

Minutes of the M-HSCC Executive Working Group Meeting

***UNAIDS Office, Yangon
Saturday, 7th of February 2015
10:00-12:00***

1. Welcome by the Chair

On behalf of the chair, Dr. Thandar Lwin welcomed the attendees and introduced the agenda. The ExWG meeting was held to discuss the PR transition process, the MHSCC budget proposal for GFATM and M-HSCC work plan, the APN + Regional proposal to GFATM and data system proposal to GFATM.

2. Approval of the agenda and last meeting minutes.

The agenda and the Meeting Minutes of the last Executive Working Group meeting was reviewed and approved.

3. PR transition process, CHAI and French 5%

Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein made a presentation on MOH plans to transition to GFATM PR by the end of 2016. The presentation included three main sectors: Capacity Review and Planning; Capacity Development and Transition; Grant Management. The Capacity Review and Planning comprise of engagement of stakeholders, self-review, structural analysis (5% initiative) and partner meeting which have already started and are planned to continue until 2nd quarter of 2015. The Capacity Development and Transition section include drafting MOH capacity development roadmap, mobilizing resources (technical and financial), building and strengthening systems, applying for PR and undergoing assessment and applying for GFATM grants. This will run from 2015 till early 2017. Grant Management including technical assistance starts from late 2016 and onwards. Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein asked for comments and ideas.

The capacity building will be focused on four key areas: governance and program management; financial management; procurement & supply chain; monitoring & evaluation.

It was also discussed that by monitoring the road map implementation the ExWG members can see at regular intervals if the activities are on track.

Dr. Khin San Tint of CHAI gave an update on the self-assessment on-going at Central and Sub regional level. She mentioned that the prepared assessment questionnaires are based on the Global Fund's formal assessment, which is a long document consisting of 90 pages. The questionnaires are hence simplified to make it easier to do the self-assessment. Most questionnaires use a tick-lists approach because many government officials have limited time for the assessment and this approach is time efficient. The questionnaires will focus on the existing system, mechanisms, etc. Based on the results of this initial assessment, there will be a second meeting with respective government officials. The CHAI team is considering if focus group discussion (FGD) can be arranged.

Dr. Kyaw Khaing suggested sharing information with the M-HSCC to avoid any misunderstanding about the PR-transition among the development partners.

The importance of following up on the analysis of the self-review and the inputs from the French (5% initiatives) consultants was stressed. The technical partners can support once the Ministry gets the

analysis from the self-review and the French funded consultants. Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein stressed that it's important to finish the draft MoH capacity building plan by 2015 to ensure a smooth process.

It was discussed that the timeline is important as it will go beyond 2017. It is important for continuation of support to this process.

Samantha Diamond of CHAI provided further elaboration on the self-assessment. She mentioned that the first part of the process was sensitization to ensure that everyone in the Ministry is aware of the PR Transition. She also explained that a part of the process includes collection of existing templates & forms being used in the government system for financial management, procurement, M & E and program management.

The ExWG members asked for the questionnaires to be shared for review by the appropriate stakeholders.

Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein mentioned that there are many reform processes going in the Ministry and soon there will be a structural reform, which means that MoH staff is in a challenging situation with many requests and changes. The changes will take place within this government period. He stressed since there will be some changes, the current assessment findings and recommendations for the PR transition will need to take this into consideration.

4. ExWG oversight visit to Kalaw

Southern Shan State was selected for the oversight visit at the last ExeWG meeting. The station hospital in Aung Ban and Kalaw townships were proposed as sites to be visited by MOH prior to the meeting. The Station Health Unit in Pway Hla (*located between Aung Ban and Pindaya*) Township and Pindaya, an hour's drive from Kalaw, to see malaria Intensive activity were proposed by meeting participants.

The draft detailed agenda for the oversight visit was presented by Ole Hansen who opened the floor for comments and suggestions. The trip is scheduled to take place from 23rd to 25th February and will be looking at several issues within public health including maternal and child health, TB, malaria, HIV and vaccination.

Media representatives are to be invited from Taung Gyi depending on possibilities of the presence of media in Kalaw or Aung Ban. It was suggested to stick to print media only as it will be easier to remain sensitive to community concerns if TV cameras are not present. The meeting with community will focus on the general population, including pregnant women, women who just had babies etc. The Deputy Minister had earlier suggested that the meeting with the community should focus on feedback from the community.

A second oversight visit will be organized to Chin State in December; those who choose not to participate in this visit may plan for the next visit. It is expected that half of Executive members participate in this visit.

5. Review of MHSCC budget proposal for GFATM and MHSCC work plan

The MHSCC budget proposal and its work plan were presented for comments and eventually approval. Detailed budget information was distributed prior to the meeting. The two year cycle of Global Fund's funding to the M-HSCC is ending. The secretariat is now applying for the next 2 years. This time, the Global Fund has introduced a few new rules and is now enforcing the existing rules. These include compliance with the performance framework and require additional recording/documenting.

A proper work plan and a detailed budget have to be submitted. The budget has to be approved by the M-HSCC members. Ole Hansen shared the detailed proposed work plan and calendar at the meeting. There will be an external assessment conducted to review the M-HSCC and secretariat work. External consultants will review if the Global Fund's guidelines are being followed. The interviews with key members of the M-HSCC may be arranged during the external review period. The review will happen in 2015. That can have retroactive implication on the budget as there might be some adjustment according to the outcome of this external review. The job description of the M-HSCC secretariat staffs members will have to be submitted to the Global Fund as part of the budget approval.

The work plan and the budget were approved by the M-HSCC ExWG member and an approval sheet was signed.

6. APN+ regional proposal to GFATM – letter of endorsement

Mr. Eamonn Murphy briefed the working group on the Global Fund regional grant concept note being prepared by APN+ (Asian Pacific Network of people living with HIV/AIDS). APN+ is planning to submit a Concept Note to the Global Fund for a regional grant in collaboration with the Asian Network of People Who Use Drugs (ANPUD), the Asia Pacific Network of Sex Workers (APNSW) and the Asia Pacific Transgender network (APTN).

The Concept Note has to be submitted very soon and the CCMs in the countries covered by the Concept Note are asked to endorse the overall approach. U Myo Thant Htun is the Executive Director of Myanmar Positive Group and he is acting as the country contact person. It was stressed that this regional grant is in addition to national grants. It will not have any impact on the national grants. It was mentioned that the activities in the concept note are important, that the activities of APN+ are well known and that APN+ is a reputable regional organisation. A brief description of what will be included in the Concept Note was distributed for review by the ExWG members prior to the meeting. The ExWG agreed to endorse the overall approach of the Concept Note on behalf of the M-HSCC (and hence the Myanmar CCM). In addition to the endorsement of the ExWG members, the Chair or Vice Chair of the M-HSCC is requested to sign a letter of endorsement. The ExWG hence agreed to ask the Secretariat to facilitate the signature of a letter of endorsement by the Chair or Vice Chair of the M-HSCC.

7. Review and approval of Data System Proposal to GFATM

A draft Data System Project Proposal for submission to the GFATM had been developed and distributed prior to this meeting. Dr. Thandar Lwin informed the meeting that she had discussed the proposal with HMIS which is under the Department of Health Planning.

There was no objection to the proposal from the group but the Secretariat was requested to send the Executive Working Group members the proposal for final review and approval after it has been reviewed and discussed in the TSG on M&E and Research.

8. AoB

New Policy on Unspent GFATM Grants

Mr. Eamonn Murphy mentioned that particularly the program managers and the PRs need to be aware that the Global Fund under the new funding model has made an important decision for new grants. For Myanmar this will be relevant for the next grant starting in 2017. Any funds not spent under the current grant will be deducted automatically from any new grants. Mr Murphy therefore encouraged that it is

ensured that the expenditure rates are on target. This has been discussed with Dr. Soe Lwin Nyein and there is a plan to have a meeting with the PRs.

If there is underspending, it may require either further reviewing or reallocation of funds. For example Malaria may have significantly underspent. It is important to look early on what funds will be spent and what will not be spent. Dr. Thandar Lwin suggested that a gap analysis may be required to prepare for the re-allocation of funds. It was also discussed that the PR should be transparent and shares the expenditure rates with the ExWG so the members can review and discuss the re-allocation decisions.

The Regional Artemisinin Resistance Initiative (RAI) update

The RAI has undergone an important reprogramming exercise for each of the Country Components, during which activities for the remaining period April 2015 – December 2016 have been determined. In Myanmar RAI Reprogramming workshops were held in November last year followed by extensive follow-up and fine-tuning in December and January. These efforts by NMCP, UNOPS PR and RAI partners have resulted in draft reprogrammed budgets, Programme Framework (PF) and PSM plans.

The RAI Myanmar Country Component reprogramming documents were received by the secretariat. The RAI PR (UNOPS) is asking for an M-HSCC endorsement. Dr. Thandar Lwin mentioned that this has not gone through the TSG on Malaria. However, the documents were only received the day before the ExWG meeting and there was hence no time for members to review the documents. The review and potential endorsement was hence pushed to the next meeting.

Related to but separate from the RAI Country Component reprogramming, Dr Thandar Lwin mentioned that a call for border project proposals under the RAI grant was recently sent out. The focus area is the India-Myanmar border. She asked that the proposals should be passed through the TSG on Malaria and onward to the M-HSCC or the ExWG. Dr Thandar Lwin suggested that ExWG members let partners know what the correct process is. Unfortunately, the regional grant has not gone through the M-HSCC or the ExWG in the past.

Health Forum

The ministry is currently considering the idea of organising a health forum like the development cooperation forum, which is taking place in Nay Pyi Taw in February. The idea is to have a number of inspirational speakers, for partners and the ministry of health to share successes and lessons learned, to get media engagement to spread the messages of successes publicly, and to lay out the plans on UHC and the ministry's future vision. The health forum should help create debate and inspire policy making. A number of partners including USAID are very supportive of the idea.