

Development of National Health Plans and Strategies

Agenda item 2.2

Overview

- High-level WHO decision to re-emphasize strengthening national health planning in its activities at country level
- Regional Office activities in collaboration with countries to reach agreement on Regional priorities
- HLP recommendations on way forward to be submitted to the to the Sixty-third Session of the Regional Committee for its consideration

Re-emphasis on National Health Plans and Strategies

- Initiated by the high-level Global Policy Group on which the Regional Director represents the South-East Asia Region
- In response to the increasing complex context in which these are formulated and implemented in, particularly with respect to the significant health impact of activities in sectors other than health
- To use these as a common platform to step up the national and international efforts to achieve MDGs 4, 5 and 6

Proposed global activities

- Development of a *Framework for National Health Policies, Strategies and Plans* that is comprehensive with respect to consolidating both health sector sub-plans and multi-sector health activities as well as consistent with overall medium-term expenditure and development plans and goals, especially the MDGs. The *Framework* will be presented to the 128th Executive Board in January 2011 for discussion and submission to the 64th World Health Assembly
- A tool kit to support this Framework

Proposed global activities (contd)

- Initiate capacity building in WHO Country Offices with the possibility of including country officials as agreed.
- The exercise will include both process issues (e.g. negotiation) as well as the use of tools for evidence-based planning (e.g. costing)
- The activity will start in September 2010 in countries that are to review national health plans in the next 12-18 months

Proposed Regional Activities

- The Regional Office has developed summary guidelines for assessing gaps in current country national health plans. Detailed assessments in six countries have been carried out and findings shall be discussed at a regional consultation in August 2010
- The specific objectives of this Consultation are to
 - agree on country needs with respect to strengthening national health plans and strategies
 - WHO's role in addressing these
 - provide a Regional perspective to the final Framework

Proposed Regional Activities: Immediate next steps

- Agreement on countries to participate in the 'first wave' of capacity building starting September 2010 where ministry staff are to be involved
 - Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Thailand and Timor Leste are to review their National Health Plans in the next 12-18 months
 - Maldives has requested participation in the mid-term review of the national health plan