

## ***Forecasting Working Group (FWG) meeting under DGFP***

USAID has been providing support to ensure the availability of contraceptives and other RH commodities in Bangladesh for over 20 years. This support has included assistance to the public sector to improve systems for supply chain management of RH commodities and ensuring contraceptive security at each tier including Service Delivery Point level. DGFP is also responsible for contraceptive security for the whole country and there for must know the total requirement which includes private sector needs.

However, the DGFP minimal capacity for conducting quantification and forecasting which has compelled the national programs to rely on the use of non-validated excel sheets for forecasting and quantification. DGFP developed contraceptive requirement is no longer valid to meet the current need and it has been difficult to maintain appropriate inventory to meet the needs of clients in the country. The results have been constant stock imbalances, stock out of some important regimens/formulations and preponderance of emergency orders which in the end has been threatening integrity of the family planning programme.

As part of the technical assistance provided by the Management Sciences for Health (MSH) through its program (Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems – SPS; the predecessor of Systems for Improved access to Pharmaceuticals and services- SIAPS) has facilitated to conduct an In-depth Evaluation of Procurement Management Capacity of the Directorate General of Family Planning. The assessment was conducted by an international consultant and the report followed by many recommendations. One very important recommendation was to form a centrally coordinated mechanism immediately to advocate at the highest levels to secure guaranteed funding for demand estimates arrived. Later on, the membership of FWG was finalized in a workshop on Procurement Procedure Manual held on 2-3 Oct 2010 under the chairmanship of MsDilruba, former Director General of Family Planning. Afterwards, the then Director General, Mr.M. M. Neazuddin of Directorate General of Family Planning has approved the TOR and structure on 14 March 2012.

### **The structure of FWG:**

1. Director General of Family Planning – Chairman
2. Line Directors (All), DGFP – Member

### **Representatives from:**

3. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MOHFW) – Member
4. National Institute of Population, Research and Training - Member
5. Population Science Department of Dhaka University – Member
6. World Bank- Member
7. USAID - Member
8. United Nations Population Fund – Member
9. Social Marketing Company - Member
10. KfW - Member
11. Population Council - Member



12. MSH/SIAPS - Member
13. FPAB – Member
14. Director (L&S), DGFP – Member Secretary

#### **The Terms of Reference (ToR) of the FWG:**

1. To prepare of estimates based on all available data and projections. SIAPS will provide technical assistance and facilitate the development of a 5-year forecasting and quantification and 3-year supply plan of RH major contraceptives including DDS Kits.
2. To assist the Director General of Family Planning to secure guaranteed funding and timely release of funds, by advocating for this at the highest levels.
3. Working Group should be instrumental in seeking additional Donor support to bridge any shortfall in funding.

Meanwhile, SIAPS has engaged an international and a national consultant to work with its' Senior Technical Advisor- Quantification & MIS to develop a medium term (5-years; 2012-16) forecast and quantification and 3 –year supply planning that will provide evidenced-based procurement decisions which guide future procurement actions. The goal is to optimize a data driven procurement system and minimize losses through expiry by over stocking. This extrapolation exercise will provide the GoB policy makers and donors with a framework for computing the requirements for contraceptive during plan period. This will help MOHFW and DGFP to plan a long-term procurement cycle and to mobilize necessary financing for it.

#### **The 1<sup>st</sup> Forecasting Working Group Meeting:**

The FWG meeting was held on 18 March 2012 at DGFP/IEM conference room and the program was chaired by Mr.M. M. Neazuddin, Director General/DGFP.

#### **Objectives:**

- To have a common understanding on the role and functions of FWG
- To review and validate the available data , assumptions and methodologies to carry out the forecasting exercise
- To build additional assumptions based on future programmatic goals
- To reach consensus and draw agreed assumptions, data and methodologies for the current quantification
- To draw recommendations

At the outset of the meeting, Ms. Sabina Parveen, Assistant Director, L&S unit, DGFP welcomed all the members and gave a brief on FWG and its' role in national contraceptive security. He also discussed on the structure of the working group and gave directions on the usage of the Quantification exercise report that are being undertaken by SIAPS subject matter experts.



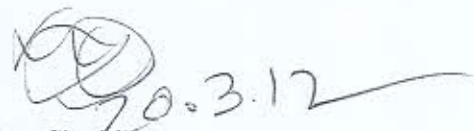
Then a detailed technical presentation was made by AndualemOumer; International consultant, Dr. Sheikh GiashUddin; national consultant and Mohammad GolamKibria; Senior Technical advisor, Quantification & MIS, SIAPS program on Data validation and assumption building for RH commodities quantification exercise.

The experts have outlined the session in following ways-

- Objectives
- The process to date
- Summary of major findings
- Next steps

The Quantification experts had analyzed & evaluated the Logistics and Services data /information and triangulated and presented accordingly in the meeting. They also have taken propositions of different scenarios and incorporated additional data/ assumptions as per recommendations made by members. Thus they reached consensus with all on the input data, assumptions and methodologies for the current quantification (2012-2016).

At the end of the meeting, the DG of DGFP expressed his satisfaction on the “proceedings of the quantification exercise” and also thanked SIAPS for its effort to ensure national contraceptive security and concluded the technical session by giving thanks to all for their active participation.



Md. KafilUddin

Director- Logistics & Supply  
Directorate General of Family Planning