## 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 2018

### Recommendations | Current Progress
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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
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.
Develop and implement a transitional plan to hand over the major EPI activities and SMOs health sector functions to the two ministries (MOHFW and MOLGROC); | 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 2021. 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.
Provide SMOs with additional training and logistical support wherever needed | 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. All SMOs are continuously provided with computer, iPhone, printer, multimedia, scanner, office space and vehicles.
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.
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.
Emphasize the coordination and integration of EPI | SIMOs are coordinating with both departments at district and subdistrict level.
and family planning services to avoid duplication of activities among field staff and between data systems

| 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. |
| 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 | 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. WHO is supporting, through Gavi, the HSS2 proposal for integrating vaccine preventable disease surveillance data into MIS. To be completed by 2018. |