

SRHR Initiative Annual Meeting Geneva, 21 – 25 October 2019

Concept Note

1. Background

In January 2019, WHO and STBF signed a four-year donor agreement to implement the Initiative *“Supporting Country Strategies to Reduce Maternal Mortality and achieve SDG targets through a Health Systems Approach”*. The Initiative supports countries to make progress toward achieving universal health coverage (UHC) and meeting their Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets, particularly with reference to reduction of maternal mortality (SDG 3.1), universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services (SDG 3.7) and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights (SDG 5.6). The initiative focuses on supporting countries with a high burden of unintended pregnancy and unsafe abortion to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity from these preventable causes.

The SRHR initiative started with a focus on seven countries in three WHO regions:

- WHO African Region (AFRO): Benin, Burkina Faso, Rwanda, South Africa
- WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region (EMRO): Pakistan
- WHO South East Asia Region (SEARO): India, Nepal

The Initiative is structured based on the expectation that focused activities within the six-health system building blocks (Leadership/Governance, Health Workforce, Health Information Systems, Access to Essential Medicines, Financing, and Service Delivery) will be able to reduce abortion complications and associated mortality.

To review lessons learned of year 1 and to prepare strategies for years 2-4 of Initiative implementation, RHR/MPA will convene a four-day annual meeting of Initiative technical focal points in Geneva, Switzerland. The last day of the week will be one-to-one meetings with Technical Officers at HQ.

2. Aim and overall objectives of the meeting

The aim of the first SRHR Initiative Annual Meeting is to bring together approximately 40 technical and programmatic focal points from the 7 focus countries, 3 regions and HQ to facilitate mutually agreed upon direction and ways of working for Years 2-4 of the Initiative.

Objectives of the meeting are for participants to

- Share programmatic and technical updates from the different levels of the organization
- Review specific country situations, lessons learned
- Collaborate programmatically and technically to develop workplans for years 2-4 that are realistic and responsive to Ministry of Health interests and the Initiative results framework and Scope of Work
- Explore individual and societal views of sexual and reproductive health and rights, including abortion
- Reflect on Initiative ways of working in the context of WHO ways of working

4. Expected Outcomes

- 1) Enhanced clarity on Initiative ways of working
 - a. The roles and responsibilities between CO, RO and HQ (working procedures, Technical Working Group etc.) clarified
 - b. Internal communication procedures discussed and revised as necessary
- 2) Increased in-depth knowledge of programmatic and technical inputs for Initiative workplans
 - a. The strategic actions (“Scope of Work”) for the SRHR initiative (Focus on key topic areas in which WHO is providing support: CCU, DAD, HGF, HWF, MVP, RHR) reviewed and discussed
 - b. Gaps and barriers to integrate SRH services in the basic package of services offered under the UHC strategies discussed and identified
- 3) Detailed understanding among participants of their own required technical and programmatic inputs over the upcoming years of Initiative implementation
 - a. Draft workplans that draw on expertise at all 3 levels of the organization.
- 4) Enhanced understanding of SRHR and abortion-related stigma and how to address it.

5. Meeting overview

- Day 1: Lessons learned
- Day 2: Programmatic and technical updates
- Day 3: Workshop to explore personal and societal views of abortion and SRHR
- Day 4: Workplan drafting
- Day 5: One-to-one meetings with relevant HQ staff

6. Working Language

This meeting will be conducted in English

7. Venue and format of the meeting

The 4-day SRHR initiative meeting will consist of an opening session, plenary sessions and parallel working group sessions. Interactive facilitation techniques will promote the active engagement of all participants. The last day will consist of one-to-one meetings with relevant Technical Officers at HQ, RO and CO.

8. Participants

Approximately 40 WHO Technical Officers and National Project Officers from the 7 initiative countries, sub-region and regional officers and HQ staff (including HQ representation from all technical units engaged in Initiative). List of participants available on request.

9. Dates and Venue

This meeting will take place over 4 days and 1 day one-to-one meetings from 21-25 October 2019, in Geneva, Switzerland.

10. Budget and Funding

Participant travel, per diem, and venue hire will require a budget of approximately USD110,000. This will be funded by the Initiative grant. PTAE0: HQRHR1815847, 3.4, 68540