

# Regional Health Management Newsletter



Issue No. 1 April 2012



Mr. Josbert Rubona,  
Ag. Director, Policy and  
Planning, MOHSW

## Welcome to the RHM2 News Letter!

On behalf of the team, I take this opportunity to welcome you to cooperate with the Project for Capacity Development in Regional health Management Phase 2. The phase 2 project is the product of the TC RRHM (the phase 1 project) which was for three years and lasted in March 2011. I hope you are enjoying the achievements attained in phase 1, and that you have renewed energy to face the challenges ahead towards provision of quality health services to the Tanzanians.

As we enter into the phase 2 Project, I find it useful to look back and refer on the achievement we got in the phase 1 TC RRHM Project. At large, achievements are based to the four outputs. Major ones were; improved performance of all RHMTs in preparation and operationalization of their own Strategic five years and annual plans, introducing the health planning and reporting guide for RHMTs which is now in use. Central Management Supportive Supervision (CMSS) were conducted more than twice to all twenty one regions of mainland Tanzania and improving networking between Central Ministries and Regions.

I am particularly proud of the fact that the project first phase established the CMSS, which created a channel to provide technical support to CHMTs and raise RHMT member's motivations. It enabled to develop direct networking between Central Ministries and Regions.

The MOHSW was encouraged by the high participation and commitment of RHMTs that they had in the phase 1 project. The outputs of the phase 2 project focus on further improvement of management skills of RHMTs, institutionalization and consolidation of RHMT roles and functions and establishment of supportive supervision tool from RHMT to Regional Referral Hospital Management teams and to Council Health Management teams. We also recognize that capacitating RHMTs in mentoring and coaching skills to a wider net of individuals is important to support the CHMTs in their duties including the preparation and implementation of the Comprehensive Council Health Plans. It is my hope that the spirit of participation and commitment by RHMTs will continue thus work with us to ensure that quality of services is provided to the community.

## TUUNGANE



Project for Capacity Development in  
Regional Health Management Phase 2

Participants at the Project Inauguration Meeting in Morogoro  
25th –27th January, 2012

## Project Overview

The Project for Capacity Development in Regional Health Management Phase 2 (RHM2) began its operation on the ground in November 2011. The phase 1 project, known as TC-RRHM, aimed at strengthening the capacity of RHMT in the Tanzanian Health System through articulation of its roles and functions and developed Central Management Supportive Supervision (CMSS) system. The RHM2 will build on the outputs and the experience of the phase 1 project, develop further the RHMT's capacity and strengthen the managerial capacity through their Supportive Supervision to Council Health Management Teams (CHMT) and Regional Referral Hospital Management Teams (RRHMT). Through these efforts, RHM2 aims to contribute to the improvement of Health services in Tanzania.

**Project Period:** 3 years (Nov.2011-Oct. 2014)

**Responsible Authorities:** MOHSW

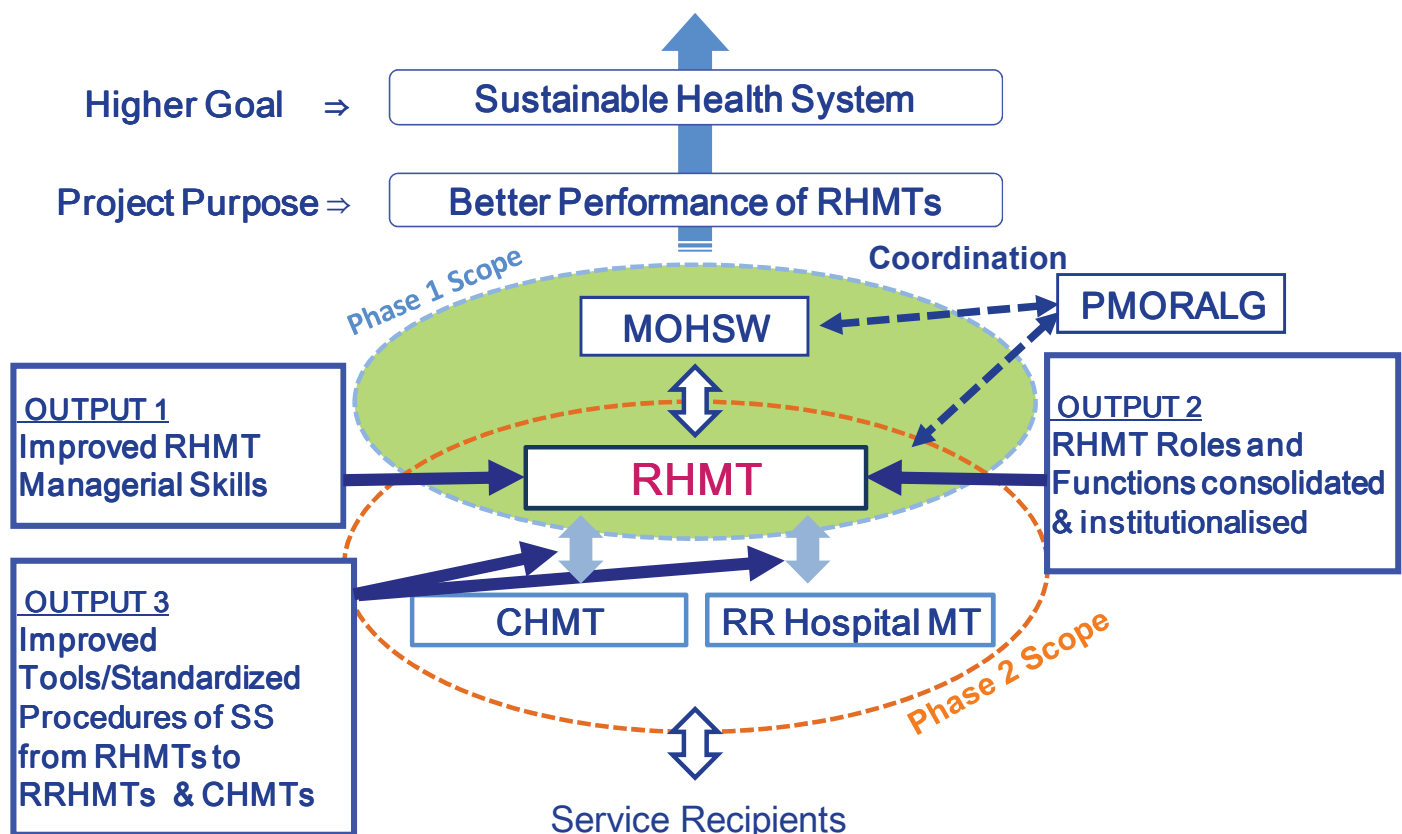
**Project Purpose:** Performance of all RHMTs in supporting CHMTs and RRHMTs is improved.

### The Project Approach

1. Utilisation of experiences from Phase 1
2. Optimal utilization of existing resources and alignment to existing systems
3. Focus on RHMTs capacity to support Regional Referral Hospital teams and CHMTs
4. Harmonize and cooperate with relevant GoT, DP, JICA Programmes
5. Support building the sustainable health system aiming at quality service provision to the people.

### Outputs:

1. Management skills of RHMTs in supporting CHMTs and RRHMTs are improved.
2. Roles and functions of RHMT to support CHMTs and RRHMTs are institutionalized and consolidated.
3. Guidelines and tools for RHMTs to perform their functions are improved



## The first Joint Coordinating Committee

The first Joint Coordinating Committee for the project took place on the 8th of December 2011. The Joint Coordinating Committee, or JCC, is a body consisting of both Tanzanian and Japanese organisations responsible for the project implementation. JCC meets at least once a year to hear the progress of the project, discuss the contents and advise on the policy and strategy of the project.

The specific aim of the first JCC meeting was to have the overview and the contents of the project presented to the committee for the committee's inputs.

The presentation on RHM2 consisting of 1) Project Overview, 2) The work plan for the Three years, and 3) the first year activities, was done by Mr. R. D. Mutagwaba, Coordinator for Regional Health Service and the project team.

Responding to the presentation, PMORALG representatives emphasized the importance of extending support to the regions and districts being newly established. Furthermore, PMORALG representative observed that there should be further considera-



tion for sustainability of the project outputs in relation to the resource. Another area of major concern raised was the need for a mechanism of developing harmonised tool for supportive supervision to be used by regions to supervise the districts instead of having many different supervisory tools/manuals developed by different programs

In his remarks, Mr. Yukihide Katsuta, the Chief Representative,

JICA Tanzania Office, congratulated the stakeholders for successfully completing the first JCC meeting and appreciated the active participation and contribution to the discussion. He stressed JICA's philosophy of capacity development, and said that he believed that the stakeholders will work together to ensure the successful outcome of the projects.

In response, the JCC Chairperson Ms. Blandina S. J. Nyoni, Permanent Secretary of MOHSW, thanked the Government of Japan for the support through the project. She said that the MOHSW will ensure the project to be implemented smoothly in order to achieve the outputs as planned.

## RHM2 Inauguration Meeting in Morogoro



The inauguration meeting for the Project was held in Morogoro for 3 days from 25th -27th January 2012. The meeting was officially opened by Ms Regina Kikuli, the Director for Policy and Planning, MOHSW. Participants consisted of representatives from RHMT of all regions as well as medical officers in Charge of 20 Regional Referral Hospitals. With officials from the Ministry of Health, PMORALG, JICA and representatives of some Development Partners, more than 90 participants took part in the event.

The meeting aimed at sharing the overall plan of the project Phase 2 with main stakeholders and discussing current issues surrounding RHMTs. At first, the Coordinator for Regional Health Services, Mr. Didace Mutagwaba and RHM2 experts gave an overview of the project and detail plan of activities. These were followed by the presentations and discussions on the issues on RHMT's roles and functions, their performance and the ways to improve their performance.

In response to the presentations and through the group discussions, the participants raised the issues such as the need for a standardized training package on managerial skills for all newly appointed RHMT members, the importance of coordination

between PMORALG and MOHSW including reporting; the needs for capacity development approach beyond class room training activities; and possibility of analysis to determine factors contributing to some regions to perform better.

On the third day, the Hospital Reform team presented the progress of the hospital reform in an orientation programme. A Rwandan example of 'Performance Based Financing' approach was also introduced. In the following discussion, it was observed that many participants were concerned about the feasibility of upgrading the Regional Hospital to Regional 'Referral' Hospital without increase in human resources, finance and medical supplies.

In the closing remark, Mr. J. Rubona, Head of Health Sector Resources Secretariat, MOHSW, acknowledged the active participation of all participants where they discussed and raised important aspects for RHM2 project. He reminded the participants that the challenges RHMT face need to be addressed with increased commitment and that their inputs to strengthen the project approach will be required.



## Greetings from the Chief Advisor

Habari ?

As RHM2 project team came back to Tanzania in November 2011, we realized that the health sector stakeholders are more aware of, and have higher expectations for, the role of RHMT. Many health programmes try to involve RHMT to be part of their activities compared to those in 2008 when the phase 1 project started.

This renewed interest terms of task management calls for even more RHMT's side.

The new project continues the RHMTs. It is a three-year project as the second phase, aiming at strengthening the health system which contributes to the quality health service. There is no change of direction but re-emphasis on the purpose of what we have been trying to achieve through the first phase.

We have fresh faces in our project office in Dar es Salaam, but all of us are aware that this is a continuation of the work that got started so well in the first phase with your cooperation.



**Naomi Okada**  
Chief Advisor

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ues to work for and with -year project as the sec-strengthening the health utes to the quality health change of direction but



From left; Aziza, Kato, Makiko, Deo, Natsu and Kaina

Keeping the spirit of phase 1, we want to be of practical support to RHMT's activities, emphasizing the mutual cooperation, understanding among the regions as well as between the RHMT and MOHSW.

Through learning from each other and sharing viable information, we want us all to experience the joy of collaborative work. During the months of our operation, RHM2 office has an open door policy.

When in Dar es Salaam, please make sure to stop by and say hello.

Tuungane!

## From Editorial Team

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the first issue of the Regional *Health Management Newsletter*.

The aim of the *Newsletter* is to offer the forum for sharing ideas and experiences among Regional Health Management Teams, officials from MOHSW, PMORALG and other stakeholders in Health Sector. In order to achieve this, the Newsletter serves as a medium for publication of articles on the status of the health situation and trends and on the good practice of health activities done in the regions, districts and at the ministerial level.

We welcome your comments and suggestions related to issues raised in this newsletter. Tuungane!

On behalf of the Editorial Team,

Deogratias Maufi



Editorial Team:

Mr. R. D. Mutagwaba, Mr. Fares Masaule,  
Mr. Deogratias Maufi, Mr. Mitsuyuki Kato

## Completed activities since November 2011

### November 2011

Project operation begins.

### December 2011

Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) 8<sup>th</sup> of December

First Task Force (Working Group) Meeting on Training Development on 16-17 December

### January 2012

Production of the project leaflet/calendar  
Project Inauguration Meeting and Orientation Programme on Hospital Reform

### February 2012

First Task Force Meeting on Regional Management Supportive Supervision on 2<sup>nd</sup> of February  
CMSS to 13 Regions (Iringa, Ruvuma, Mbeya, Rukwa, Dodoma, Singida, Tabora, Mwanza, Kagera, Mara, Arusha, Kilimanjaro, Tanga)

### March 2012

RHMT training on CCHP 12 - 17 Iringa, 26 - 31 Arusha

## Up-coming activities April to June 2012

### April 2012

Development of Regional Management Supportive Supervision tools to CHMT

### May 2012

Second JCC Meeting

### June 2012

Conclusion of First Project Year!

## Project for Capacity Development in Regional Health Management Phase 2

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