

Technical Report

Provincial Capacity Building Course on Human Rights and Health Equity Mainstreaming in Public Health for Punjab and KP Provinces

Date: 06-08 October 2015

Venue: Hospitality Inn – Lahore

Background

The health sector response to persistent health inequalities; violations of health related human rights like access to health services in a sensitive manner demands for awareness, understanding and capacity building on part of health service providers, practitioners and policy makers so that all these socio-cultural issues, inequalities could be addressed. Health sector readiness and sensitive attitudes can prevent the difficulties of vulnerable and excluded groups in need of health services. Health sector capacity building together with staff and other social sectors is one of the key milestones and output of Gender, Human Rights and SDH work plan. The Cluster-3 (Promoting Health through the life course) of WHO-Pakistan in collaboration with Ministry of National Health Services, Regulation and Coordination conducted a training course on Human Rights and Health Equity Mainstreaming in Public Health for KP and Punjab together in Lahore.

The course was conducted as the provincial follow-ups of 5-days Capacity Building Course on Health Equity and Human Rights and Mainstreaming taking in account lessons learnt from Gender and Social Determinants of Health (SDH) held on 25-29 May 2015 in Islamabad, Pakistan. EMRO mission based on 3 experts facilitated the course in Pakistan. Approximately 25 experts were trained from all over Pakistan who would further impart these training sessions as facilitator in provinces.

WHO/EMRO's training manual on "Human Rights and Health Equity: Implications for advocacy, action and governance" was adapted in the context of Pakistan to conduct the course. It illustrates that the human rights based approach is central to strengthening health governance, thus improving equitable access to quality health services, with emphasis on the marginalized and the vulnerable, while strengthening health systems and actively contributing to the progressive realization of universal health coverage.

Objectives:

- Raising health and human rights as a value in approaching public health and improving equity in health sector response;
- Equipping participants with skills to apply a human rights-based approach in different settings and respective fields of work;
- Enabling participants to integrate human rights principles, values and elements in respective public health policies, planning and programmes

Expected Outcomes:

The participants would be able to;

- Analyze health issues through a human rights lens
- conduct a risk-vulnerability and equity analysis to detect gaps in the realization of the right to health
- Identify entry points for change and informing policies and actions
- Setting targets, indicators and monitoring progress in progressive realization of the right to health and health equity
- Engage different sectors and different players while effectively managing tension and conflict
- Promote good governance through accountability and managing conflict of interest

Course Contents and Technical Blocks:

- Human rights-based approach to health and linkages to health equity discourse
- Assessment of realization of the right to health and health inequities
- Operationalizing health policies and multisectoral actions for public health
- Public health systems and enhancing accountability

Participants Profile:

The participants for this multidisciplinary included health policy-makers/officials from Provincial health department Punjab and KP, civil society actors, health advocates, rights defenders, health planners, academics including professors from medical colleges of both provinces, experts from the provinces of Punjab and KP and WHO staff in Pakistan.

Facilitators Profile:

1. **Masooma Butt**, NPO Gender, Human Rights and SDH- WHO Country Office Pakistan (**Lead Facilitator**)
2. **Dr. Zia ul Haq** , Associate Professor, Khyber Medical University- Peshawar (**Co-facilitator**)
3. **Dr. Usman Mahboob**, Assistant Professor, Khyber Medical University- Peshawar (**Co-facilitator**)
4. **Dr. Asif Ali** , Assistant Professor, Khyber Medical University- Peshawar (**Co-facilitator**)

Note: The below 3 facilitators attended 5-days course in Islamabad conducted by EMRO

Summary of the Proceedings:

This multidisciplinary in-service 3-days capacity building/ training course on health equity and human rights mainstreaming was conducted as a roll out of National Level Course of same format (piloted in June 2015 - Islamabad) at provincial level. The course was conducted in Lahore for 2 provinces including KP and Punjab together in order to enrich the learning experience of participants from two diverse regions, enhance inter provincial coordination and interaction. The participants attended this course

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were primarily senior level health academia from almost all the medical colleges (providing pre-service health training/under graduate medical degrees), public health institutes (providing in-service trainings/ masters and PhD in public health degrees); policy and programme level officials from provincial health departments; health and human rights experts; CSOs and WHO staff members from KP, Punjab and Baluchistan province. Pakistan is the first country in EMRO region to roll out and pilot this multi-disciplinary course in health sector while supporting WHO-EMRO to enrich the scope of manual.

The course was delivered in participatory manner through mix of brainstorming, reflection exercises, rolls plays including power walk exercise, circle of truth exercise with lecture presentations and received excellent reviews and evaluation by the participants. Some of the participants attended National Level course from KP co-facilitated some sessions as well. This opportunity was created to develop a National level pool of facilitators for this course. The key topics covered in this course are;

- Human rights-based approach to health and linkages to health equity discourse- Application at policy and programme Level
- Assessment of realization of the right to health and health inequities- tools and guidelines
- Operationalizing health policies and multi sectoral actions for public health- Health in All Policies and action on SDH to achieve health equity
- Public health systems and enhancing accountability with application of health equity and Human Rights based Approach

The participants developed provincial case studies to practice the application of Human rights based approach and Provincial Action Plans to incorporate health equity and human rights dimensions in the end as key outcomes of the 3-days course. The summary of course evaluation by the participants reflects that the delivery covered and met participants learning expectations regarding application of Human Rights based approach in to their respective roles and functions ; conceptual clarity and importance of addressing Human rights and health equity dimensions in to public health response. The participants committed to further impart the course knowledge in to their respective institutes during study courses. They further requested WHO to develop curricula for pre-service and in-service health institute on Health equity and Human Rights. DG health Punjab distributed certificates among the participants however the ownership of provincial health department/DG health office Punjab in terms of participation during both activities can be reported as a challenge.

Recommendations/Follow-up points:

- Roll out of the course for different Pre service and In service Public health institutes
- Development of Health Equity and Human rights Curricula for Pre-Service and In-service Public Health institutes (APW already in process)