

Support to National Level Bi-Annual Review of Consensus Forecast and Quantification of RH/FP, MCH Commodities, Essential Drugs and Vaccines for Coming 5 Years

The 2-day National Level workshop (August 22-23, 2010) on Bi-Annual Review of Consensus Forecast and Quantification of RH/FP, MCH commodities, Essential Drugs and Vaccines for coming 5 years was organized by Logistics Management Division, Department of Health Services with the technical support from NFHP-II/DELIVER-II and financial support from USAID/Nepal. There were altogether 52 participants from Family Health Division, Child Health Division, Epidemiology and Disease Control Division, National Center for AIDS and STD Control, Logistics Management Division, District Health Offices, Family Planning Association Nepal (FPAN), Contraceptive Retail Sales (CRS, a Social Marketing Agency), PSI, WHO, World Bank, DFID, KfW, UNICEF, UNFPA, USAID and NFHP II. Dr. Mingmar G. Sherpa, Director/LMD highlighted the importance of forecasting and quantification of commodities at national scale. He remarked that from this year LMD is including EPI commodities in the forecast exercise.

Mr. Bhanu Yengden/Sr. Public Health Administrator/LMD outlined the purpose of group work and divided the participants into four groups – (i) Essential drugs, (ii) Family Planning commodities (Public, NGO sectors and Social Marketing sector), (iii) Maternal/Child Health commodities and (iv) EPI (vaccines and syringes) commodities. The group work included discussions, brainstorming and calculations with reference to DoHS annual reports, LMIS/HMIS dispense reports, and previous consensus forecast reports and national pipeline reports. The group work continued till 3:30 pm.

At the end of the 1st day Mr. Heem Shakya/Team Leader Logistics/NFHP-II facilitated a plenary session. Dr. Sherpa requested for comments/feedback/queries on programmatic and management aspects of LMD. There were many constructive feedbacks and suggestions, also policy level suggestions to LMD. Mr. Shakya informed that many of the policy related issues that came in the plenary sessions have been proposed by LMD on Health Sector Reform-II and Revised Second Long Term Health Plan of Ministry of Health and Population. Dr. Sherpa thanked all for valuable suggestions and comments which will be constructive for the better management of logistics in the country in coming days.

The next day, all groups prepared their presentations on respective topics. Dr. Sherpa made a presentation on behalf of Essential Drugs group. He informed that there are few more Essential Drugs that are added as per the district input and quantities were revised based on dispense trends and district inputs. He informed that Essential Drug list includes all 40 GoN published 'Free Drugs' plus 28 additional Essential Drugs and commodities. GoN has adequate budgets to procure Essential Drugs.

Mr. Mahendra Shrestha/DHO Chitwan presented forecast and quantification of FP commodities (Condoms, Injectables, Pills, IUDs, and Implants) for Public and NGO sector. As GoN started to fund for FP commodities, the group sees no shortfall of fund for FP commodities in the



Mr. Shakya and Dr. Sherpa making a presentation on Essential Drugs

coming years. There is need of US\$ 4.6 million for 2010/11 to procure FP commodities for Public and NGO sectors. KfW also has some fund to procure Condoms and Injectables for Public and NGOs sectors till 2011. Mr. Shrestha said the demand of 2-rod implants is increasing rapidly at present.

Mr. Mahesh Pokharel/CRS presented forecast and quantification of FP commodities for social marketing sector. Majority of funds to procure FP commodities (Condoms, Injectables, Pills, Emergency Pills, IUDs, and Implants) for social marketing has been committed by USAID. There is a need of US\$ 1.3 million worth of FP commodities for 2010/11 for social marketing sector. There is a shortfall of US\$ 312,000 per annum of Oral Pills and Emergency Pill funded by KfW and shortfall is expected from 2012/13 and 2013/14 respectively. CRS also procures US\$ 240,000 worth of ORS every year. CRS uses its own fund to procure ORS.



Family Planning commodities for Public, NGO, and Social Marketing sectors group work



Mr. Parshuram Shrestha/Sr. Public Health Administrator/CHD made presentation on forecast and quantification of ORS, Vitamin A, Cotrim/Ped, Zinc tablet, Iron Tablet, and Albendazole. GoN has set aside adequate budget for MCH commodities and there is no shortfall of funds to procure MCH commodities in the coming years.

Mr. Bade Babu Thapa/EPI Store Chief/LMD made a presentation on

vaccines and syringes. GoN has set aside adequate budget for vaccines commodities and there is no shortfall of funds to procure vaccine and EPI commodities in the coming years.

Mr. Basanta Adhikari/Sr. Public Health Officer/LMD thanked all groups for the presentation and requested Dr. Tara Pokhrel/DHO/Ilam to express views on behalf of the participants. Dr. Pokharel thanked LMD for inviting representatives from districts to participate in this important national level workshop. Dr. Janardan Lamichhane/Sr. Specialist/NFHP-II thanked all the experts for their contribution in the workshop; he thanked Dr. Sherpa and Mr. Shakya for coordinating and making the workshop a success. Dr. Janardan requested EDPs to set aside funds to assist the distribution of essential commodities to the service delivery points. Dr. Sherpa in his closing remarks highlighted that the forecasting and quantification should ensure that there is no shortfall of commodities in the coming years. He further added that the consensus forecasting exercise has immensely supported LMD and other Program Divisions to make a budget and procurement plan for coming years. He thanked USAID and NFHP-II/DELIVER-II for their continued technical assistance since many years to support this important event which started with Family Planning commodities and has grown gradually by covering other program commodities, Essential Drugs and vaccines.