

# Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme Development and Management (SPPDM)

*WHO-SEARO, New Delhi, 6 July 2012*



**World Health  
Organization**  
Regional Office for South-East Asia

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## Introduction

The Fifth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme Development and Management (SPPDM) was held at the WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO), New Delhi, on 6 July 2012. High-level delegates represented their respective Member States at the meeting. The agenda and list of participants are attached as Annexes 1 and 2 respectively.

### 1. Inaugural session *(Agenda item 1)*

#### Opening remarks by the Regional Director

Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia, welcomed the distinguished participants to the meeting. He informed the meeting that the SPPDM is a subcommittee of the Regional Committee which discusses the agenda item on Programme Budget. The agenda of the Fifth SPPDM included three sub-items: (i) on Programme Budget Performance Assessment for the 2010-2011 biennium; (ii) on Implementation of the Programme Budget 2012-2012, and (iii) development of 12th General Programme of Work (GPW) and preparation of the Proposed Programme Budget for 2014-2015.

Dr Samlee urged the Subcommittee to pay particular attention to the agenda on the 12th GPW and the PB 2014-2015 as there were many changes in the structure of the GPW that would be reflected in the Programme Budget for 2014-2015. He suggested that the Subcommittee might be interested to review the process of the development of the 12th GPW and the process for preparation of Programme Budget 2014-2015 and provide comments to WHO.

Dr Samlee informed the Subcommittee that the drafts of the 12th GPW and PB 2014-2015 would be discussed in the Regional Committee and then discussed at the extraordinary meeting of the Programme Budget and Administration Committee (PBAC) of the WHO Executive Board in December 2012 before submission to the 132nd Session of the Executive

Board in January 2013. Finally, these will be submitted to the World Health Assembly in May 2013 for approval.

Dr Samlee said that there were number of important issues involved in the development of 12th GPW and preparation of PB 2014-2015 where the involvement of Member States was envisaged. It was very important to provide the regional views on these issues as these are expected to be incorporated in the drafts that would go to the extraordinary meeting of PBAC and then to 132nd EB. It should be noted that that the 12th GPW and the proposed PB 2014-2015 are important parts of the implementation of the current WHO reform.

The Regional Director informed participants that the outcome of deliberations of the Subcommittee would be directly presented to the Sixty-fifth Session of the Regional Committee, September 2012.

### **Nomination of Chairperson and Rapporteur**

His Excellency, Dr Win Myint, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health, Myanmar was elected as Chairperson.

Dr Padam Bahadur Chand, Chief, Policy, Planning and International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal, was elected as Co-Chairperson.

Mr Jayendra Sharma, Planning Officer, Planning and Policy Division, Ministry of Health, Bhutan, was elected as Rapporteur.

## **2. Programme Budget Matters** (*Agenda item 2*)

### **2.1 Programme Budget Performance Assessment: 2010-2011** (*RC65 Provisional Agenda item 4.1*)

#### ***Introduction***

The Programme Budget Performance Assessment (PBPA), which is conducted by all WHO offices across the world at the close of each biennium, is an integral part of WHO's Results-based Management Framework. The purpose of the PBPA is to evaluate the Secretariat's

contributions to the achievement of the Organization-wide Expected Results (OWERs) set out in the amended Medium-term Strategic Plan 2008–2013 and the 2010-2011 Programme Budget.

The PBPA process requires WHO country offices, headquarters and regional office departments to assess the achievement of the lower-level Office-specific Expected Results (OSERs), products and services, and to review financial implementation in relation to the results. WHO considers the PBPA to be a key instrument for improving its performance globally and for increasing its accountability to Member States.

### ***Discussion points***

- Clarification was requested regarding the rating system used to determine whether an Organization-wide Expected Result is “fully achieved” or “partially achieved”. This was based on the meeting of indicator targets and the review of achievements across the six regions. If any target is not met, or more than one region does not meet its own regional targets, the expected result is deemed to be ‘partly achieved’.
- Concern was expressed about the under funding of some SOs and of some countries in relation to PB allocations. This was largely owing to continued WHO reliance on voluntary contributions, an overall gap in funds mobilized in 2010-2011 and the fact that the budget was “aspirational”.
- The difference between “aspirational” and a “realistic” budget was discussed and elaborated upon.
- Lessons drawn about the reasons for non-achievement of expected results would be useful to share with Member States of the Region, to be able to use these to improve the quality of implementation and to overcome obstacles and impediments.

### ***Recommendations***

The Regional Committee was requested to review the working paper and consider the following recommendations made by the SPPDM.

### *Action by Member States*

- (1) To make use of lessons learnt from the Programme Budget Performance Assessment when providing inputs into the preparation of future programme budgets and country plans.

### *Actions by WHO-SEARO*

- (1) To validate the statistics presented in the paper concerning malaria rapid diagnostics tests and the availability of LLINs/ITNs.
- (2) To revise the paper before presenting it to the Sixth-fifth Regional Committee, adding a clarification explaining that the figures showing unutilized voluntary contribution (VC) funds include VC funds to be carried forward to future biennia.
- (3) To add an additional annex to the paper showing the breakdown of SO13 budget implementation by country.

## **2.2. Implementation of Programme Budget 2012-2013**

*(RC65 Provisional Agenda item 4.2)*

### ***Introduction***

The approved budget for SEAR for 2012-2013 is US\$ 384.2 million and the operational budget as per approved workplans is US\$ 375.4 million. Total resources are US\$ 253.3 million; fund utilization (encumbrances + expenditures), including payroll costs up to May 2012, stands at US\$ 72.9 million. The overall fund utilization against budget is 19.4% and against resources is 28.8%. Expenditure stands at US\$ 46.2 million (20% of resources). This rate of expenditure is on target for this point in the biennium.

The total assessed contribution (AC) funds available to the SEA Region at this time are US\$ 99.2 million. The AC funds have been allocated to countries and the Regional Office in the ratio of 75:25. Of the total available AC, US\$ 55.4 million are allocated to staff costs and US\$ 41.1 million to activities. The overall implementation rate against resources is 19% (Staff 16% and Activities 23%).

The VC resources available to the Region stand at US\$ 156.8 million. Of these total resources, US\$ 49 million represent carry-over from the 2010-2011 biennium and US\$ 107.8 million have been mobilized during the current biennium. The overall implementation of VC resources is US\$ 50.5 million.

### ***Discussion points***

- The implementation of the biennium is largely on track with 5 months of the biennium behind us, and it is projected to end at about the same level of implementation as last biennium by the end of 2013.
- Voluntary contributions are unevenly distributed among countries and among strategic objectives, so resource mobilization efforts should be targeted to ensure better financing of those areas that are underfunded.
- It was mentioned that programme quality may be affected if a very high percentage of expenditure is in staff costs. In this respect it was explained that staff costs are inherent in the nature of the Organization's work and that therefore they are naturally high in a specialized technical agency such as the WHO. However efforts are being made to ensure that internal and external human resources are always contracted appropriately according to the tasks to be undertaken.
- It was mentioned that it would be useful to include implementation tables on AC implementation in the working paper.

### ***Recommendations***

The Regional Committee was requested to review the working paper and consider the following recommendations made by the SPPDM.

#### ***Action by Member States***

- (1) To further strengthen joint initiatives involving WHO and other international agencies regarding mobilization of resources.

*Actions by WHO-SEARO*

- (1) To support joint initiatives on resource mobilization, especially through involvement of senior management.
- (2) To target resource mobilization efforts to ensure better financing of those areas and countries that are underfunded.
- (3) To revise the working paper for presentation to the Sixty-fifth Regional Committee so that it includes tables on AC implementation.

## **2.3 12th General Programme of Work (GPW) and Proposed Programme Budget 2014-2015**

*(RC65 Provisional Agenda item 4.3)*

### ***Introduction***

The 12th GPW that is being developed establishes the mission, principles and values, and the fundamental approaches regarding core functions; categories of work; priorities and results of the Organization.

The Programme Budget 2014-2015 is the key instrument to strengthen financing, resource mobilization and strategic communication. It is also the basis for detailed operational planning that will be initiated in 2013. As such, it is the primary instrument to express the full scope of work of the Organization along with the roles and responsibilities of all levels of the Organization (country offices, regional offices and headquarters).

### ***Discussion points***

- The process to develop the 12th GPW and PB 14-15 to date was explained as well as the milestones and dates for further discussions on these items at Governing Body meetings.
- It was pointed out that the 6 categories agreed by the WHA should allow for greater flexibility in budget reallocations than the 13 Strategic Objectives. Another source of inflexibility however was the conditionality included in donor agreements.

- It was pointed out that a zero growth budget is actually a reduction in real terms.
- It was pointed out that owing to the budget reduction in 2012-2013, which is foreseen to continue in 2014-2015, ensuring full utilization of funds is especially important.
- It was pointed out that the zero nominal growth applies to AC funds only.
- Clarification was requested as to the basis of distributing AC funds among countries within the Region. It was explained that this is based on a decision made when the country joined WHO. It was also explained that the South-East Asia Region receives the second largest share of AC funds after the African Region.
- While acknowledging that Member States have participated in Geneva-based Governing Body discussions and Special meetings on GPW and PB 2014-2015, it was recognized that country consultation and engagement is lacking and that the process to date has been top-down.
- It was suggested that information on risks could be included in the PB document. It was also felt that it would be useful to include information on funds provided by partners.

### ***Recommendations***

The Regional Committee was requested to review the working paper and consider the following recommendations made by the SPPDM.

#### *Action by Member States*

- (1) To engage proactively with WHO in the 2014–2015 Programme Budget Development process.

#### *Action by WHO-SEARO*

- (1) To ensure country-level engagement in the next phase of the 2014–2015 PB development process and during 2014–2015 operational planning. This should involve a dialogue between WHO and national authorities in the development of a set of country priorities based on national health policies, strategies

and plans. The agreed country priorities should then be consolidated into a set of WHO regional priorities.

### **3. Adoption of the report**

The SPPDM reviewed the draft report of the meeting agenda-wise, focusing on the discussions held among the delegates and the recommendations arrived at on each agenda item. The SPPDM adopted the report with some modifications, and requested the Regional Director to convey its recommendations to the Sixty-fifth Session of the Regional Committee.

### **4. Closure**

In his concluding remarks, the Regional Director, Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, thanked all the distinguished high-level delegates for their deliberations. He congratulated the Chairperson, His Excellency, Dr Win Myint, of Myanmar, and the Co-Chairperson, Dr Padam Bahadur Chand of Nepal, for the smooth conduct of the meeting, which he said had been very fruitful. He also extended his appreciation to the Rapporteur, Mr Jayendra Sharma of Bhutan, for the good quality of the report, as well as of the recommendations. He assured the participants that the Regional Office would take action to implement the recommendations made by the SPPDM.

Dr Samlee underscored the need for a consultative process involving regular dialogue between WHO and national authorities for the development of the Programme Budget 2014-2015. This might involve the establishment by national authorities of mechanisms to facilitate such dialogue. The Regional Director also emphasized the importance that WHO staff engage with concerned ministries at every stage of the Programme Budget development process.

In conclusion, Dr Samlee wished all participants a safe journey home, and stated that he looked forward to meeting them in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in the forthcoming session of the Regional Committee in September 2012.

In his closing remarks, the Chairperson, His Excellency, Dr Win Myint, emphasized the importance of country involvement in the planning of the

Programme Budget. He then congratulated all representatives for their rich and useful contribution during the discussions of the agenda items. He requested the WHO Secretariat to duly reflect the changes suggested by the representatives appropriately in the report.

The Chair then declared the meeting closed.

## Annex 1

# Agenda

1. Opening session
2. Programme Budget Matters:
  - 2.1 Programme Budget Performance Assessment: 2010-2011  
*(RC65 provisional agenda item 4.1)*
  - 2.2 Implementation of Programme Budget 2012-2013  
*(RC65 provisional agenda item 4.2)*
  - 2.3 12th General Programme of Work (GPW) and Proposed Programme Budget 2014-2015  
*(RC65 provisional agenda item 4.3)*
3. Concluding session

## Annex 2

### List of participants

#### Bangladesh

H.E. Dr Capt (Retd) Mozibur Rahman Fakir  
State Minister  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Mr Subhash Chandra Sarker  
Joint Secretary  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

#### Bhutan

Mr Nima Wangdi  
Secretary  
Ministry of Health

Mr Jayendra Sharma  
Planning Officer  
Planning and Policy Division  
Ministry of Health

#### DPR Korea

H.E. Dr Kang Ha Guk  
Vice Minister  
Ministry of Public Health

Dr Pak Tong Chol  
Deputy Director  
Department of External Affairs  
Ministry of Public Health

#### India

Mr S.K. Rao  
Joint Secretary (International Health)  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Mr K Srinidhi  
Section Officer (International Health)  
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

#### Indonesia

Dr Diah Setia Utami, Sp. KJ, MARS  
Director  
Mental Health Management  
Directorate General of Health Effort  
Management  
Ministry of Health

Dr Widiyarti, MPH  
Head  
Bilateral & Multilateral Health Cooperation  
Center for International Cooperation  
Secretariat General  
Ministry of Health

Drg. Tini Suryanti Suhandi, M.Kes  
Head  
Bureau of Planning and Budgeting  
Secretariat General  
Ministry of Health

Dr Andi Saguni, MA  
Head of State Budget – II  
Bureau of Planning and Budgeting  
Secretariat General  
Ministry of Health

Dr Halimatussa'diah, MKM  
Head of Subdivision of Administration Affairs  
Bureau of Planning and Budgeting  
Secretariat General  
Ministry of Health

#### Maldives

Ms Geela Ali  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Health

Dr Sheeza Ali  
Director General of Health Services  
Ministry of Health

**Myanmar**

H.E. Dr Win Myint  
Deputy Minister  
Ministry of Health

Dr Ko Ko Naing  
Director  
International Health Division  
Ministry of Health

**Nepal**

Dr Padam Bahadur Chand  
Chief  
Policy, Planning and International  
Cooperation Division  
Ministry of Health and Population

**Sri Lanka**

Dr Ravindra Ruberu  
Secretary  
Ministry of Health

Dr D R K Herath  
Director, International Health  
Ministry of Health

**Thailand**

Dr Sripen Tantivess  
Pharmacist, Professional Level  
Health Intervention and Technology  
Assessment Program (HITAP)  
Bureau of Policy and Strategy  
Office of the Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Public Health

**WHO Secretariat**

**Secretary of the meeting**

Dr Samlee Plianbangchang  
Regional Director

**Members**

Dr Poonam Khetrapal Singh  
Deputy Regional Director

Dr Abdul Sattar Yoosuf  
Assistant Regional Director

Ms. Dianne Arnold  
Director, Administration and Finance

Dr Monirul Islam  
Director  
Department of Health Systems Development

Dr Sangay Thinley  
Director  
Department of Family Health and Research

Dr Athula Kahandaliyanage  
Director  
Department of Sustainable Development and  
Healthy Environments

Dr Rajesh Bhatia  
Director  
Department of Communicable Diseases

Dr N. Kumara Rai  
Adviser to the Regional Director

Dr Thushara Fernando  
Planning Officer

Mr James Lattimer  
Programme Management Officer

Ms Valpuri E. Berg  
Budget and Finance Officer

Ms Jennie Greaney  
Reports and Documents Officer

Mr K. Surendranathan  
Administrative Officer to Regional Director

Mr Avinash Singh  
National Professional Officer (Editor)

Mr R.K. Arora  
Programme Planning and Coordination and  
Governing Bodies Unit

Ms Parul Oberoi  
Programme Planning and Coordination and  
Governing Bodies Unit

This publication is the report of the Fifth Meeting of the Subcommittee on Policy and Programme Development and Management (SPPDM), which met on 6 July 2012. The subcommittee was established by the Sixtieth session of the Regional Committee for South-East Asia in 2007.

Delegates from Member States of the Region discussed the agenda items proposed for the Sixty-fifth Session of the Regional Committee related to programme budget: Programme Budget Performance Assessment: 2010-2011; Implementation of Programme Budget 2012-2013; and 12th General Programme of Work (GPW) and Proposed Programme Budget 2014-2015.

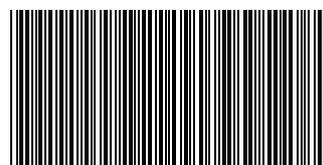
The SPPDM meeting made observations and recommendations for consideration by the Sixty-fifth Session of the Regional Committee.



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