MoPH Statement on Aid Effectiveness in the Health Sector, April 2015

Ministry of Public Health

Statement on Aid Effectiveness in the Health Sector

Summary
Governance or more specifically, good governance, has taken on much greater importance in the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) under the leadership of the new Minister, Dr Feroz. He is strongly committed to ensuring the ministry is a well governed, gold standard state institution whose functioning better benefits the health of the Afghan people.

The extent to which aid is effective is a useful indicator of good governance. The Minister has stated his commitment to helping ensure that the recently approved national Aid Management Policy is implemented. The MoPH is therefore committed to ensuring adherence within that framework. More specifically, it is using the Paris principles of aid effectiveness as a tool.

Priorities
For more than a decade Afghanistan has been a major recipient of aid. In the public sector in health it has contributed to a making a significant positive impact on reducing levels of mortality and morbidity and to a certain extent on strengthening the health system. It has been less successful in strengthening the capability of the MoPH as an institution and the capacity of health personnel at all levels of the health system.

Based on the experience of the health sector and in recognition of successes and current challenges the MoPH has determined a few priority aid effectiveness related issues that it will address over the next 1-2 years. This will be done within a 5 year framework of further strengthening aid effectiveness in the health sector.

Ownership
- MoPH will demonstrate strong leadership in developing and implementing the national health strategy 2016-2020
- MoPH intends to strengthen its’ lead in coordinating aid at all levels of the health system

Alignment
- MoPH to integrate specific capacity strengthening objectives in the national health strategy 2016-2020 and pursue their implementation through MoPH-led approaches to capacity strengthening
- MoPH to intensify efforts to mobilise domestic resources, strengthen fiscal sustainability and create an enabling environment for public and private investments.

1 See - DAC, Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonisation, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability, February/March 2005. There have been subsequent high level fora on aid effectiveness i.e. the Accra (Ghana) Agenda 2008 and the Busan (Korea) Partnership 2011 but the 5 principles that are in the Paris Declaration remain the same.

2 See annex A for a summary of the 5 principles as applied to the health sector
Harmonisation

- MoPH and donor partners will work together to: a) reduce the number of separate, duplicative, missions to the field; b) have a joint annual review; and c) joint evaluations. And promote joint discussion fora to share lessons learned and build institutional memory.
- MoPH and donor partners will work together to make progress towards building the MoPH as a state institution and ensure equitable access to basic health services for citizens.

Managing for Results

- MoPH and donor partners will work together in a participatory approach to strengthen country capacities and results based management.

Mutual Accountability

- MoPH and donor partners jointly assess mutual progress in implementing agreed commitments on aid effectiveness.

Aid effectiveness in times of disasters

One of the commitments in the Paris declaration is: ‘We reaffirm our commitment to accelerate progress in implementation of…….’ Eliminating duplication of efforts and rationalising donor activities to make them as cost-effective as possible.’ This is as relevant in times of disasters as it is for development aid. Very recently the Minister of Public Health has established a Disasters Response Emergency Health Committee (DREHC). The role of the committee is to ensure that the health response to any disaster in the country is of a high standard and is relevant, effective and efficient.  

Coordination of aid in the health sector

One way to help ensure the overall effectiveness of aid is through coordination. The MoPH has recently reviewed its’ coordination mechanisms and produced a position paper. Each of the committees and other forms of coordination mentioned in the position paper has terms of reference. The Strategic Health Coordination Committee (SHCC) is the highest level where a variety of national and international stakeholders meet on a regular basis. Any strategic recommendations on aid and its effectiveness are channeled from other committees and/or individuals to the SHCC for consideration before sending on to the MoPH Executive Board.

---

3 See the – Terms of Reference, Disasters Response Emergency Health Committee (DREHC). April 2015, Ministry of Public Health
4 See – MoPH Position Paper on Coordination in the Health Sector, April 2015
Annex A. The 5 principles of aid effectiveness as applied to the health sector for governance by the MoPH

Overall MoPH and donor partners reform procedures and strengthen incentives for management and staff to work together towards ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results and mutual accountability.

Ownership - Partner countries exercise effective leadership over their development policies and strategies and co-ordinate development actions
- MoPH demonstrates leadership in developing and implementing the national health policy and strategy through broad consultative processes.
- MoPH translates the national health strategy into prioritised results-oriented programmes as expressed in medium-term expenditure frameworks and annual budgets.
- MoPH takes the lead in coordinating aid at all levels of the health system in conjunction with other development resources in dialogue with donors, civil society and the private sector.

Alignment - Donors base their overall support on partner countries’ national development strategies, institutions and procedures
- Donors provide assurance that aid will be used for agreed purposes, and increases aid effectiveness by strengthening the partner country’s sustainable capacity to develop, implement and account for its policies to its citizens and parliament.
- MoPH and donors jointly commit to work together to: a) establish mutually agreed frameworks that provide reliable assessments of performance, transparency and accountability of country systems; b) integrate frameworks within country-led strategies for capacity development.
- MoPH to undertake reviews that provide reliable assessments of country systems and procedures. And on the basis of such reviews, undertake reforms that may be necessary to ensure that systems and procedures for managing aid and other development resources are effective, accountable and transparent.
- MoPH to undertake reforms, such as institutional, management and services reforms, that may be necessary to launch and fuel sustainable capacity development processes.
- MoPH to integrate specific capacity strengthening objectives in the national health policy and strategy and pursue their implementation through MoPH-led approaches to capacity strengthening.
- MoPH to intensify efforts to mobilise domestic resources, strengthen fiscal sustainability, create an enabling environment for public and private investments, publish timely, transparent and reliable reporting on budget execution and take leadership of any needed internal financial management reform process.
- MoPH to support and sustain medium and long-term procurement reforms and capacity development.

Harmonisation - Donors’ actions are more harmonised, transparent and collectively effective
- MoPH and donors implement common arrangements for planning, funding, disbursement, monitoring, evaluating and reporting to government on donor activities and aid flows. And work together to harmonise separate procedures.
- MoPH and donors work together to reduce the number of separate, duplicative, missions to the field. And promote joint discussion fora to share lessons learned and build institutional memory.
- MoPH identify donors’ comparative advantage(s) and build upon it.
- MoPH make progress towards building institutions and establishing governance structures that deliver effective governance and equitable access to basic health services for citizens.
- MoPH ensures broad participation of a range of national stakeholders in setting priorities.

Managing for Results - Managing resources and improving decision-making for results
- MoPH and donor partners work together in a participatory approach to strengthen
country capacities and demand for results based management.

- MoPH strengthen the linkages between national development strategies and annual and multi-annual budget processes.
- MoPH endeavour to establish results-oriented reporting and assessment frameworks that monitor progress against key dimensions of the national health strategy and subject specific strategies; and that these frameworks track a manageable number of indicators.

**Mutual Accountability** - Donors and partners are accountable for development results

- MoPH and donor partners jointly assess mutual progress in implementing agreed commitments on aid effectiveness.
- MoPH reinforce participatory approaches by systematically involving a broad range of development partners when formulating and assessing progress in implementing national health policy and strategy and subject specific strategies.
- Donor partners commit to provide timely, transparent and comprehensive information on aid flows.