htike explained the working group members the MoH procedure of authorizing travel requests from International Organizations. Once IHD receive a travel request, they send the request to concerning departments and request to nominate an appropriate Liaison Officer for each trip. The process usually takes 1-2 days. After getting the Liaison Officer, IHD can issue the letter within 1-2 days because the letter has to be signed by the Deputy Minister and then the letter is sent to the Sub-cabinet Committee which can allow the travel authorization. The Sub-cabinet Committee is situated under the President Office.

Although it usually takes only 4-5 days for the whole process, IHD can't predict the time interval for nomination of Liaison Officer from the concerning units and departments and also, they can't manage the time required in the sub-cabinet. That is the reason why it takes more times in some requests. If the condition is urgent, the requested travel can also be accomplished with IHD letter only if the local State and Regional Government allow. But in most scenarios, the State and Regional Government doesn't allow the travel without the permission from Sub-cabinet Committee because of some issues like security.

If it is very urgent for requested organization to get the travel authorization, they can directly go to Deputy Director General and request an assigned Liaison Officer so that IHD can issue the letter within 1-2 days. But IHD can't control time required in Sub-cabinet Committee.

Dr Soe Lwin Nyein also commented that he can also facilitate the Liaison Officer nomination process for Disease Control Unit. He requested to send one copy of Travel Authorization Request to him.

c. Oversight Visit of ExWG members

In the last ExWG meeting, members decided to have an oversight visit annually for the opportunity to discuss with local government counterparts, State/Regional Health Directors concerning the 3 diseases and MNCH, Health System Strengthening and PSM related issues not limited to three diseases. For this matter, the program managers had nominated 3 townships for this years; Kalaw in Shan State, Hakha in Chin State and Phyapon in Ayerwaddy Region.

ExWG members decided this year ExWG oversight visit will go to Kalaw, Shan State. The date of the visit has to be confirmed later with MoH for the necessary arrangement of the travel authorization.

Discussion

For the newsletter of M-HSCC, JICA discussed that there is a wrong number of figure in the Update of Last M-HSCC meeting section and they requested M-HSCC secretariat team to share the draft newsletter to the members before releasing the final. They will send the correct number to the secretariat.