

Minutes of the stakeholders meeting held for the GFATM 6th Round Proposal

Date: 7th July 2006

Venue: MoH conference hall.

A day long consultative meeting was convened at the conference hall of the ministry on 7th July 06. It was chaired by the Hon'ble Secretary with the participations from the relevant stakeholders such as the Uniform personnel, Private sector, international donor agencies, faith based institutions and also some of the PCM members. The main aim of the meeting was to ensure the participation of broad range of stakeholders in the proposal's development process and that all the stakeholders have a voice in determining its appropriateness to the country's particular situation. This level of involvement ensures that the proposal's goals are owned by the affected and concerned stakeholders and not just a handful of the proposal writers

Opening Remarks

The Hon'ble chair in his opening remarks welcomed all the participants to the meeting. Further the chair mentioned that such a meeting was important to discuss on the activities to be implemented by the stakeholders through the GFATM funding. The chair also reminded that the GFATM proposal was on the 6th round and the urged the relevant stakeholders to give in their inputs to secure the fund in the interest of the general population

Presentation on 6th Round GFATM

Dr Renu Garg reminded the forum that any good proposal should meet the three most important criteria: **Soundness of the proposal, Feasibility of the proposal and Sustainability of the proposal**. The forum was informed that the deadline for the submission of the proposal to the GFATM was 3rd August 2006 and urged to expedite the process. Dr Renu made it clear in her presentation that the focus of the proposal should be on the gender, people affected by the disease, evidence based and complimentary to the existing funding and not as a replacement to the existing fund.

Presentation on HIV/AIDS Fund Gap.

The presentation covered a brief the status of the HIV/AIDS programme in Bhutan and also the Gap analysis for the programme to secure the GFATM funds. The following are the major programmatic Gap as highlighted in the presentation:

- Intensifying youth intervention on HIV/AIDS related issues.
- Targeting the special group such as armed forces & faith based organizations.
- Scaling up activities for the vulnerable populations like the commercial sex workers, Injectable Drug Users (IDU)

Presentation on the TB Fund Gap.

The programme manager informed the forum that the GFATM has released the first and second disbursement of the 4th round proposal. Further the programme informed the floor of the need to do programmatic gap and financial gap analysis in order to secure the funds. The programme aims to bridge the following gaps from the 6th round GFATM support.

- Diagnosis and treatment of patients falling 1st line test.(MDR TB)
- Creating awareness & quality service among the vulnerable groups.
- Creating referral linkages in the migrants & nomadic population
- Strengthening of the information management system in the reporting centers.
- Capacity building
- Providing supportive environment for laboratory /community TB care(CTBC)

- **Presentation on the Malaria Fund Gap.**

The program reported that the main focus of the proposal would be on the scale up activities due to external factors such as global warming, increasing populations etc. The major funding gap was reported in the field of environmental management. Another area Gap was also reported was in the long term human capacity building.

The chair directed the programme to look into the control of malaria through cross border activities with the border of India. Introduction of mechanism to coordinate with the bordering states of India in terms of control of malaria. The chair also suggested that the program could focus on biological control through proper environmental management and involving the community participation.

Discussions:

During the discussion session many issues were brought to the notice of the forum. However only major discussions are summarized in the following paragraphs:

It was discussed that since the HIV/AIDS programme was applying for the first time to the GFATM, the programme in consultation with the relevant stakeholders should adopt a multi sectoral approach. The forum felt HIV/AIDS should be more geared towards creating awareness and prevention. It was also discussed that the relevant stakeholders such ministry of education, faith based organization, army personnel & private sectors be fully involved in implementing their activates pertaining to prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Since Malaria and TB were very much technical in nature that involved diagnostic and curative services, the ministry of health was felt to be solely responsible on the major implementation front. The forum was also appraised that the two programmes are in the process of implementing the GFATM Round 4.