



Community Development Medicinal Unit



Expansion of Access to Medicine Program in Jharkhand

Feasibility Study - Executive Summary

October 2011



I. Executive Summary

A. Statement of Purpose

Pursuant to the request from the organization situated in Jharkhand, Community Development Medical Unit ("CDMU")¹ has analyzed and documented the need for expansion to access medicine programme in Jharkhand.

The objective of this report is to document the facts surrounding the current situation in Jharkhand, our conclusions regarding the current situation, the analysis of the information gathered based on the survey and interpretation of the results to assess the current need of the region.

B. Scope of Analysis

The current analysis relied on the information CDMU conducted survey participants provided for this engagement. The conclusions are based upon:

- (1) The assumption that the participants have made their best effort to present the information that was requested to the best of their knowledge;
- (2) The understanding that this study is solely for benefit of organizations working in Jharkhand and CDMU's internal use and its well wishers, supporters;
- (3) The understanding that the report is limited to the specific region and purpose identified in the study and may not be used for any other purpose or region;
- (4) The understanding that our conclusion is based on our understanding of the ground reality.

C. Work Performed

To assess the need to expand the access to medicine program in Jharkhand by CDMU:

- (1) The questionnaire was first designed by team at CDMU and the same was sent to donor for approval;
- (2) Conducted meeting with members of advisory committee and resource persons [from medical and pharmacy background of more than 10 years of experience] for review of the questionnaire and discussing other issues related to the feasibility study;
- (3) Visited the 22 health centers and hospitals to gather information primarily on the problems related to access medicine and the system adopted in medical stores management and to collect information in prescribed format;
- (4) Collected information from 143 health centres and hospitals about their medicine access program and medical stores management in the prescribed format through 10 group meetings involving key representatives of the health centres and hospitals;

¹ CDMU is a state-based network to enhance access to quality essential medicines at affordable price and improve their use through member, partners and associate organizations currently focus in West Bengal and Orissa.

- (5) Gathered and reviewed information provided by these organizations regarding the medicine access program and various relevant issues to arrive at a need assessment for expansion of access to medicines program in Jharkhand.

D. Results and Analysis

The primary survey conducted by CDMU has resulted in gathering information from 143 organizations involved in healthcare delivery in the Jharkhand region. The table below summarizes some of the key pointers of the survey.

Table 1: Key Pointers of the Survey

Issues	Number	%
Access to treatment/medicine – issues		
Availability	64	45%
Price	103	72%
Standard Processes		
Use of WHO list	None	
Medical list developed by doctor	16	11%
Prescription guideline available	30	21%
Record of monthly medicine consumption		36%
Order process based on order book	1	-
Training Need		
Training required	136	95%

As evident, the primary concerns for the surveyed organizations are availability of medicine and price of medicine. Both these issues can be addressed by streamlining and standardizing the process. Further, at process level too there are quite a few gaps as shown in the table above. None of the surveyed organizations adopted the World Health Organization (“WHO”) list and whatever medical list they had were mostly based on patient request. Only 11 percent of the surveyed organization has a medical list developed by the doctor. Also, a dismal 21 percent organization had a prescription guideline for the healthcare personnel for reference. They also did not maintain any records of monthly consumption or any order book per se, hence their procurement process was adhoc in nature. This also had a strong implication on the price/cost of treatment as adhoc purchases generally are from the market at retail level. The difference in medicines cost from CDMU cost and market cost of treatment could vary from 96 percent to nearly 300 percent (refer Appendix G), the latter being higher than the former. Thus standardizing and monitoring the systems in place could not only add value to the healthcare program but also lead to high cost saving.

The survey also indicated that all the organizations recognized the need for training for various processes, namely store management, hospital management and healthcare management. Though quite a few of the organizations were connected to Self-Help Groups (“SHG”), they still felt that there was a gap in the healthcare programs implemented in the region.

Capacity study of CDMU for expansion of access to medicines program in Jharkhand

Regarding storage space at CDMU head quarters and workload at CDMU it was strongly felt that seeing the growing need of the organization in Jharkhand presently CDMU can be able to cope-up with present space for storage of medicines and manpower at CDMU head quarters, but CDMU have to think for bigger space for storage of medicines in coming 2 – 3 years to support the organizations more efficiently and effectively. Presently CDMU distribute medicines worth of INR 25 million to its member organizations in West Bengal and with this capacity we can able to manage to distribute medicines worth INR 27 million.

E. Conclusion

It has been realized that organizations in Jharkhand are very much willing to collaborate with CDMU to assist them for developing future strategy and action plan to ensure access to life-saving medicines program for the people of Jharkhand specially the poor and the marginalized. The specific deliverables based on the feasibility study are:

- **To develop strategy for access to medicines program in Jharkhand**
- **To prepare, disseminate and monitor standard protocol for the health centres in Jharkhand**
- **To develop training module for medical stores management for the organization in Jharkhand**
- **Up-gradation of storage facilities at CDMU head quarters and up-gradation of staff capacity in 2 – 3 years of time.**