**HPG MEETING MINUTES QUARTER IV/2016**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

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| **Date and time** | **8:30 Wednesday 11 January 2017** |
| **Venue** | Fortuna Hotel, 6B Lang Ha, Ha Noi |
| **Chairpersons** | * Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, Minister of Health * Prof. Nguyen Thanh Long, Vice Minister of Health * Mr. Youssouf Abdel-Jelil, UN Resident Coordinator ad interim * Ms. Astrid Bant, Country Representative, UNFPA * Assoc. Prof. Tran Thi Giang Huong, ICD General Director, MOH |
| **Participants** | 235 participants |
| **Theme** | **Action plan to implement health-related SDG targets in alignment with the 5-year health sector plan** |
| **Main content** | * To share and discuss the draft National SDG Action Plan and the Ministry of Health’s plan for implementing the health-related SDG targets through and in line with the 5-year health sector plan and beyond * To hear from DPs’ about how their agencies intend to support the implementation of health-related SDGs * To review core/selected HPG activities that were implemented in 2016 and set the scene for key activities in 2017 |
| **Agenda & Presentations** | *See Annexes* |

**ABBREVIATIONS (ALPHABET ORDER)**

DOH Department of Health

DPF Department of Planning and Finance

DPs Development Partners

HPG Health Partnership Group

ICD International Cooperation Department

INGOs International Non-Governmental Organizations

JAHR Joint Annual Health Review

MARD Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

MDGs Millennium Development Goals

MOH Ministry of Health

MONRE Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment

MPI Ministry of Planning and Investment

NCDs Non-communicable diseases

PPP Public-Private Partnership

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

UHC Universal Health Coverage

VHPD Vietnam Health Partnership Document

VIHEMA Health Environment Management Agency

WHO World Health Organization

**CONTENT**

1. **MEETING OVERVIEW**

In 2016, the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) had been coordinating relevant ministries to develop the action plan for the Agenda towards 2030 to implement SDGs. Health is one key component of SDGs, and so far, the action plan includes 12 goals that fall under MOH responsibilities and 13 health-related goals that would be undertaken with cross-sectoral coordination. As such, the final HPG meeting of 2016 is an opportunity for the MOH to share and discuss with DPs and stakeholders on this important issue. This is also the occasion for all HPG members to look back what HPG had done during 2016 and set the scene for HPG in 2017.

Therefore, on the morning of 11th January 2017, the HPG meeting quarter IV/2016 took place in Hanoi with the theme: **Action plan to implement health-related SDG targets in alignment with the 5-year health sector plan.** The meeting attracted the attendance of more than 200 participants from MOH departments, DPs and INGOs, provinces, research institutes and private sector.

The meeting provided participants with information on the process of development and content of the draft National Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs; the MOH’s action plan for implementing the health-related SDG targets in alignment with the 5-year health sector plan; and DP’s support to the implementation of health-related SDGs, before providing the space for discussion among all participants on the issue.

1. **OPENING REMARKS**
   1. **Prof. Nguyen Thanh Long, Vice Minister, Ministry of Health**

Vice Minister Nguyen Thanh Long noted a number of significant achievements of the health sector of Viet Nam in 2016, including UHC in which Viet Nam reached 80.3% of people with health insurance (higher than the national target of 79%); or strengthening local health operation; comprehensive reform of medical education; and continuous health financial reform. The Vice Minister also thanked DPs and other stakeholders for supporting the health sector during the past time, and hoped to receive the continuting companionship of international organizations in implementing the priorities of the health sector in the coming time. The priorities include local health system reform with the target that each Vietnamese person would have one own health profile; strengthening local health operation quality in linkage with SDG implementation; improving medical care quality and ensuring people’s satisfaction; as well as preventive medicine financial reform, the issue which has not been mentioned much during the past time.

* 1. **Mr. Youssouf Abdel-Jelil, UN Resident Coordinator ad interim; UNICEF Country Representative**

Mr. Youssouf appreciated the HPG meeting for providing the first sectoral-focused SDG discussion following the drafting of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He affirmed that leaving no one behind is the ultimate goal of the SDGs, and it is necessary to ensure that all efforts are made to address the inequities that contribute to poor health. In this sense, multi-sectoral action isn’t optional but imperative, in which the partnership with other sectors would be crucial to ensure the attainment of health goals and health to be a positive contributor to the goal achievement of other sectors. Mr. Youssouf also highlighted the importance of DPs’ commitments in ensuring that their individual agenda can support the attainment of SDGs in Viet Nam.

1. **PRESENTATION**
   1. **Presentation on the process of development and content of the draft National Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs**

By Ms. Nguyen Le Thuy, Deputy Director of DSENRE and Sustainable Development Office, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI).

The presentation reviewed the process of developing the draft National Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and introduced the content of the draft plan.

Among national goals, the Ministry of Health is in charge of 8/17 goals with 24 specific targets, in which MOH manages 11 targets (2.1.a, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3.a, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8.c, 3.9, 5.6) and coodinate with other sectors to implement 13 targets (1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.1.b, 3.3.b, 3.5, 3.8, 6.1.c, 6.2, 11.5, 12.4.b, 12.5.b, 14.1).

* 1. **Presentation on the Ministry of Health’s action plan for implementing the health-related SDG targets in alignment with the 5-year health sector plan**

By Dr. Dang Viet Hung, Deputy Director of Department of Planning & Finance, and Ms. Phan Thanh Thuy, Department of Planning & Finance (MOH).

The MOH presentation includes two parts (1) the review on health-related MDG implementation in Viet Nam, by Dr. Dang Viet Hung, and (2) the Action Plan to implement health-related SDGs in linkage with the five-year National Health Sector Plan 2016-2020 by Ms. Phan Thanh Thuy.

* 1. **Consolidated presentation on Development Partners’ support to the implementation of health-related SDGs**

By Ms. Anna Frisch, GIZ Country Director on behalf of DPs and INGOs working in the health sector. The presentation brings out the result of consultation from a variety of multilateral, bilateral agencies and DPs from all countries, where they have the same goals and objectives that highly concurred with the SDG agenda in Viet Nam. The focus of DP & INGO support would be inter-sectoral actions by multiple stakeholders on health system strengthening for UHC, equity and human rights, on sustainable financing monitoring and evaluation.

*On behalf of HPG, Assoc. Prof. Tran Thi Giang Huong expressed appreciation to Ms. Anna Frisch for GIZ’s and her contribution to the health sector of Viet Nam in general and HPG in particular during the past time.*

*See annexes for full presentations.*

1. **DISCUSSION**

**4.1. Mr. Nguyen The Chinh, Director General, Institute of Strategy and Policy on Natural Resources and Environment, MONRE**

According to Mr. Chinh, the Action plan of the Government needs to focus on the **coordination among ministries and sectors** in the implementation of the SDG targets. For example, how the coordination between MONRE and MOH would be in order to implement Goal 6 on “ensuring adequate and sustainable management of water resources and sanitation for everyone”, in order to address the linkage between people’s health and pollution.

*In response to the opinion, Ms. Nguyen Le Thuy (MPI) stated that this content had been included in the Action plan. Later, when developing their own action plans, ministries would need to collaborate with each other to ensure multi-sectoral coordination.*

* 1. **Ms. Pham Hoang Anh, HealthBridge Canada**

In the presentation by MPI, Ms. Hoang Anh suggested reviewing target 3.4 on reducing mortality rate due to non-communicable diseases (NCDs), when turning into health target it becomes reducing risk factors. In order to reduce NCDs, risks factors cannot take all responsibilities despite their big role in it. Meanwhile, in MOH’s presentation, the targets are listed quite close to SDGs, but there are no specific indicators on risk factors. This should be a concern since risk factors are the root cause of NCDs.

Ms. Hoang Anh also showed her concern about the budget for implementing the action plan, since there is little flexibility in the annual budget estimation. Budget and resource allocation for the action plan needs to be put under special attention of the Government.

*In response to Ms. Hoang Anh’s opinion, Ms. Nguyen Le Thuy (MPI) commented:*

(1) Regarding target 3.3 on NCDs, the tasks of MOH as managing agency and Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism as coordination agency, are to develop their own action plan upon the enactment of the National Action Plan in order to implement target 3.3 and other targets.

(2) Regarding the budget for implementation, there is difference since the funding for MDGs are mostly from external support, while funding for SDGs are mostly from internal budget. What to do is to mobilize resources outside of state budget such as from private sector, from current national Financial Funds if in line with the Budget Law.

*Regarding issue on NCDs, Ms. Phan Thanh Thuy (DPF-MOH) said that the Government had issued the National Strategy on NCD prevention, upon which the General Department of Preventive Medicine (MOH) will develop the action plan to implement the strategy.*

* 1. **Dr. Masaya Kato, Communicable Disease Group Coordinator, WHO**

Dr. Masaya made comment on SDG target 3.d (Strengthen the capacity for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks), which is not well reflected in the National Action Plan. He hoped that this target would be one of the priorities in the operationalization and implementation of SDGs in Vietnam, since Vietnam is the hotspot for emerging diseases and this public health security issue is highly important for Vietnam.

**4.4.** **Mr. Le Minh Sang, Health Specialist, World Bank in Viet Nam**

Mr. Sang highlighted the idea on how to mobilize resources from other economic sectors to contribute to development goals on health, by **providing procedures and technical guidance for various economic sectors to predict health impacts of their projects, thereby developing measures to minimize the impacts and improve the workers’ health.** According to Mr. Sang, Viet Nam has clear and full sets of Law and regulations, but from operational perspective, there lack administrative and legal tools to mobilize the participation of economic sectors. The World Bank in Viet Nam representative gave the example of the Environment Protection Act on 2014-15 which regulated that all development projects must assess the impact of the environment on health. **However, there are no criteria or guidelines provided to validate the assessment,** from which there would be no basis for predicting health impacts and proposing mitigation measures, creating the confusion in resource mobilization and finance allocation.

**Mr. Sang recommended that MPI to provide the rate of investment projects that have health impact assessment,** as well as propose solutions and technical tools to restrict the number of projects that might harm the environment, and monitor them during investment and operation process.

*Assoc.Prof. Tran Thi Giang Huong affirmed that Mr. Sang’s opinion would be sent to VIHEMA as the technical agency of MOH in charge of the issue to handle.*

**4.5. Mr. Le Van Hoi, Deputy Director, National Lung Hospital**

Mr. Hoi presented several points that need to be taken into account in order to successfully implement health goals and targets:

* + Advantages and disadvantages: We have got a lot of strategies to implement certain goals, but lack of a full and general action plan on this.
  + Expectations:
    - Under the national strategic plan approved by the Prime Minister, there should be the general action plan to implement those strategies in the next 5 years and further 2030.
    - When the action plan is available, the mobilization of resources and budget allocation is highly important. However, the capacity of mobilizing resources from localities, societies and state is weak. Therefore, it is expected that this is the opportunity to assign responsibilities and solutions among stakeholders.
    - There are relations among targets and indicators. Mr. Hoi expected that ICD would continue to mobilize DPs’ support for the implementation of the strategy, clarifying roles, mechanisms and responsibilities of relevant sides and provinces, designing roadmaps for each phase.

**4.6. Mr. Ta Van Tuan, AFAP Viet Nam**

MOH’s orientation of the action plan is towards patient satisfaction, through strengthening monitoring and boosting administration reform. However, Mr. Tuan stated that the presentations did not depict the linkage between health and SDG16 on building effective institutions, accountability and participation at all levels. During the past time, MOH had launched several activities on patient satisfaction evaluation, stimulating the monitoring of health facilities, and gradually eliminating corruption in health sector. Therefore, it is necessary to align this goal with the orientation of developing the SDG action plan.

* 1. **Mr. Lalit Patra, Water and Hygienic Sanitation Team, UNICEF**

The whole health sector realizes that sanitation is a very important aspect to address, especially in relation with child mortality and stunting in the country. However, the programming and project allocation aspect in sanitation is always poor, probably because the position that sanitation is always considered as part of water and sanitation which is in charged by MARD & other sectors, although we have VIHEMA (MOH) who is responsible for supporting sanitation programming to provinces. We often faces crisis of budget and allocating resources to sanitation at national and provincial level. From this, Mr. Lalit **raised the question on how differently sanitation is going to be addressed this time.**

*In response to this, Assoc. Prof. Giang Huong stated that:*

* *Regarding AFAP’s opinion: Before SDG 16, during the past time, MOH had been trying to improve health care service quality through the project on changing service attitude towards patient satisfaction. The positive changes in health care facilities were noted, illustrating the commitments of MOH in ensuring service quality. Now when we have SDGs, MOH will base on MPI assignment to coordinate with other ministries to implement the action plan.*
* *Regarding UNICEF’s opinion: Currently MOH has been launching the Patriotic Sanitation program led by VIHEMA, through which sanitation activities were promoted. MOH is also working closely with MARD to implement activities to ensure clean water and sanitation for the people, especially in rural areas.*

**5. VIDEO**

Highlighting key HPG activities in 2016 and setting the scene for the HPG in 2017

**6. CONCLUSION BY MINISTER OF HEALTH**

Apart from expressing gratitude to DPs, ministries and relevant sides for their strong and effective support and cooperation to the health sector, Minister Nguyen Thi Kim Tien underlined some points for the implementation of the National Action Plan for health-related SDGs as follows:

* There is a need to promote the experience gained from the successful implementation of a number of MDGs such as UHC, reducing maternal and child mortality, malnutrition, stunting, financial mechanism reform, health system reform.
* In order to implement SDGs, we need to have specific, integrative, effective and feasible strategies, action plans and solutions, characterized by changes of the countries such as climate change, emerging diseases and non-communicable diseases, aging population, migration, economic growth, and public debt, etc.
* SDGs cover broad subjects, therefore it is crucial to have inter-sectoral collaboration. **It is recommended that after the meeting, the TWG and DP to summarize the contents of the plan submit to the National Assembly and the Government, which clarifies what content to be in charged of MOH, what content to be under mutual coordination, clarifying specific support and requirements of the Government, Parliament, Ministries, and DPs.**

***Topics that need DP support:***

* **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)**, including the adjustment of service price without affecting the Consumer Price Index (CPI); the establishment of an independent consultation council on health insurance when developing drug list in order to ensure transparency.
* A breakthrough of comprehensive **local health system reform** associated with financial mechanism reform and family medicine model; especially financial autonomy for grassroots health level, in which the cost of primary health care, NCDs, screening, health records for the people would be covered by health insurance.
* A comprehensive **reform of the health system** for integration
* A comprehensive **reform of financial mechanism, especially in primary health care and local health systems**. However, there are a number of shortcomings:
  + The issue of autonomy of public agencies due to limited managament capacity of hospital leaders
  + Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and financial transparency
  + Payment method and basic health packages
  + The medical service turns at district and commune level account for 70% of total turns, but the expenses account for 30% only of total budget for health insurance, in which for commune level it is as little as 3-4%.

***Technical issues that need DP support:***

* + Concrete action plan on SDGs for health; ways of coordination with other ministries to implement
  + NCDs in association with health care for the elderly and aging population
  + Independent evaluation on hospital quality management
  + Medical education and human resource management reform, heading towards international integration and output quality.

On behalf of the leaders of the Ministry of Health, Minister Kim Tien sent New Year's greetings and sincere thanks to the delegates presented at the meeting.

**The activity ended at 12:00 PM same day./.**

**ANNEX: MEETING AGENDA OF HPG MEETING QUARTER IV/2016**

**Theme:** Action plan to implement health-related SDG targets in alignment with the 5-year health sector plan

**Date**: **Wednesday, January 11th, 2017**

**Venue:** Fortuna Hotel, 6B Lang Ha, Hanoi

**Chair:** Assoc. Prof. Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, Minister of Health

**Co-chairs**: Mr. Youssouf Abdel-Jelil, UN Resident Coordinator ad interim; UNICEF Country Representative

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| **Time** | **Content** | **Person(s) in charge** |
| **08:00-08:30** | **Registration** | **HPG Secretariat** |
| 8:30-8:35 | Welcome and introduction |  |
| 8:35-8:45 | Opening remarks of the Chair | Assoc.Prof. Nguyen Thi Kim Tien, Minister of Health |
| 8:45-8:55 | Remarks of the Co-chair | Mr. Youssouf Abdel-Jelil, UN Resident Coordinator ad interim; UNICEF Country Representative |
| 8:55-9:15 | Presentation on the process of development and content of the draft National Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SDGs | Ms. Nguyen Le Thuy,  Deputy Director of DSENRE and Sustainable Development Office, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) |
| 9:15-9:30 | Presentation on the Ministry of Health’s action plan for implementing the health-related SDG targets in alignment with the 5-year health sector plan | Dr. Dang Viet Hung, DPF Deputy Director & Ms. Phan Thanh Thuy, DPF (MOH) |
| 9:30-9:45 | *Q&A on the presentation of MPI and MOH* | *All participants* |
| 9:45-10:00 | **Tea/ coffee break** |  |
| 10:00-10:15 | Development Partners’ support to the implementation of health-related SDGs: A consolidated presentation | Ms. Astrid Bant, UNFPA Country Representative |
| 10:15-11:15 | *Plenary discussion on way forward: Gaps to be addressed by the Government and for DP support* | *All participants* |
| 11:15-11:30 | *Animated video* highlighting key HPG activities in 2016 and setting the scene for the HPG in 2017 |  |
| **11:30-11:45** | **Conclusion and Closing Remarks** | **Chair & Co-chair** |
| 11:45 | Lunch |  |