Session 4.2: Ms. Vandana Shah

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- Abstract

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ASIAN AND PACIFIC CRVS DECADE 2015 - 2024

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Locally Led Budget Advocacy as an Enabler of CRVS Funding Sustainability

Ms Vandana Shah, Global Health Advocacy Incubator

Asia-Pacific CRVS Research Forum
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Overview of GHAI's Budget Advocacy Toolkit and Framework for CRVS

- A new guide developed for country stakeholders to mobilize and sustain the political will and domestic financing required for strengthened CRVS systems
- Informed by global, regional, and country perspectives, needs, and opp ortunities. Pilot tested in 2022, aiming to publish in Fall 2023.
- Complements other D4H CRVS resources/tools

GHAI Budget Advocacy Model

Increasing & Sustaining Domestic Resources for CRVS

A country's lack of resources for CRVS is a key challenge for system performance.

The Regional Action Framework on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific specifies the importance of allocating adequate national financial resources for the implementation of national comprehensive CRVS strategies

The Ministerial Declaration, which came out of the Second Ministerial Conference on CRVS in Asia and the Pacific, calls upon members "to ensure sufficient financial resources for CRVS, including by allocating sufficient spending on the development of IT infrastructure necessary for recording vital events"

CRVS Budget Advocacy in the Asia-Pacific

Objectives:

Strengthening domestic financing and sustainability of national CRVS systems in the Asia-Pacific region

Supporting the goals of the CRVS Decade, Regional Action Framework, and Ministerial Declaration

Method:

GHAI, with support from the Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative, developed and pilot tested a country-led budget advocacy approach for CRVS

The advocacy planning module of the toolkit is pilot tested in Uganda and the Maldives in 2022

Findings

- Initial activities included landscape analysis, multi-stakeholder workshop; generation and validation of a budget advocacy strategy, and identification of key activities
- Implemented in partnership with the Department of National Registration (DNR) and other CRVS stakeholders
- Stakeholders highly engaged throughout the planning and strategy development process, leading to strong ownership for future implementation

Next Steps

The Maldives budget advocacy strategy aims to address two CRVS system bottlenecks (one related to IT and one related to HR) to demonstrate to decision-makers the value of investing in the system and influence resource allocation decisions in the 2023 fiscal year.

DNR initiated the development of IT modules to integrate the national identification system and civil registration with the mobilization of domestic finance and development partners' support

Government of Maldives identified pilot islands to demonstrate the technology and draft a budget for upscaling the technology in the upcoming annual budget proposal

Conclusion

Hard-won gains in civil registration and vital statistics coverage must be sustained and scaled up

Budget advocacy shows promise as a catalytic intervention to support countries in their journeys to CRVS system sustainability by facilitating locally-led domestic resource mobilization

Continued implementation of the toolkit, through continued engagement in the Maldives and expansion to other Asia-Pacific countries, will be important to refine the approach and demonstrate gains in national CRVS budgets