

## **Symposium**

### **Implementing Health Sector Reforms – Sharing national and international Best Practice**

**West Bengal, India, April 2007**

#### **Introduction and rationale**

Over the last 20 years many countries have engaged in the process of health sector reform. Developing countries in particular have faced the difficult challenge of turning around under-resourced health systems into more effective, more equitable and more accountable structures. This too, often in contexts where maternal and child deaths remain high, communicable disease still takes a heavy toll, and yet the burden of lifestyle and degenerative illness is growing.

In India, national and state level health reform initiatives have been taking place since the early 1990s. Some effort has been made to document this process<sup>1</sup>, but very little live exchange of implementation lessons and best practice takes place nationally. There are even fewer opportunities for international sharing of experience, though the stimulus of positive lessons is needed to maintain the momentum of reform.

West Bengal Department of Health and Family Welfare (WBDoHFW) is now into its second year of a five year reform and investment programme, the Health Sector Development Initiative (HSDI). With the opportunity ahead to implement best practices, and with some positive experience of its own to share with other states and countries embarking on this path, the WBDoHFW, together with one of its Development Partners, DFID and its Technical Assistance Support Team (TAST), invites participation in a symposium on Health Sector Reform.

#### **Purpose of Symposium**

Provide a platform for sharing of empirical evidence from Health Sector Reform programmes and stimulate wider adoption of best practices.

#### **Participation**

National and State government policy makers and senior managers from Health, Social Welfare, Women and Child Development and Rural Development; Private partners to government; Specialists with international experience of supporting HSR; Development Partners.

#### **Themes**

The themes will be around the multiple issues in implementing health sector reform:

- Strategic and Policy Framework

- Health Financing
- Private Sector
- Access and demand for Services
- Organisation and Management Systems (HMIS, HRM/D, and decentralisation)
- Asset and Supplies Management
- Procurement and Financial Management System
- Additional measures to meet the MDGs
- Nutrition and convergence with health
- Measurement and evaluation of health reform programmes

---

<sup>i</sup> Health Sector Reforms In India: Initiatives in Nine States (MOHFW and WHO India); Policy Reform Options Database website: [www.prod-india.com](http://www.prod-india.com)