



PMMU Newsletter

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Issue-18 (January - March 2019)

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Team Management



Equity & Equality



Work-life Balance

This e-newsletter of PMMU covers the third quarter of FY 2018-19, i.e., January-March 2019. Some important events/activities of this quarter are highlighted below.

Visit of the Honorable Prime Minister to MOHFW



The Honorable Prime Minister visits MOHFW

The Honorable Prime Minister visited the office of MOHFW on 27 January 2019. The Honorable Minister and State Minister for MOHFW, Secretaries of Health Services Division (HSD) and Medical Education and Family Welfare Division (ME&FWD), the Principal Secretary, the Chief SDG Coordinator and the Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office, Director Generals of all the agencies and other high officials of the MOHFW were present. Both the Secretaries of HSD and ME&FWD briefed the Honorable Prime Minister about the progress of activities of their respective Divisions. The Honorable Prime Minister gave a number of instructions for improvement of the health, nutrition and population (HNP) sector; based on which both the Divisions developed a one-year program for implementation.

New Minister Takes Charge of MOHFW

Mr. Zahid Maleque, MP and former State Minister of MOHFW joined the new Cabinet as the Minister in Charge of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) and Dr. Md. Murad Hassan, MP joined as the State Minister of MOHFW in January 2019. Right after taking charge of the Ministry, the Honorable Minister announced a 100-days' program of priority actions to add dynamism to the working of the Ministry.

Annual Program Review 2018

The MOHFW and the HNP Development Partners (DPs), under the overall supervision and facilitation of APR Steering Committee (APR-SC) headed by the Joint Chief-HSD, initiated preparatory tasks for conducting the Annual Program Review (APR) of the implementation of the 4th HPNSP over July 2017-June 2018. Nine thematic areas [viz., Sector Management & Monitoring and Health Financing; Governance & Stewardship; Pharmaceuticals & Drug Administration; Human Resource Development; Financial Management & Audit; Physical Facilities Development, Procurement & Supply Chain Management; RMNCAH-FP; Disease Control (covering CDC and NCDC including urban health); and Nutrition] were selected by the APR-SC for APR 2018.

A team of 13 independent consultants, including two internationals, formed an independent review team (IRT) to conduct APR 2018 during 20 January-20 February 2019. One of the international consultants led the IRT as Team Leader.

The APR 2018 was formally initiated with a Launching Workshop held on 21 January 2019. Deputy Chief, HSD made a power point presentation on 'overview of APR 2018' and Joint Chief, HSD made a power point presentation on 'overview of 4th HPNSP and its progress during FY 2017-18'. During the APR period, the IRT had discussion with the Line Directors (LDs) and other stakeholders about progress of the 4th HPNSP. Their primary findings and recommendations were discussed in detail in the relevant Task Group meetings.



Launching Workshop: APR 2018

Thematic area-based presentations of the IRT members and an overall presentation by the Team Leader on key findings including a draft priority action plan (PAP) were shared in the Policy Dialogue held on 18 February 2019. Dr. Md. Murad Hassan, MP and Honorable State Minister for MOHFW graced the Policy Dialogue as the Chief Guest. The final report of the IRT was submitted by the Team Leader on 26 February 2019 including a set of recommended PAP. The IRT-recommended PAP was reviewed by the LDs on 26 February in a workshop, which was later presented for finalization in the Wrap-up meeting held under the chairmanship of Secretary, HSD on 27 February 2019.



The Policy Dialogue of APR 2018

Task Group Meetings

Notifications constituting nine Task Groups (TGs) were circulated in December 2018. The first-round meeting of all the TGs took place during APR 2018 where the initial findings of the IRT were discussed. The TG members took part in the discussion with their comments and suggestions which helped the IRT to finalize its thematic reports.



A task group meeting, presided over by Joint Chief, HSD, MOHFW

Preparation of Six-monthly Progress Report (July-December, 2018)

The PMMU updated the template of Six-monthly Progress Report (SmPR) of 4th HPNSP in December 2018, which was shared with the LDs in early January 2019 to fill-in. The PMMU-TAST members conducted workshops at DGHS and DGFP with the LDs on the templates in February 2019. Filled-in templates from all the LDs were available in late March 2019. The PMMU-TAST drafted a report based on the templates received from the LDs and information on financial progress was received from the Planning Wing, HSD and Planning Branch, ME&FWD. The draft SmPR was shared with the Planning Wing, HSD on 31 March 2018 for their review. The reviewed report will soon be shared with the LDs and DPs for finalization.

Technical Assistance Committee Meetings

Three meetings of the TA Committee (TAC) consisting of GOB and DP representatives were held on 15 January, 12 February and 19 March of 2019 under the chairmanship of Joint Chief, HSD and Chair of the TAC. TORs for five more TAs were reviewed and recommended for approval. The TAs are expected to expedite the implementation of relevant OPs of the 4th HPNSP.



A Technical Assistance Committee meeting, presided over by Joint Chief, HSD, MOHFW

Meeting of Honorable Minister with DPs

The Honorable Minister for MOHFW held a meeting with the DPs in the HNP sector on 10 February. The Honorable Minister shared his recently announced '100 days' program' with the DPs and discussed about areas of their probable support. The DPs committed to provide all-out support in implementation of the Program.

Technical Mission of the World Bank

A Technical Mission of the World Bank participated in APR 2018. A debriefing meeting with the Mission took place on 13 March 2019 under the chairmanship of Secretary, HSD. A draft aide-memoire of the Mission mentioning the progress of DLI achievement, problems and way forward including some time-bound actions was reviewed in the meeting. The final aide-memoire was circulated by the World Bank later on.

Signing of Agreements with Four UN Agencies

A signing ceremony was held on 20 March 2019 to sign agreements with four UN Agencies (IOM, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO) to provide HNP services to the forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals (FDMNs) with World Bank's financing of US\$ 35 million (as DPA - grant). The services are to be provided through five Operational Plans of DGHS and three Operational Plans of DGFP. Honorable Minister for MOHFW graced the event as Chief Guest, while, Secretaries of HSD and ME&FWD remained present as the Chair and Co-Chair of the event. Director General of DGHS signed the agreements on behalf of the MOHFW and the concerned UN agency-heads signed on behalf of their respective agencies. Senior officials of both the Divisions of MOHFW, and DPs were also present at the event.

DLI Monitoring Committee Meeting

The fifth meeting of the DLI Monitoring Committee was held on 13 January 2019 under the chairmanship of Joint Chief, HSD. Progress of achievement of the Disbursement-Linked Results (DLRs) of FY 2017-18 as well as the DLRs pending with the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED) for verification were reviewed in the meeting.

MEASURE Evaluation's Periodic Meeting

Measure Evaluation's Senior Evaluation Advisor Dr. Sian Curtis met the TAST members in the course of her tour of Bangladesh towards end-February. The current stage of progress of implementation of the 4th HPNSP, obstacles and way forward were shared during the review.

Divisional Workshop on SDGs and 4th HPNSP

On 30 March 2019, a Divisional Workshop was held in Rangpur on 'Health-related SDGs and implementation progress of 4th HPNSP' under the chairmanship of Director (Health), Rangpur Division. Secretary, Health Services Division, MOHFW graced the workshop as the Chief Guest.

The workshop was organized by the HSD with support from USAID. Two power point presentations were made at the workshop- (i) by the Deputy Chief, HSD on 'overview of SDGs and progress of health-related SDG indicators of Bangladesh'; and (ii) by the Joint Chief, HSD on 'implementation of 4th HPNSP towards achievement of health-related SDGs'.



A portion of the participants at the workshop.

Over 200 participants representing all tiers of the health workforce of Rangpur Division and community representatives participated in the workshop. After the two presentations, the participants engaged in group exercise on the four prioritized health-related indicators of SDG (reduction of stunting, maternal mortality ratio, U-5 mortality rate, and neonatal mortality rate). Recommendations for improving service were presented by each group at the Plenary Session of the workshop, keeping in view existing constraints and resource limitations.



Mr. Md. Ashadul Islam, Secretary, HSD, MOHFW attended the Rangpur Divisional Workshop as Chief Guest



Group exercise session of the workshop