



Activity brief (December 2014)

Technical Assistance to Policy, Planning and Finance General Directorate, Federal Ministry of Health, Ethiopia

15 January 2013 – 14 January 2015

Background: The Ethiopian Ministry of Health is implementing the fourth Health Sector Development Plan (HSDP) and attempting to ensure that development partner assistance is provided in a more harmonised and aligned way. The HSDP is a 20-year sector program. The first, second and third phases of HSDP were completed in 2002, 2005 and 2010, respectively. The fourth phase covers the period July 2010 to June 2015.

The Policy, Planning and Finance General Directorate (PPFGD) – within the Ministry of Health – is responsible for driving the harmonisation and alignment agenda. The Ministry considers the pooled Health Millennium Development Goals Performance Fund the key instrument for providing harmonised and aligned support the fourth phase of HSDP. PPFGD provides oversight for this fund, as well as managing the day-to-day functioning of it (e.g. planning, implementing, and monitoring and evaluation).

Despite the importance of its objectives and the dedication and effort of its staff, PPFGD lacks sufficient skills and capacity to fulfil its challenging remit, including in relation to the Health Millennium Development Goals Performance Fund.

Objective: The main objective of the activity is to support PPFGD to further strengthen health sector planning processes and improve performance, PPFGD timeliness and completeness of the comprehensive health sector plans.

Activity description: The Australian Government is supporting the Ethiopian Policy, Planning and Finance General Directorate within the Federal Ministry of Health to retain the service of a consultant that is the coordinator of the Health Sector Development Program's governance structures and the focal person for health system strengthening efforts within the Ministry of Health.

The consultant will support the PPFGD to efficiently manage the MDGPF, especially during this period of transition and as new development partners join. The consultant will be the focal person for coordinating the HSDP governance structures and also focal person for health system strengthening efforts. The consultant will support PPFGD to further strengthen health sector planning processes, and improve PPFGD timeliness and completeness of the comprehensive health sector plans.

The consultant will also provide other support to the Director General, PPFGD, as required.

It is anticipated that the support will ensure continuity and retain institutional knowledge and experience of working in the transition period where there is a change for personnel within the Ministry. The support is especially important now in view of the increasing amount of funding from various sources, particularly to the Health Millennium Development Goals Performance Fund to respond to the additional planning, coordination and reporting demands on the Directorate.

Sector: Public policy

Expected outcomes:

The activity will contribute to strengthened health sector planning processes, and improved timeliness and completeness of the comprehensive health sector plans.

Participating country: Ethiopia

Latest amendment approved: 24/01/2014

Implementation partner: Ethiopian Ministry of Health

Total cost: AUD 132 000