



PULSE

UPDATING YOU ON HEALTH DEVELOPMENTS

QUARTERLY HIGHLIGHTS: April – June 2013

This Pulse brief is the fifth in a series of quarterly news updates from MoHP's TA support team. All activities were led by the respective MoHP Divisions and Centres and supported by NHSSP TA. Be sure to visit us at www.nhssp.org.np on Facebook and on Twitter for more details of latest developments and publications.

Headlines

- ▲ In **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion**, MoHP's comprehensive social audit guidelines were approved by the health minister.
- ▲ In **Health Financing**, the Transaction Accounting and Budget Control System (TABUCS) was launched by the health secretary.
- ▲ In **Procurement**, Logistic Management Division's technical specification bank was expanded to over 800 items.
- ▲ In **Infrastructure**, Management Division's Health Infrastructure Information System (HIIS) was upgraded to a web-based application with a Google Geographic Information System (GIS) interface.

1. Health Policy and Planning and Health Systems and Governance



- ▲ A planning workshop was held in Lamjung district to pilot MoHP's District Health Planning Guidelines, and a draft English version of the guidelines was prepared.
- ▲ The final draft of an operational manual for the management of health facilities was prepared and submitted to MoHP for approval.
- ▲ TOR were drafted for the design of a financial regulation framework for government hospitals.

2. Health Financing



- ▲ The secretary of health officially launched the TABUCS and piloting began in 11 cost centres across the country.
- ▲ TA further supported MoHP to prepare a series of financial control guidelines, which were endorsed by the health secretary.
- ▲ NHSSP TA trained MoHP staff and other stakeholders on the benefit incidence analysis (BIA) approach using the Nepal Living Standards Survey (NLSS) and the Public Expenditure Review (PER) as source data. Key BIA-related activities were incorporated in the 2013/14 Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWPB).
- ▲ A seventh rapid assessment of Family Health Division's (FHD) "Aama" and 4ANC demand side incentive schemes was completed.

3. Human Resources



- ▲ MoHP's Human Resources for Health (HRH) Strategic Plan was translated into English and disseminated along with the Nepali version at the national HRH conference in June, which was attended by over 300 people.
- ▲ Agreement was reached with the joint secretary on priority HRH activities for the 2013/14 AWPB.
- ▲ The HRH database for the sector was received from the consultants and is now being refined to complete the national HRH profile.
- ▲ TA supported the preparation of a preliminary map of HR functions and structural arrangements in MoHP and other selected ministries to identify gaps, overlaps and bottlenecks in the national HR system.



4. Essential Health Care Services (EHCS) including Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health



- Phase one of an analysis of MNCH services in remote areas was completed. The final report will be delivered in August.
- TA supported efforts to document Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) mainstreaming in the AWPBs of Family Health Division (FHD) and Child Health Division (CHD) over the last two years.
- The National Health Training Centre (NHTC) was assisted in planning intra-uterine contraceptive device (IUCD) training for skilled birth attendants (SBAs).

5. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)



- MoHP's comprehensive social audit guidelines were approved by the health minister and field work was completed to evaluate 29 pilot social audit facilities in Rupandehi and Palpa districts.
- Population Division was supported to establish Social Service Units (SSUs) in six hospitals and to undertake a progress review of existing SSUs in a further five hospitals.
- TA supported MoHP efforts to establish six new one-stop crisis management centres (OCMCs), including one in Dhulikhel Hospital under a public private partnership arrangement.

6. Procurement and Infrastructure



- LMD's technical specification bank was expanded to include over 800 specifications for hospital furniture, surgical instruments, medical equipment and drugs, and uploaded to LMD's website.
- A three-day workshop on 'Supply Chain Communication' was held for LMD's contract managers and warehouse managers.
- Technical upgrading of the Health Infrastructure Information System (HIIS) to a web-based application with a Google Geographic Information System (GIS) interface was completed and training sessions held for MoHP and Department of Urban Development and Building Construction (DUDBC) officials from 35 districts.
- Updating of the standard integrated designs for health buildings continued as designs were prepared for SSUs, OCMCs and blood supply units in selected facility types, and detailed designs were completed for doors, windows and sanitary fittings.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation



- The revision of Health Management Information System (HMIS) indicators, recording and reporting tools and reporting processes was completed and a field testing plan developed. The HMIS will now be adapted to run on District Health Information Software 2 (DHIS2). Among other capabilities, this will generate village development committee (VDC) level and socially disaggregated data.
- NHSSP TA supported Population Division to standardise the template used to prepare district population profiles and helped orient district (public) health officers DHO/DPHOs on the division's district level population management programme.
- MoHP's ePopInfo (a user-friendly electronic database that provides accurate information on population characteristics, health service provision etc) was posted on the ministry's website.