

Motorcycles distributed for field visits to Health MEAs by Advisor Health to C.M. Punjab



Policy and Strategic Planning Unit (PSPU), Health Department Punjab has provided motorcycles to health MEAs all over Punjab. Khawaja Salman Rafique, Advisor to CM Punjab was the chief guest at the distribution ceremony held at PSPU on 18 March 2015. 172 Motorcycles were provided to the MEAs.

The MEAs of remaining districts were provided motorcycles in their native districts. Provision of motorcycles to MEAs will enhance their capacity to reach far flung areas and monitor the BHUs. A plan for adding monitoring visits to Rural Health Centres from May 2015 is also under consideration.

The health MEAs are also being provided allowance for Repair and Maintenance and fuel for the bikes.

Punjab Achieves First Year's DLIs - Review Meeting of World Bank-DfID Mission



The World Bank-DfID Mission held a review meeting with the Punjab Health Department to discuss implementation status of World Bank / DfID sponsored reforms program. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary Health.

The objective of both projects (PHNP and PHSRP) is to support the implementation of the Punjab Health Sector Strategy, to:

- Enhance coverage, quality and access to essential health care especially for the poor and the vulnerable in under developed districts;
- Improve Health Department capacity and systems for enhanced accountability and stewardship functions.

Highlights

- Distribution Ceremony of Motorcycles for Health Monitoring and Evaluation Assistants (MEAs)
- Review Meeting of World Bank and DfID Mission
- Policy Dialogue on Family Planning
- Distribution Ceremony of Tablet PCs for MEAs
- Secondary Health Reforms- Transforming Secondary care
- Punjab EPI Conference
- Personality of this Quarter Dr. Zahida Sarwar
- News Alerts

The Mission was pleased to report that substantial progress was evident.

DfID DLIs:

All the first year DLIs have been achieved and good progress is being made on achieving the Year 2 DLIs. Out of 17 DFID DLIs for second year (2014-15), 10 have been fully achieved, five are partially achieved and 2 are under process. Concerted efforts are being done by PSPU and Health Department for achieving these DLIs.

Disbursement in the amount of 13.96 million pounds related to the 10 DLIs that have been accepted by DfID will be released shortly.

World Bank DLIs:

Documentary evidence for 2 DLIs has been submitted to WB and withdrawal application approved.

Tablet PCs Distribution Ceremony for Health MEAs

172 MEAs all over the Punjab are conducting field visits of Basic Health Units and more than 2,000 visits are being conducted by these MEAs.

The MEAs were collecting data on manual forms which was then entered in the software developed by PSPU. On 02 March 2015 Khawaja Salman Rafique advisor to the CM Punjab distributed tablet PCs to MEAs for collecting data electronically.

MEAs were also provided training on the tablet PCs. Now the MEAs will be able to enter and submit data directly into the tablet PCs that will be updated at the servers placed at PITB.

A dashboard for viewing all the reports is under development by PITB in collaboration with PSPU and C.M. Roadmap team for health and is likely to be completed in the first week of April 2015. Alongwith Tablet PCs, MEAs have also been provided with SIMS with internet

Policy Dialogue on Family Planning

Policy and strategic planning unit organized a POLICY DIALOGUE in connection with declaring of 2015 as "FAMILY PLANNING YEAR" in collaboration with UNFPA on 31st December 2014.

An analysis of the family planning data collected through DHIS was presented by Dr Zahida Sarwar, Add. Director Technical PSPU. This showed that uptake of FP commodities by eligible couples at the health facilities is only 1%. Similarly data collected thorough LHW MIS also

Funds in the amount of 22 million US\$ have been released on completion of these DLIs

Third Part Validation report for the next four DLIs has been completed and submitted to the Bank. It is expected that funds against these DLIs will also be released by next month.

The Bank has also released 1 Million US\$ to utilize as Technical Assistance to the PSPU.

Operation Manuals for Health Insurance, Vouchers Scheme, Results based financing have been submitted to World Bank to materialize 20 Million US\$ grant of HRITF Health Sector Strategy & Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy have been approved by the honorable Chief Minister of Punjab.

connection to send the collected data online. An SMS system has also been developed to send different message and guidelines to MEAs. The tablet PCs provided to MEAs are of same specifications as those that were provided to MEAs of Education department.



reflects that only 47% of registered clients are being covered by the LHWs.

Thus there is a dire need for improving/increasing the coverage at public health facilities and concerted efforts by provincial DGHS office as well as District managers are required to improve the current situation.

Dr Nisar Cheema, Technical Advisor USAID- DELIVER briefed on the role of DELIVER in provision of

commodities across Punjab. He also emphasized the importance of involving religious leaders to create awareness about family planning.

Dr Zafar Ikram, AD IRMNCH programme stressed on the importance of training skills of health care providers on family planning. He also pointed out that it was important to allocate funds to ensure availability of supplies at teaching hospitals as well as address the disparity in urban

and rural areas. There is also a need to work in coordination with the Population Welfare department.

Dr Babar Alam, UNFPA also reiterated the need for strengthening linkages between the various stakeholder and for the need to allocate more resources for procurement of commodities.

In the end there was unanimous consensus that a summary may be moved for the approval of the Chief Minister for declaring 2015 as Family Planning Year.

Secondary Health Reforms- Transforming Secondary care

The health department is committed to providing all citizens with access to quality care at their doorsteps. The agenda for revitalizing primary health care services is on track under the helm of PSPU.

It is the desire of the Chief Minister Punjab that reforms for the secondary level of care also be implemented so that a continuum of a caring system is established. The high rate of neonatal and maternal mortality in rural and remote areas is a cause of serious concern for the provincial government and reflects the urban-rural disparities of our health system. The department recognizes that a critical barrier to achieving universal coverage is absence of the right number and skill of staff for people to access the services.

To overcome this shortage and to attract specialist staff the department has developed a strategy based on a financial incentives package for Secondary level District and Tehsil Head quarter hospitals. The package is as follows:

Punjab EPI Conference

The Expanded Programme on Immunization held a conference on 11 February 2015 under the title of 'Improving EPI Services'. The objective was to discuss issues affecting coverage of routine immunization services in Punjab. The reported routine EPI coverage was discussed in detail and barriers in increasing/improving coverage in Punjab were spelled out. Recommendations for overcoming challenges were presented. The conference was attended by senior Health Department officials as well as Donors and developing partners who are working with the EPI programme in Punjab.

The participants were apprised of new initiatives being undertaken, these include:

- Development of Continuous yearly Multi-Layer Plans,
- Building of two ware houses in Lahore and Multan,
- Provision of cold chain equipment,
- Provision of POL for EPI staff and
- EDEWS reporting from all districts.

Specialists working at a District Headquarter hospitals will receive financial incentive upto Rs.100,000 per month.

Specialists working at a Tehsil Headquarter hospitals will receive financial incentive upto Rs.150,000 per month.

While calculating the incentive weightage is given to backwardness of the area, the vacancy history of the seat combined with the remoteness of the area. The measure for remoteness will include: distance of the facility from the province, the division and the district.

Anesthetist will be awarded additional Rs.20,000 over the package amount calculated for incentive of the hospital.

The Department is also planning to include district managers in the package- For any district that performs well and achieves >90% of their targets the EDO and The DCO will be awarded Rs 50,000 as an incentive.



As a result of the focus of Road Map Team on immunization we now have:

- 306 vaccinators recruited against vacant posts
- New positions of 254 vaccinators, 44 ASVs & 15 DDOH have been created.

- E-Monitoring and tracking of vaccinators and their supervisors through Android phones (E-vaccs and Healthwatch- CM Roadmap initiatives)
- Accountability of poor performers (weak Union Councils being identified).

Personality of the Quarter – Dr. Zahida Sarwar



Dr Zahida Sarwar is the dynamic Additional Program Director (Technical) of the PSPU. Recipient of the prestigious ‘Fatima Jinnah Award 2014’ by the Punjab government in recognition of her contributions, Dr Zahida Sarwar brings to the PSPU almost two decades of her experience of working in various capacities and with various programmes of the Punjab health department. She is a Masters in Health Management Planning and Policy from Leeds University UK. Dr Zahida has a passion for bringing improvements in the health services for the population and the welfare of women and children is especially close to her heart. She has a track record for achieving change and as the Technical lead of the PSPU is committed to implementing the

health sector reforms agenda in the province. In addition, due to her interest in teaching and training she is also a visiting faculty member for Punjab University teaching important courses, namely health information system, health promotion and communication

NEWS Alerts

- ✓ In order to carry out its duties effectively and efficiently the PC1 of the PSPU has been revised. The Unit intends to expand its pool of both technical and support staff. Recruitment process has started and recently interviews were conducted by the Unit. The additional staff includes, one Public Health Specialist, Health care Finance Specialist, Research Associate Health, Research Officer KMU, biostatistician, data analyst and computer programmer.
- ✓ The Multi sectoral Nutrition Strategy has been approved and notified. The P&D has directed that Nutrition Cell be setup in the PSPU. This Cell will be the focal coordination point for all the multi sector stakeholders involved in implementing the strategy. UNICEF is supporting the HD in setting up of this sub unit in the PSPU.
- ✓ Work is progressing according to plan for upgrading of BHUs to bring in 24/7 services and so far 150 BHUs have been strengthened.
- ✓ The revised PRSP contract has been forwarded to the office of the chief Secretary for a final review and it is being proposed that the revised contract be piloted in two PRSP districts.
- ✓ Taking the reforms agenda forward it has been proposed to establish ‘center of excellence’ for Nursing in the province. The department has requested for technical assistance from TRF+ for this purpose.

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