

Management Response

Evaluation Title	Evaluation of the contribution of the Regional Office for South-East Asia to the implementation of the national immunization programme in Bangladesh, with special emphasis on the surveillance medical officer programme	
Commissioning Unit	SEAR-Planning	
Link to the evaluation	http://www.searo.who.int/entity/immunization/documents/ban_smo_evaluation_2016.pdf?ua=1	
Evaluation Plan		
Unit Responsible for providing the management response	WCO Bangladesh (in coordination with IVD/SEARO and Planning/SEARO)	
Overall Management Response:		
Management Response Status	In progress	
Date	March 2019	
Recommendations	Progress March 2018	Progress March 2019
Continue to provide or enhance the current level of leadership to the EPI and the health sector of the Government of Bangladesh (GoB)	WHO has continuously provided leadership to EPI and the health sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">WHO has continuously provided leadership to EPI and the health sector
Maintain the Surveillance Medical Officer (SMO) program for at least the next 4-5 years	The GoB has well appreciated the role of the SMO programme. In the Gavi/HSS2 proposal, the GoB recommended to transfer the areas covered by Gavi-supported district maternal and child health officers to SMOs. The SMO position has been renamed as Surveillance and Immunization Medical Officers (SIMO) with wider ToRs. Funds were secured to run the network through Gavi/HSS and GPEI until 2019. The GoB, Gavi and WHO are discussing the inclusion of support for SIMOs through Gavi/HSS3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The SMO position has been renamed as Surveillance and Immunization Medical Officers (SIMO) with wider ToRsThe areas covered by Gavi-supported district maternal and child health officers has been transferred to SIMOsFunds were secured to run the network through Gavi/HSS and GPEI until 2019The GoB has submitted HSS3 proposal to Gavi which includes funding support for SIMOs network through HSS3 (4 year). Gavi has indicated that they will provide funding support for SIMO network only in the first 2 years of HSS3 implementation period and remaining 2 years the SIMO cost should be borne by the Government
Develop and implement a transitional plan to hand over the major EPI activities and SMOs health sector functions to the two ministries (MOHFW and MOLGRDC);	A draft polio transitional plan has been developed. The focus was on plans for transferring major EPI activities in the development of the Gavi/HSS3 proposal. The plan is to transfer the SIMO function to the GoB by 2026. Finalization of the HSS3 proposal and transitioning WHO functions has been constrained due to extensive involvement of national EPI and WHO in the immunization responses for migrants from Myanmar to Bangladesh.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bangladesh has developed Polio Transition Plan endorsed by ICC in May 2018The Polio Transition Plan outlines transfer of SIMO functions to GoB starting from 2022 and completed by 2026 in a phased manner

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HSS3 proposal has been submitted to Gavi. IRC has reviewed the proposal and recommended for approval
Provide SMOs with additional training and logistical support wherever needed	<p>SIMO have been receiving training on surveillance and immunization, including online courses. International exposure visits were planned in 2017 but had to be cancelled due to the urgent response required for migrants from Myanmar.</p> <p>All SMOs are continuously provided with computer, iPhone, printer, multimedia, scanner, office space and vehicles.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIMO continue to receive training on surveillance and immunization, including online courses. The technical staff at central level and Divisional Coordinators got international exposure visits All SMOs are continuously provided with computer, iPhone, printer, multimedia, scanner, office space and vehicles as required
The WHO should assist the GoB with the development of a comprehensive human resource plan and system of continuous recruitment for all frontline health workers;	WHO provided technical support to formulate the Bangladesh Health Workforce Strategy - 2015, which was followed by the development of a five-year operational plan 2017-2022. This action plan contains provisions for a service level (primary, secondary and tertiary) health workforce plan with projections. Planning the primary level health workforce has been given special attention due to the need for preventive and promotive care and also to meet the commitment towards Universal Health Coverage. In 2018, WHO will provide technical support to conduct a health labour market analysis, which will help to understand the role of both the public and private sector providers, including frontline health workers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHO is providing continue support for implementation of the Bangladesh Health Workforce Strategy 2015 - Strengthening the national capacity for evidence-based health workforce planning and information management, Promoting quality in health professional education and training, Technical support to the government counterparts such as HRD and Health Professional Education departments and Support to prepare country updates for regional and global HRH situation analysis by WHO including SDGs monitoring.
Work with the City Corporations and larger municipalities in developing separate, but well-integrated plans of action for EPI	WHO is providing support to develop an urban health strategy. Continuous support is provided for developing and updating the micro plans and conducting regular performance review meetings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WHO is providing support to finalize an urban health strategy. Continuous support is provided for developing and updating the micro plans and conducting regular performance review meetings WHO is providing support in 3 City Corporations to use innovative approaches and tools for strengthening of routine immunization (as model City Corporation) Workshop is planned with Mayors and Health Chiefs to identify bottlenecks and strategies for strengthening of RI followed by exposure visit in best performing City Corporation Hard to reach areas have been mapped using GIS
Emphasize the coordination and integration of EPI and family planning services to avoid duplication of activities among field staff and between data systems	SIMOs are coordinating with both departments at district and subdistrict level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SIMOs are coordinating with both departments at district and sub-district level. There is plan to establish integrated MCH services in major hospitals
Improve upon the current efforts of Effective Vaccine management	UNICEF is taking a lead in providing technical support at national level, and for procurement and logistics. WHO is providing the technical support for review of SoPs and cold chain monitoring at district and subdistrict level. SIMO are supporting cold chain assessment in major municipalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNICEF is taking a lead in providing technical support in cold chain and vaccine management and for procurement and vaccine and logistics.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO is providing the technical support for review, training and implementation of SoPs and cold chain monitoring at district and sub-district level. • SIMO supported cold chain/EVM assessment in major municipalities • WHO is providing support at central EPI for vaccine and logistics management
Work with the GoB and the other development partners to dedicate resources, plan, implement, and provide training on a national and integrated MIS to track EPI activities	<p>WHO is working with the GoB and UNICEF to support monitoring of EPI data in MIS. WHO SIMOs are supporting the monitoring of the completeness at district and subdistrict level. Training of SIMOs on MIS is in process with support from the GoB and UNICEF.</p> <p>WHO is supporting, through Gavi, the HSS2 proposal for integrating vaccine preventable disease surveillance data into MIS. To be completed by 2018.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO is working with the GoB and UNICEF to support monitoring of EPI data in DHIS2. • WHO SIMOs are supporting the monitoring and review of EPI data at district and sub-district level. Through monthly meetings • Training of SIMOs on DHIS2 has been completed • WHO is supporting, integration of vaccine preventable disease and AEFI surveillance data into DHIS. To be completed by 2019

