

## **Third Meeting of SEARHEF Working Group through Video Conference.**

### **Note for Record**

Date: 02 September 2014, Tuesday

Time: 13:30 to 15:30 hrs

Place: SEARO Video Conference room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

#### **Participants**

Please see list attached. Except Nepal, all working group members attended the VC.

#### **Objective**

To update present status, follow-up on recommendations made in 2<sup>nd</sup> SEARHEF-WG Meeting held in 2012 and to discuss ways to further strengthen SEARHEF through financial resource mobilization activities.

#### **Discussion Points and Follow-up Action**

Meeting discussion points are analyzed in detail in the attached table as reference. The following are summary of key discussion point noted for each agenda items

#### **Agenda Item 1: Update on SEARHEF utilization status**

- Since the time SEARHEF was established in 2008, it had supported 20 disasters and crisis in 8 member states. A total of US\$ 4.11 million was pooled from country budgets and 100,000 US\$ and 10,000 US\$ was contributed from Thailand and Timor Leste governments respectively. A total of 3,591,292 US\$ has been utilized.
- The EHA focal persons and working group members for SEARHEF have changed in MoHs. WCO needs to brief the new staff on SEARHEF and EHA area of work.
- MoH can request SEARHEF for small, medium and large scale disasters as needed. The funds can be used for EWARN / Emergency Disease Surveillance and Control measures during the emergency phase of a disaster. SEARHEF is not meant for routine disease surveillance and outbreak control measures.

#### **Agenda Item 2: Update on procedures and WHO work plans for 2014 -2015**

- ERF grading system of 1,2,3 need to be reflected for SEARHEF as it was established for SEAR Member States to support MoHs for any scale of disasters when needed.
- SEARHEF resources cannot be used for EVD preparedness in Member States because it has limited funds and meant for emergency operations. If member States need extra funds for EVD preparedness activities, then they should consult with RD-SEARO.
- SEARHEF resources can be used for initial emergency operations in case EVD affect Member States. SEARO should keep larger pool of funds to support Member States in case there is any EDV outbreak(s) in SEAR.
- In times of disasters affecting Member States, WCO can request SEARHEF and use Cat. 5.6 programme area of work. When SEARHEF is dispatched to WCO, the ceiling is already attached to avoid ceiling problem. Nevertheless, WCO if needed to raise Cat: 5.6 ceiling to accommodate funds from other sources, then the ceiling can be raised from un-used ceiling of other programmes in WCO or from SEARO or other countries. WCO needs to request EHA and PPC to support. Cat 5.6 is meant only for

fresh and new disasters and crisis. For preparedness, capacity building and protracted emergencies, WCO needs to use Cat 5.3.

### **Agenda Item 3: Financial resource mobilization framework**

- WCOs and MoH need to explore all possible potential donors including Governments, private sector, media, civil societies, NGOs and International donor communities. EHA SEARO has financial resource mobilization framework document and 'SEARHEF-Making a Difference' booklet to be used as supporting documents for fund raising. New leaflets will be developed soon.
- To use opportunities such as 10 years commemoration of Indian Ocean Tsunami events (since SEARHEF was established after Tsunami) to support Member States in times of disasters when needed.
- Countries in SEAR can support and assist each other when affected by disasters in terms of financial and technical support and provision of health supplies.
- The VC component of SEARHEF should be strengthened to support preparedness activities and DRR programmes in SEAR.