



HRCM's Comments to Maldives Health Master Plan 2016-2025 sent by Ministry of Health

General Comments:

It is important that the Health Master Plan and other documents be prepared in Dhivehi for it to be more accessible for the local community to give their input and understand the content of the document. It states that the document is drafted for public opinion. When such documents are later translated into Dhivehi by another consultant, the actual content may not be in line with the translation.

It is also important to identify key areas and include a timeline of activities that should follow after the official endorsement of Health Master Plan, in order to ensure the effective implementation of the plan.

As it is stated that “The stewardship of the Ministry of Health is critical to ensure effective utilisation of HMP 2016-2025 as a guide in developing strategic action plans and business plans within the government health sector as well as other partners of health”, it is important to identify key areas in need of further development and to state durations or deadlines for the Ministry of Health to come up with specific strategic action plans and business plans.

Specific comments:

Health situation summary (page 6):

It states in the summary that “The health of the population as measured by life expectancy rates has shown steady improvement due to success in reducing death rates from communicable diseases and deaths associated with child birth as well as improvement in general living standards.” However, according to information collected by the commission and complaints lodged at the commission questions arise as to whether State has adequate measures and means to handle outbursts of communicable diseases like dengue.



- “To undertake relevant research to identify patterns of prevalent diseases, illnesses, ailments in specific regions, age groups or communities, to be used as a basis for formulating health policies to tackle these issues.”

Strategic Inputs – Public health protection – 2. Reduce Chronic Diseases (page 17):

To rephrase the following phrase – “Expand programmes for prevention of substance abuse and drug rehabilitation services as required by the drug control law and its regulations – with a view of tackling addiction as a mental illness.”

Enable health behaviour and sexual and reproductive health practices among adolescents and young adults (page 18):

While it is stated to, “Provide targeted health education to young migrant populations on safe sexual and reproductive health practices and prevention of sexually transmitted infections”, it is not clear as to why only the young migrant population is targeted for health education on safe sex and reproductive health practices and prevention of sexually transmitted infections. It is important to provide targeted health education on these issues to young population in general to include all adolescents and young adults.

Provide a clean, safe and supportive environment to enable healthy choices and prevent injuries and spread of diseases (page 19):

We recommend strengthening, regulating and enforcing laws regarding smoking and vehicle smoke and other forms of pollution to create a smoke free environment.

Establish capacity for health and medical response in national disasters and emergencies (page 21):

We recommend developing and introducing paramedic services for medical emergencies.

Human resources (page 25):

It is important to breakdown the statistics of doctors to see the number of general practitioners and specialists.

28th January 2015



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