

Press Release

Second Stakeholders' Consultation on the WHO Bangladesh Country Cooperation Strategy 2008 – 2013 held in Dhaka

Dhaka, April 17, 2007 – The World Health Organization Country office for Bangladesh organized a “Stakeholders’ Consultation on the WHO Bangladesh Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) 2008 – 2013” at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Today. WHO organised its first Stakeholders’ Consultation on 12 December 2006 to obtain views of the stakeholders on future priorities. This second consultation was meant to present the draft CCS before finalization.

Stakeholders of various organizations including GOB, NGO, Private Sector, Development Partners, Professional Bodies and Academia took part in the discussion to make recommendations on the draft CCS and how WHO can further enhance its contribution and collaboration in the country.

The consultation meeting was chaired by the Secretary of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Mr Ehsan UI Fattah.

Among others, representatives from MOH&FW, DGHS, DHFP,DOE,DPH&E, DNS, IEDCR, NIPSOM, IPH, NNP, DCC, UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, UNAIDS, ADB, CIDA, DFID, EC, the Royal Netherlands Embassy, CARE Bangladesh, BIRDEM,BRAC, Engender Health,CAB,OGSB, Bangladesh Nursing Council, BNA, Bangladesh Mohila Samity, Bangladesh Perinatal Society attended the meeting.

In his opening remarks the Chairperson, Mr Ehsan UI Fattah said that the purpose of formulating this Country Cooperation Strategy (CCS) document was to reflect the medium term vision of WHO for its close cooperation with Bangladesh. “In this context I would like to appreciate WHO’s presence in Bangladesh since 1972 and its continued technical support for sustainable health development. In many areas WHO’s technical support has proved to be instrumental and this second consultation is the result of WHO’s commitment of collaboration with the Government of Bangladesh” the Secretary mentioned.

In her introductory remarks to the consultation, Dr Duangvadee Sungkhobol, WHO Representative to Bangladesh, said that from the previous consultation WHO obtained views of stakeholders on WHO’s work in the country; their suggestions and recommendations. “As a follow up to our commitment a preliminary draft CCS is now ready to share for your critical review before finalization of the document for effective and efficient engagement of WHO in Bangladesh” she added.

Dr Mark Brooks, WHO-SEARO, New Delhi, presented the global and regional perspective of the CCS. Dr William L. Aldis and Dr Shambu Acharya from Geneva,WHO- HQ were present. Cluster-wise presentations were followed by discussions and recommendation from the stakeholders.

Dr Duangvadee Sungkhobol, WHO Representative to Bangladesh summarised the recommendations by adding that this very effective consultation will help enormously to finalize the WHO Country Cooperation Strategy in a more realistic manner to maximize fruitful and productive collaboration for health development efforts in Bangladesh.

In his closing remarks the Chairperson, Mr Ehsan Ul Fattah recorded his sincere thanks and appreciations for all those who directly contributed to this process of development of the WHO Country Cooperation Strategy 2008-2013. He was particularly thankful to the WHO Representative for her keen attention to the health development initiatives in Bangladesh.

For further information please contact with Dr.Iqbal Kabir, National Consultant (Public Information), WHO Country Office, House # 12, Road # 7, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205, Bangladesh. Phone :861 4653-55, 861 6097-9,Ext:204; Fax: 8613247