

**[UN BHUTAN COUNTRY FUND]**

**ANNUAL programme[[1]](#footnote-1) NARRATIVE progress report**

**REPORTING PERIOD: 1 january – 31 December 2010**

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| Programme Title & Number |  | Country, Locality(s), Thematic Area(s)[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| * Programme Title: *Support to UNDAF Outcome 2:* ***By 2012, increased access and utilization of quality health services with emphasis on reproductive health, maternal and child health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other non-communicable diseases.*** * Programme Number *(if applicable)* * MDTF Office Atlas Number:00073262 | *(if applicable)*  *Bhutan, Nationwide, Health* |

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| Participating Organization(s) |  | Implementing Partners |
| *UNICEF, UNFPA,* | Ministry of Health |

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| Programme/Project Cost (US$) | |  | Programme Duration (months) | |
| MDTF Fund Contribution:   * *UNICEF: $ 56.646; UNFPA: $ 141,453* |  |  | Overall Duration |  |
| Agency Contribution   * *by Agency (if applicable)* |  |  | Start Date[[3]](#footnote-3) | 16th December 2009 |
| Government Contribution  *(if applicable)* |  |  | End Date or Revised End Date,  *(if applicable)* | 31st December 2013 |
| Other Contribution (donor)  *(if applicable)* |  |  | Operational Closure Date[[4]](#footnote-4) |  |
| TOTAL: $ 410,370 |  |  | Expected Financial Closure Date |  |

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| Programme Assessments/Mid-Term Evaluation |  | Submitted By |
| Assessment Completed - if applicable *please attach*  Yes X No Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Mid-Evaluation Report *– if applicable please attach*  Yes X No Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | * Name: Pem Chuki Wangdi * Title: Head, Management Support Unit * Participating Organization: UNDP * Email address: pem.wangdi@undp.org |

# Purpose

The purpose of the support is to provide supplementary fund to the on-going activities related to increasing access to and delivery of quality health services for reproductive and maternal health, newborn care, nutritionincluding infant and young child feeding, vaccine preventable diseases; and monitoring and supervision under the overall UNDAF Framework.

UNICEF and UNFPA jointly supported the Reproductive Health Assessment contributing to **CT Output1.1:** *“Reproductive health and safe motherhood policies and strategies reviewed and revised”* under *“Capacity of RGoB to formulate and implement evidence based policies and strategies that create an enabling environment for reproductive health, maternal and child health, STI, HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria programmes strengthened.”*

UNICEF and UNFPA support to the Ministry of Health for enhancing its quality service provision contributed to **CT Output 2.1:** *“Improved availability of essential commodities, equipment and modification of facilities for RH and MCH programmes;”* **CT Output 2.2:** *“Capacity of health managers and providers enhanced to deliver comprehensive and client oriented services on RH, MCH and youth friendly services,”*  and UNICEF contributed to **CT Output 2.2a:** *“All hospital and BHU health workers provide quality* *IMNCI, immunization services and nutrition package (vitamin A, iron and folic acid, supplements, deworming, growth monitoring, IYCF);* and **CT Output 2.2b**: *“Increased number of infants receive exclusive breastfeeding and proper feeding practices;”* under **CT Outcome 2:** *“Capacity of the RGoB strengthened to increase access to and delivery quality health services for all including reproductive health, maternal and child health and nutrition, TB, malaria and other non-communicable diseases.”*

# Resources

*Budget Revisions:*

The UN Bhutan Country Fund Steering Committee on 29th July 2010 endorsed the following requests for re-allocation of funds and no-cost extensions from UNDP and UNFPA:

* Request from UNDP for reprogramming of unspent funds amounting to $24,745.04 under UNDAF Outcome# 4: Governance to cover over expenditures incurred by UNDP under UNDAF Outcome# 5: Environment ($ 3,742.35) and UNDAF Outcome# 1: Poverty ($ 21,002.69)
* Request from UNFPA for re-allocation of unspent funds amounting to $ 20,000 under UNDAF Outcome# 4: Governance to UNDAF Outcome# 2: Health.

*Good Practices and Constraints*

In line with the UN General Assembly Resolution 56/201 on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP (UNDG ExCom Agencies) adopted a common operational framework (known as the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers (HACT) Framework) for transferring cash to government and non-government Implementing Partners. Its implementation is expected to significantly reduce transaction costs and lessen the burden that the multiplicity of UN procedures and rules creates for its partners. As a HACT compliant country since 2008, the UN System (namely UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP) in collaboration with the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) have taken the necessary steps to ensure the effective implementation of the Framework in the country.

With the goal of reducing transaction costs on part of the Government and to address the issues related to the fund request and release to and from the UN agencies to the Implementing Partners, the UN agencies with the Ministry of Finance and the Gross National Happiness Commission developed a guidance note on the Financial Procedures for UN Assisted Projects directed towards streamlining and shortening the fund request and release process between the UN agencies and the Implementing partners. In addition, in a move towards using existing government reporting procedures, the UN agencies have adopted the Standard Progress Report template used by the government as the standard reporting format for the UN. Furthermore, in a strategic move to address problems related to the non-matching of financial years between the UN and the Government, the UN agencies adopted the 18 month rolling work plan, covering the months of January through June of the following year. This allows the Implementing Partners to incorporate UN supported activities into their respective sector work plans which follows the Government’s fiscal year.

Yearly trainings are organized for both implementing partners and UN agencies to refresh and redress problems faced in financial transactions.

# Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements

The UN in Bhutan operates in a National Implementation (NIM) environment. The Government implements the projects and accordingly handles almost all procurement related activities within their respective programmes. The UN agencies (namely UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA and WFP) conducts periodic monitoring through assurance activities required under the HACT Framework such as field visits and onsite reviews conducted by UN staff, and scheduled/HACT audits by the Royal Audit Authority, Bhutan’s Supreme Audit Institution. The financial report is reported through the FACE (Funding Authorization & Certification of Expenditure) form and the progress is reported through Standard progress reports quarterly. Joint mid-year and annual reviews are also conducted as part of monitoring and evaluation of progress and performance. These reporting formats are aligned to the Government’s planning and monitoring system. In addition joint field visits, where applicable, are conducted to the project sites.

# Results

The UN Bhutan Country Fund allocation to the UNDAF Outcome 2: ***By 2012, increased access and utilization of quality health services with emphasis on reproductive health, maternal and child health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria and other non-communicable diseases*** through:

UNICEF:

* Training of 4 neonatal nurses in critical neonatal care which has helped the Ministry of Health to:
  + Expand its Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care Centres (CEmONC) and
  + Improve the skills of the nurses and enabled them in delivering better neonatal care services
* Participation of 4 officials (MP, Pediatrician, CHU in-charge, lecturer of Royal Institute of Health Sciences) at the *One Asia Breastfeeding Partners Forum-6* held in Sri Lanka in 2009. These officials have contributed in the development of the Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) Strategy and Protocol. The MP has also sensitized the other National Assembly and National Council members on appropriate IYCF. These officials will also contribute in drafting the Marketing Code of Breast Milks Substitute while will be developed soon.
* Participation of two Programme Officers in a training course on *Supervision and monitoring of expanded programme on Immunization (EPI) Programme* in Thailand. The participants through this training, enhanced their capacity to monitor and supervise EPI programme at the district hospital and basic health units. These officials also contributed in the development of a supervision and monitoring check list to be used while visiting the health facilities. Through the supportive supervision by these trained health officials, health workers have received constructive feedback which has helped them improve their performance.
* Participation of two health officials including a pediatrician at a week long advanced vaccinology course in South Korea. These officials have been able to contribute and provide technical guidance in different aspects of vaccine related issues, and in the revision of the EPI manual for health workers.
* Training of one EPI Technician on *Basic Maintenance of Cold Chain Equipment and Storage of Vaccine* in India. The technician is able to read the Tiny-tag and the Q-tag (cold chain monitoring device) recordings and monitor the range of temperature in which vaccines are exposed during transport and storage. Through such monitoring , the technican has been able to reduce the vaccine wastage due to exposure to abnormal temperatures.

Specific achievements under UNICEF include:

* Neonates with serious problems are benefiting from these skilled nurses through improved and timely nursing care services
* Two more CEmONC centres strengthened with the nurses skilled in providing newborn care services
* IYCF Strategy and Protocol in place. National Assembly and National Council members aware on appropriate IYCF practices
* Health facility supervision and monitoring checklist in place. Better supervision and monitoring of health facilities with improved feedback to the health workers on their performance
* The trained and sensitized officials have been able to contribute and provide technical guidance on introduction of new vaccines, revision of EPI manual, etc.

UNFPA:

Specific achievements include:

* Provided technical assistance for the joint Reproductive Health assessment in collaboration with UNICEF, WHO and the Ministry of Health. The report is currently waiting to be finalized.
* Complemented UNFPA’s procurement of RH commodities ensuring undisrupted supply of contraceptives in 31 hospitals, 181 Basic Health Units, 518 ORCs spread over 205 gewogs.
* Human resources within the health system was strengthened through the training of 2 pediatricians and a member of the National Commission on Immunization Practices vaccinology in Seoul; 2 EPI technicians on basic maintenance of cold chain equipments and transportation of vaccines in India; 2 health officials on child health supervision and monitoring in Thailand; 4 nurses on critical neo-natal care management in Thailand; and participation of health authorities and a member of parliament in the South Asia Breastfeeding forum.
* Interpretation of Tiny-tag and Q-tag recordings initiated. Vaccine wastage due to exposure to abnormal temperatures reduced.

# Future Work Plan (if applicable)

**VIII. INDICATOR BASED PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

1. The term “programme” is used for programmes, joint programmes and projects. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Priority Area for the Peacebuilding Fund; Sector for the UNDG ITF. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The start date is the date of the first transfer of the funds from the MDTF Office as Administrative Agent. Transfer date is available on the [MDTF Office GATEWAY](http://mdtf.undp.org/) (http://mdtf.undp.org). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. All activities for which a Participating Organization is responsible under an approved MDTF programme have been completed. Agencies to advise the MDTF Office. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)