



Puntland State of Somalia

Ministry of Health

Health sector progress report Quarter one (Jan-March/2016)

By

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April 2016

Background

UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery (JPLG) Phase II is a 5 year Programme of ILO, UNCDF, UNDP, UN-HABITAT and UNICEF. The overall goal of the joint programme on local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery(JPLG) is to support good governance (transparency, accountability and participation), and the effective and efficient management of services at district level, increase public investment in basic services, and strengthen civic awareness and participation in local decision-making and development. The programme is aligned to the Puntland government's national development frameworks and UN programming framework outcome that local governance contributes to peace and equitable priority service delivery in selected locations.

Introduction

As part of Puntland government's attempts to establish peace and state building through strengthening local governance and government ownership, the Puntland Ministry of Health in partnership with UNICEF started in 2013 a health sector decentralization pilot to devolve certain functions (health facility maintenance, health promotion and supervision and monitoring) to local governments as pilot in three districts namely (Bosaso, Garowe and Gardo). A concept note defining and explaining the functions devolved and the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders were developed. After a capacity assessment was done on the 3 pilot districts, an agreement between the Ministry of Health and pilot district was signed and the project was put on implementation.

The Objectives of the programme:

- To create an ownership of the health services delivery among the district councils/communities and encourage them to contribute to the improvements in terms of sharing of resources and responsibility, as per the centrally agreed norms and policies.
- Devolving certain health functions to the district level and below in order to gain efficiency and better management of health services delivery, as well as strengthened local self-governance.

JPLG programme's strategic dimensions

- Supporting policy and legislative reforms for functional, fiscal and administrative decentralization that clarify and enhance the role of local government, its relationship to central government, and as a means to improve local service delivery
- Improving local government capacity for equitable service delivery
- Improving and expanding the delivery of sustainable services to citizens in an equitable, responsive and socially accountable manner and promoting local economic environment

The Expected outcomes of the programme

- Policy and legal frameworks for decentralization, local governance and service provision are improved to enable local governments to deliver equitable services
- Local government structural capacities, systems and resources for equitable service delivery are improved.
- Local governments are accountable and responsive to community priorities in providing equitable and sustainable services and promoting local economic development.

The achievements in the first quarter of the year

As a result of the JPLG programme fund delays, most of the activities in the work-plan have not been implemented, but the MOH consultant have done some important achievements for the implementation of the programme. These achievements include:

a. Development of the SDM health sector implementation guideline

The MOH consult developed the SDM health sector implementation guideline which is an updated guideline that defines all the important procedures required for carrying out the programme activities. The guideline defines the different roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders such as the ministry of health and the district authorities. Also the guideline explains the devolved functions implementation process such as the social mobilizations activities, routine health facility maintenance and the monitoring and supervision of activities.

b. Orientation meeting with district authorities

The MOH consultant conducted orientation meetings with the newly elected district authorities in a number of meetings including the SAD capacity assessment validation workshop held in Garowe in March where he discussed with them on the updates and situation of the SDM implementation proposing the need to initiate and expedite the implementation of activities as soon as budgets are approved. The district authorities including the mayor, executive secretaries and social affairs department directories who were attending the meeting highlighted that they are expecting a lot from the MOH and UNICEF and are fully committed to the SDM activities implementation as planned.

c. Attending the meeting and working with the consultants

The MOH consultant attended a number of JPLG consultative and review meetings held in Garowe for the improvement of the SDM and the JPLG programme as a whole. The consultant worked with the international consultants hired by the UN JPLG agencies who were conducting the assessments such as SAD capacity assessment and fiscal decentralization strategy development assessment and welcomed them to the ministry sharing with them all the necessary information and inputs needed from the ministry.

The challenges

There are a number of factors that remained a challenge to programme implementation;

- Delay of SDM funds resulted all activities of the SDM in the first quarter to be postponed
- Lack of funds for conducting supervisory visits to the health pilot target districts and meeting with the mayors and other district staff in their offices.
- The mayors of the three health pilot districts are newly elected and are not well informed about SDM.