



Multi Sectoral Task Force (MSTF - MoH) and Community Based Support System (CBSS - RENEW)

“Reaching Out Together”

Phase II- addendum

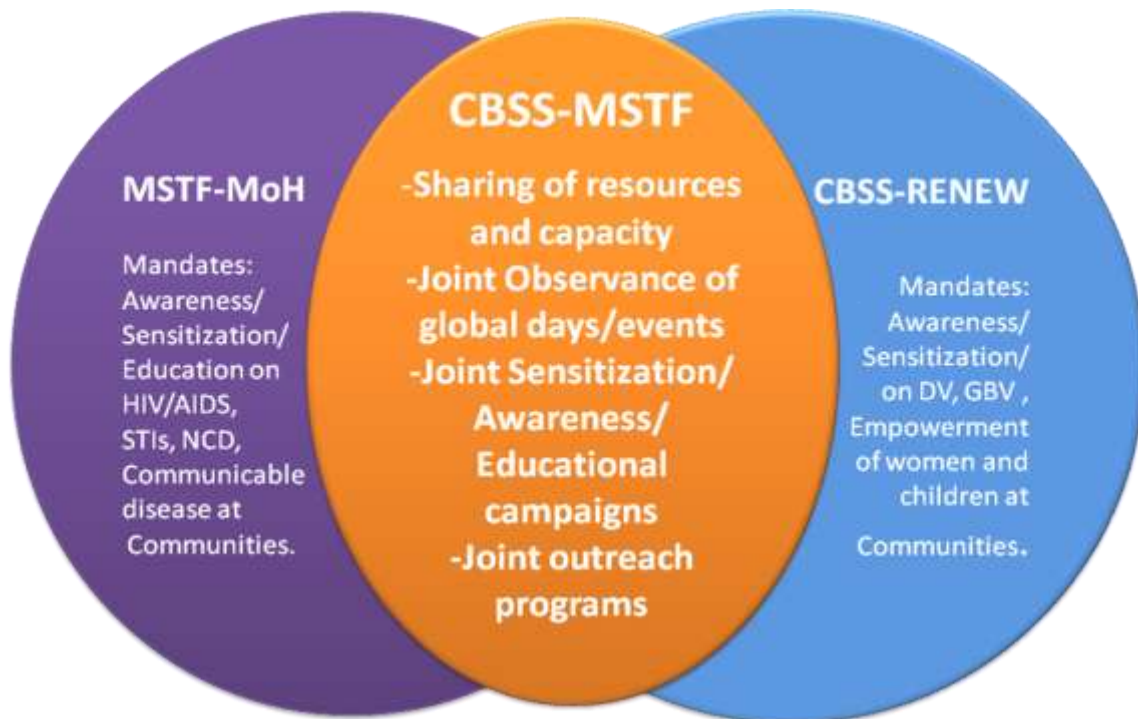


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Introduction:

Phase II of MSTF CBSS “Reaching out Together” meeting:

Following the first MSTF CBSS “*Reaching Out Together*” meeting held in Thimphu from 9-11 June 2014, several recommendations and action points were suggested by participants. Among the various way forward suggestions, one of the key recommendations that all participants strongly suggested was to immediately have a high level sensitization meeting at district levels. *Dzongdas, Thrompons, Dzongrabs* and other key players at districts were required to be on the same understanding as the MSTF CBSS members. Without their support and guidance, MSTF CBSS partnership initiative would only achieve half its planned targets.

Taking MSTF CBSS “Reaching out Together” to grassroots levels, a series of 2 day cluster meetings were organized to sensitize decision makers particularly the *Dzongdas, Thrompons, Dzongrabs* and MSTF CBSS members. While it was an opportunity to get on board district administrators on the same understanding, the meeting was also a platform for MSTF CBSS to showcase the collaborative implementation of work plans as projected in the previous meeting. After the June 2014 meeting, all 20 districts were allocated with fund resources to implement their work plans as proposed jointly by MSTF CBSS members. So, during the cluster meetings, a representative from MSTF CBSS presented the joint activities done upon the release of funds.

Cluster no	<i>Dzongkhags</i>	Dates	Venue
Cluster 1	Chukha, Dagana, Tsirang, Sarpang, Samtse, Samdrupjongkhar	2-3 December 2014	Gelephu, Sarpang
Cluster 2	Lhuentse, Zhemgang, Trashigang, Pemagatshel, Trashiyangtse, Mongar, Bumthang	25-26 December 2014	Mongar
Cluster 3	Thimphu, Paro, Wangdue, Punakha, Gasa, Haa, Trongsa	10-11 December 2014	Thimphu

From the 3 cluster meetings, the major outcome was the development of a comprehensive way forward. The recommendations derived will form the basis of action points to work on to further strengthen the MSTF CBSS network.

Comprehensive Way Forward from Phase II cluster meetings:

Cluster I

1. Development of FAQs of issues for use by MSTF-CBSS members for advocacy.
2. Basic legal and counseling capacity building.
3. Continuation of High level decision makers meeting.
4. Biannual *Dzongkhag* level meeting for MSTF and CBSS is encouraged.
5. Further strengthen RENEW's scholarships and education support.
6. *Promote volunteerism and selfless service* – can be the motto of MSTF & CBSS.
7. Replicate best practices to other *dzongkhags*. Study visits to other *dzongkhags*/places where performance of community work is exemplary.
8. Encourage participation of men & boys to reduce DV.
9. Sensitisation/orientation programmes to immediate supervisors to strengthen chain of understanding and support.
10. Identify a room as shelter home for DV/GBV clients (*Dzongkhag* Guest House, BHUs, Hospitals, ORCs).
11. Funds to be released as per financial fiscal norms.
12. Inclusion of *Dasho Thrompons* in the meeting.
13. Provision of camera/AV equipment.
14. Appreciation letter and other forms of recognition/motivation opportunities for CBSS volunteers. Name tags for CBSS volunteers.

Cluster II

1. Appraisals will be done at highest level- Her Majesty, Committee of Secretaries, relevant Ministries.
2. Nomination of Member Secretary under full discretion of *Dasho Dzungdas*.
3. Member Secretary of MSTF-CBSS to take lead role in preparing work plans, implementations and making updates to *Dzongkhag* and ultimately to MoH/RENEW.
4. All 4 *thromdes* to have either THO/Section/Unit to address health and social issues at *thromde* level.
5. At *dzongkhag* level, explore possibility of having a formally based person/cell to look into matters of social issues currently not being addressed.
6. Push for stricter Alcohol control legislation.
7. Seek support from national level decision makers to address loopholes in the current Marriage Act 1980 which does not adequately support benefits for women and children.
8. Stronger Inheritance laws to enable economic empowerment of women and their dependent children.
9. Further clarity in the direction of MSTF CBSS mandates so that there is no overlap or duplication with other *dzongkhag's* work plans.
10. Cohesive advocacy programmes targeting behavioural change.
11. For long term sustainability, certain flexibility should be accorded to *Dzongkhags* to use budget for fundraising and building seed money purposes.
12. Uniformity in dissemination of information by outreach partners through-
 - Development of IPC guidelines (for further clarity in roles & responsibilities).
 - Capacity building (IPC, counseling, legal, reporting, budgeting, fundraising etc).
13. Possibility of mainstreaming budget into non revenue deposit.
14. Strengthen the MSTF & CBSS at *Dungkhag* level.
15. Incorporation of MSTF-CBSS work plan in *Dzongkhag* activity.
16. 100% release of budget for MSTF-CBSS.
17. All IEC materials to be developed in *Dzongkha*.

18. Provision for portable sound system in all *dzongkhags*.
19. Partnering with men, boys and religious bodies.
20. Involvement of Local governance in MSTF CBSS work.
21. Request for additional DHOs in *Dzongkhags* to come from the *Dzongkhag* to reduce work pressure and ensure efficient work flow.
22. Need for shelters or midway homes for DV/GBV clients.
23. Need to tie up/collaborate with *Kidu* Officers at *dzongkhag* levels to address social issues with *Dasho Dzongdas* kept fully aware.
24. While addressing social issues, also keep other issues like elderly care, changing society, engaging unemployed youth in mind.
25. Any effort or work done in communities should be research based and output oriented.

Cluster III

1. Uniformity in dissemination of information by outreach partners through-
 - Development of IPC guidelines (roles & responsibilities).
 - Capacity building.
2. *Dzongkhags* with guidance from *Dasho Dzongdas* to explore possibilities of collaborating and inclusion of legal/law & order aspects/entities while conducting awareness programmes in communities.
3. All 4 *thromdes* to have either *Thromdue* Health Officer (THO) /Section/Unit to address health and social issues at *thromde* level.
4. Thimphu *Thromde* will be a pilot project to test the feasibility of setting up MSTF-CBSS at *thromde* level with *Dasho Thrompon* as the chair.
5. Recognition and motivation for CBSS volunteers.
6. To coordinate with Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs for an exclusive meeting on MSTF and CBSS for 20 *Dasho Dzongdas* (tie with *Dzongda* conference).
7. Member Secretary of MSTF-CBSS to take lead role in preparing work plans, implementations and updating to *Dasho Dzongda*/MoH/RENEW.
8. Movement/transfer information of members to be shared with *Dasho Dzongdas* so work/expertise can continue in other *dzongkhags*. Other Ministry/relevant agencies to be kept in loop as well.
9. All allocated budgets should be used within the stipulated time period and Financial/Technical reports should reach MoH/RENEW by end of April 2015.