

**“Signing Ceremony of MoHS Grants and Workshop on Development of Work
Plan and Fund Flow Mechanism”**

Kempinski Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, 1 July 2019

Opening remarks by Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health & Sports

(draft talking points prepared by Dr Myint Htwe)

- Greetings to Permanent Secretary II, DGs, DyDGs, Directors, Deputy Directors, Project/Program Managers, State Health Directors and senior officials of MoHS,
 - Mr Orin Ginzburg, Fund Director, Access to Health Fund,
 - Ms Rebecca Richards, Deputy Head of Mission, DFID,
 - Mr Giacomo Solari, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Switzerland,
 - Dr Tin Myat Khine, NPO, Swiss Development Cooperation,
 - Fund Management Office Staff of UNOPS,
 - Ladies and Gentlemen,
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- It is my distinct privilege to deliver the opening remarks at the “MoU signing ceremony, work plan development and training of Fund Flow Mechanisms workshop”.
 - The total amount that will be allocated to MoHS programs and State Health Departments, INGOs and NGOs is US \$ 215 million covering a period of 5 years (2019 to 2023). MoHS is also getting a fair share from that amount to supplement the ongoing programs carried out by our professionals

- Training of Fund Flow Mechanism is as equally important as technical perspective and work plan development. We need to have a strict financial management system while implementing the work plan.
- As a matter of fact, it is an auspicious day for all of us and we are going to start the ball rolling now.
- Taking the analogy of the ball rolling, it is important that the ball must go in the right direction, applying right force and momentum and should not rebound back unnecessarily.
- In other words, the ball should touch the goal net in the agreed upon period of time or possibly ahead of the time set.
- For achieving the ultimate objectives of Access to Health Fund, this work plan development is crucial. It is a strong predictor for our success in serving our population.
- The work plan must be realistic, doable, with built in monitoring system using check lists together with identification of pragmatic key performance indicators (KPI).
- Implementation research must be part and parcel of the work plan. The findings of implementation research should be used for making adjustment of the interventions being implemented.
- When developing the work plan, it is important to contemplate from the perspectives of clients or population at large.
- In fact, we can develop a top-notch world class work plan but if it is not in line with the changing epidemiological scenarios or customs or cultures or existing infrastructure of the health system or health literacy

level of the population, or existing morbidity or mortality of health conditions, we will fail in our work.

- Development of work plan must also be done in a collaborative and coordinated manner taking into consideration the views and perspectives of all those involved in work plan development, i.e., equal footing must be the order of the day.
- People will air their views based on their experience and background level of knowledge. We need to respect each other's views.
- If we follow these principles, we can have a very realistic, technically, administratively and logistically acceptable work plan.
- I am confident that we can do it because you all are well experienced professionals.
- Here, I would like to thank the funding donors DFID-UK (major proportion of funding support given), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Sweden and USA (USAID).
- Special thanks go to Access to Fund Director who makes this event a reality and many more coordinating activities will be orchestrated by him in the months and years to come.
- I was informed that MoHS grant will cover NTB, NNC, NIMU, MRH, CHD, NAP, DDTRU, NHCP and one overall state grant encompassing Kayah, kachin, Karen, Chin, Rakhine, Shan-east, Shan-north and Shan-south.
- MoHs will ensure that our work plan will be technically acceptable, action-oriented, realistic and will render quality services to the population. Each and every dollar given will be spent wisely, effectively

and efficiently. The funds are coming from tax payers from the donor countries.

- Likewise, the funding support given to INGOs and NGOs should be used effectively. It is noted that some activities will be implemented by Ethnic Health Organizations (EHOs). It is important to strengthen the capacity and capability of EHOs. MoHS can give a helping hand to strengthen and also make them use our SOPs and guidelines appropriately and correctly.
- It is crucial that all stakeholders in the field of health domain in our country work cohesively and also in a coordinated manner. We also need to map the presence of different EHOs working in various states and regions.
- We will also form central as well as state level steering committee. The committees will oversee the work plan implementation in the context of fund utilization as well as improving the effectiveness and obtaining quality output.
- Achieving the intended objectives of our work plan or output or outcome, depends on the dynamicity, robustness, timeliness of the built in monitoring system of the work plan. Therefore, we need to ensure a good monitoring system covering all components of the work plan.
- I was informed that there will be submission of six monthly progress reports. It is highly desirable. However, real benefit will not be seen until and unless the report is thoroughly reviewed by a technical committee and proper feedback be given to concerned program staff.

- I would urge the responsible staff to develop the so-called “Activities Mosaic” or “Implementation Activities framework” (IAF) which will serve as a dash board to oversee it. Appropriate adjustment of the work plan can thus be made in time to achieve our objectives.
- Coordination meeting must be conducted on a regular basis without fail. It should be conducted not for the sake of conducting the meeting. Evaluation or review workshops for different programs must be conducted on a yearly basis.
- Funds from outside the country will not be coming in all the time on an eternal basis. It can be stopped or curtailed or reduced in amount at any point in time. We have to expect that scenario and be prepared.
- We need to stand on our feet independently.
- I would like to thank again all the donors for their support for us to effectively serve the population living in remote, underserved and hard-to-reach areas.
- I wish the participants all the best and have fruitful outcomes by way of developing realistic work plans.
- Thank you.