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# **ANNUAL REPORT 2012**

Featuring 10th Five Year Plan status



बार्जु.च.क्षेत्र.प्रबा

१०१२ त्रुंग'गल्टा

Ministry of Health Royal Government of Bhutan May 2012

# पहूर्अंस्ट्रेन्यो.योषश्च.क्षेरश्च.चक्रेरं.चर्नेश्रो

क्रमाणी, लट्ट में स्वास्त्र स्वास्त

मार्क् नितः प्रक्षेत्र प्रक्षेत्

• ऍ१-ब्रॅंट्यंट्यसेया:ग्री:दश्चेमश्रास्त्राय:द्रा श्रूमा:र्वेट्यसेय:ग्री:दश्चेमश्रास्त्रय:स्वार्यः

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Guided by the national development philosophy of Gross National Happiness, the health sector envisions building "a healthy and happy nation through a dynamic professional health system with attainment of highest standard of health for the people within the broader framework of overall national development, in the spirit of social justice and equity."

The first democratically elected government, as it completes four years in term, has contributed significantly to the realization of this vision. Reforms were undertaken in governance and management of the health system, disease prevention and control efforts were stepped up, and services delivery was enhanced both in terms of volume and quality. Fast track health development initiatives were launched through the Accelerated Bhutan Socio-Economic Development programme.

Since the early years of health development in Bhutan, programmes and interventions have focused on the prevention of morbidity, the promotion of positive determinants of health, and the control of infectious diseases. These three aspects of prevention, promotion and control measures were established against the backdrop of the principles of self-reliance and sustainability. The patterns of decentralization and community participation are strongly evident throughout the history of allopathic services, in addition to the goal of maximizing the coverage and equity of services.

The Tenth Five Year Plan of the health sector has been ambitious in its approach. Clear targets were outlined with emphasis on the following key outcomes:

Achieve the Millennium Development Goals and SAARC

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Development Goals beyond the set targets;

- Improve quality and accessibility of health services;
- Improve promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative capacity;
- Enhance traditional medicine services at all levels, promote
   traditional medicine services as a centre of excellence in the region
   and facilitate health tourism; and
- Promote sustainability and equity in health care delivery system.

Considerable improvements have been made in developing the health system capacity that has resulted in significant improvements in population health outcomes as reflected by marked improvements in health indicators across the board. However, challenges abound. While the sector continues its battle against the traditional diseases profile, lifestyle related non-communicable diseases have already made in-roads. The evolving governance framework and management formats, epidemiological transition, emerging infectious diseases, urbanization and adverse health impacts of climate change have left the health sector already battling a complex and wider array of issues with substantially limited resource base.

As we near the completion of the 10th Five Year Plan, it is crucial that we assess each of the objectives and targets we had set, celebrate the success and dwell closer on the unmet targets and challenges. This report intends to do that. It is also intended to raise awareness among the decision makers and garner commitments towards 11<sup>th</sup> FYP.

As per the broad programming of the health sector 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan, the report is categorized under four major themes/programmes: (1) Health management and development; (2) Diagnostic and curative services; (3) Health promotion, disease prevention and control; and (4) Sustainability, regulatory and monitoring programs.

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### Snapshot of 10<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan Targets and Achievements

	10 FYP Targets	Status
1	Reduce IMR to 20 per thousand live births	40.1 (2005)
2	Reduce U-5 MR to less than 30 per thousand live births	61.5 (2005)
3	Reduce MMR to less than 100 per hundred thousand live births	255 (2000). Current estimate is 146
4	Enhance Life Expectancy to more than 70 years	68.9 years
5	Sustain access to Safe Drinking Water to near 100%	96.1% (about 6% non-functionality)
6	Improve access to Safe Sanitation to near 100%	94.5% (Safe excreta disposal)
7	BHTF funds to reach 24 Million US\$	24 Million USD
8	Improve proportion of population within 3 hrs walking distance of a health facility to more than 90%	Maintained at over 90%
9	Increase numbers of traditional medicine units at BHU level to 25	A total of 47 indigenous health units exists of which 19 are at BHU II and 6 at BHU I levels
10	Establishment of a medical college in Bhutan	University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan is expected to be launched in July 2012
11	Every Dzongkhag Hospitals to have a minimum of 3 doctors	11 Dzongkhags have at least 3 doctors each, 5 Dzongkhags have 2 doctors each and the remaining 4 have a single doctor each
12	Every Dzongkhag Hospitals to have a minimum of 2 functioning ambulances	All Dzongkhag hospitals today have at least two functional ambulances
13	Establish at least one super- specialised tertiary level hospital through FDI	Study suggested that the project was economically unfeasible. Wellness services being promoted.

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### मुवार्षेरसम्बर्गनदेश्वित्र्युन्य

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### **Health Management and Development**

The way a health system is managed is a crucial determinant of population health and wellbeing. The past four years saw numerous initiatives and reforms undertaken to improve governance and stewardship of the health system to promote prudence, generate efficiency gains while at the same time conform to the core values of equity, justice and immaculate governance. Some of the major ones are discussed below:

#### **National Health Policy**

1. After a series of intensive consultations amongst a broad array of stakeholders, the National Health Policy has been finalized and launched. The Policy, which covers comprehensive strategies surrounding providers, users, financing and delivery in the health system, is expected to provide comprehensive guidance, direction and a policy reference point. It would also provide crucial inputs towards health planning and management.

#### **Health Human Resources**

2. Human resources have always been the weakest link in the Bhutanese health system framework. Shortage of doctors and nurses has been a cause for serious concern in the Ministry as well as amongst the general populace. Even as the Government completes its fourth year in term, the commitment to provide at least three doctors in all Dzongkhag hospitals has been only partially achieved. At present, 11 Dzongkhags have at least 3 doctors each, 5 Dzongkhags have 2 doctors each and the remaining 4 have a single doctor each. The progress on this front has been slow because, besides the difficulty in new recruitment, a number of existing doctors are undergoing specialization abroad. However, while mindful of the huge challenge, with the initiatives made in the last four years, we are positive about meeting the commitments by 2013.

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- 3. The University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan (UMSB), erstwhile referred to as Bhutan Institute of Medical Sciences, represents a major initiative of the Health Sector towards providing professional medical education inside the country and, thereby, addresses the critical shortage of health and allied professionals. The Parliament in its winter session of 2011 has endorsed the Act and preparation works on all fronts -- infrastructure, systems and human resources are in full swing for the launch of the University in July 2012. The Ministry expects this project to address, in a substantial way, the longstanding issue of human resource shortage in the health sector extending to, besides doctors and nurses, the entire gamut of professional health workers.
- 4. In the meantime, a number of initiatives were taken to mend the gap as a temporary measure. Over 30 Specialists from Myanmar were recruited within the past four years, health volunteers were sourced from different countries and resigned national doctors were reinstated on contract to supplement the existing weak pool of doctors in the country.
- 5. To supplement the pool of doctors in the country, the Government provides financial support of Nu.300,000 to privately enrolled student undergoing MBBS courses limiting to 12 students for MBBS and 3 students for BDS per year.
- 6. In order to retain, recognize and motivate health workers, Professional allowances are now provided to all clinical staff including Drungtshos.
- 7. The Ministry instituted a mechanism to send Gynecologists once a month to those hospitals with no Gynecologists in order to facilitate wider coverage of these services.

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- Targeted measures were also taken to address the pool and quality of nurses. Besides the regular output of nurses from the Royal Institute of Health Sciences, around 200 nurses were trained in India as part of Accelerated Nursing Program.
- Nurse Assistants were recruited through tailor-made crash course to assist nurses in dispensing non-clinical services and enable nurses to focus on their primary purpose.
- Over 100 nurses are trained in specialized nursing care services like pediatric, critical and emergency nursing through a partnership with Singaporean training institutions.
- 11. The Ministry and the Royal Institute of Health Sciences has also launched the Bachelor of Nursing conversion program with 23 nurses. Such initiatives, besides having built the pool of nurses in the country, has also up-scaled the skills levels and career progression opportunities of our nurses.
- 12. The Ministry, jointly with the Ministry of Labour And Human Resources, is working on establishing private nursing institutions in the country.
- 13. The Ministry launched the Bachelors of Public Health (BPH) program to strengthen management of primary health care in the decentralized setting.
- 14. The Health Human Resource Master Plan was developed to provide a comprehensive picture of the human resources in the country and

# अर्थि:श्रुपःधमःर्देवःवटमावीःपश्चरा

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- enable strategic intervention in the future.
- 15. Institutional linkages for medical courses were established with institutions in India, Sri-Lanka, Thailand, Bangladesh and Singapore to facilitate ease of entrance of Bhutanese students besides other technical collaborations.

#### **Reforms in Procurement**

- 16. The Ministry has been plagued by the issues of drug shortage for over two years now, the causes for which have been multi-factoral. The health procurement system is immensely significant in view of the huge resources involved as well as its critical role in the lives of all Bhutanese. A major initiative towards good governance in health sector has been the reform in this procurement system. Given the inherent corruption susceptibility and risks, a number of corrective as well as proactive initiatives have been made:
  - Development of national inventory on medical equipments
  - Establishment of Essential Medicines and Technology Division
  - Reshuffling of key positions and staff
  - Revision of cycle of procurement and distribution of drugs
  - Standardization of contracts, supplies, indents and procurement procedures
  - Guidelines and Monitoring Tools
  - Follow up on the recommendations of RAA and ACC
- 17. As a culmination of all these efforts, by the end of April 2012, the Ministry has ensured regular stock of at least 98% of all essential

मुेब'र्प्य-स'क'स'रुस मुें'वरः के नर्सार्यानविष्य हुं न्याया स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्वाप्य स्व स्वाप्य संस्वर स्वाप्य स्वाप्य

# वर्नमः र्स् ःश्चव नर्द्रश्च श्ची । त्रम् नि न्द्र वेति । त्र व्यक्त स्थानि । त्र व्यक्त । त्र विकास

पक्षाःश्चीःश्चित्राः व्यान्ताः विद्याः व्यान्ताः विद्याः व्यान्ताः विद्याः वि

# मार्श्वानदेश्वर्ष्यम् निष्ठ्वा स्त्राचित्र

- क् यमायेदायवन्त्रित्ते यद्भिन्त्रः क् यमायेदायवन्त्रित्ते यद्भिन्त्रः क्षिद्रः विश्वस्य क्षिद्याः विश्वस्य क्षिद्रः विश्वस्य क्षित्रः विश्वस्य क्षित्रः विश्वस्य क्षित्रः विश्वस्य क्षित् विश्वस्य क्षित्रः विश्वस्य विश
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  - कुलार्लेट्याञ्चरामार्लमाख्याद्वराद्रमाख्यमान्त्रम्
  - र्बें पर्डेश खुन् सेगा ल्यस हेंगा मी मार्स रार्डिश
  - क्रुं'स्व'श्चव'न्चर्रभ'नर्ज्ञ'रैग'गे'खुन्'रेग'ल्नस्भ'र्ह्ग'गे'ग्वर्थर्ज्ञ
  - र्देन्:वृग्रथः नेगः यदे विषयः र्हेगः मी ग्रवशः र्वन्।

medical supplies in all health facilities across the country.

#### Reforms in Patient Referral Abroad

18. There is an increasing trend in both the volume and cost of patient referred abroad. Recognizing the need to continue providing specialist services abroad which are not treatable in the country while at the same time control costs, a series of reforms were undertaken. Review of treatment centers, cost control measures and administrative issues were undertaken and new mechanisms established to improve patient experience as well as enhance quality treatment outcomes, beside generating cost efficiency

#### **Healthcare Quality Assurance**

- 19. Quality is a fundamental value in health services delivery. In order to enhance services in terms of reliability, efficiency and cost-effective results and thereby achieving consumer satisfaction, the following procedural standards were implemented:
  - Guideline on Implementation of Quality Assurance System in all Health Facilities
  - National Professional Nursing Service Standard
  - Professional Dental Health Service Standard
  - Biomedical Engineering Professional Services Standard
  - Radiology Service Standard

- गलि'हेब'श्चब्रायरमी'र्नेब'श्चर्(गलि'हेब'श्चब्रायर'श्चे'रेअ'१४'र्रर') खुर्'रेग' लयस'र्हेग'गी'गवस्रार्खर्।
- वरञ्चवाख्रदान्द्रमाल्यकार्ह्मां ग्वर्कार्कत्।
- यर्चे यामितायन क्री. ही. प्राप्त स्था स्था क्षेत्र क्षेत्र प्राप्त क्षेत्र क्षेत्र प्राप्त क्षेत्र प्राप्त क्षेत्र क्षेत्र प्राप्त क्षेत्र क्षेत्र

## यह्र्यःश्रुर-र-प्रचेषःश्रम्बद्धःचीःवनशःप्रथा

- न्त्र्वाशक्तिः स्वाप्तान्त्रः स्वेतः स्वापः स्व स्वापः स्
- ४१) प्रमास्तरमा क्षेत्र विषय स्थापन क्षेत्र स्थापन क्षेत्र स्थापन स्यापन स्थापन स्थाप
- ४४) श्रुव्राचर्ड्याः ग्रीः त्यसार्द्र्वाव्यदाय्याः वर्षाः वर्षाः
- ४५ ) नार्से निर्देश स्ट्रेंनस र्हेनस र्हेन स्तृ स्तृ नात्ते निष्कुर तिन्द स्ति नास्त्र स्त्र स्

- Service Standard for Basic Health Unit (BHU I & BHU II)
- Traditional Medicine Professional Service Standard
- Revised National Referral Guideline for treatment outside Bhutan.

#### Management and coordination initiatives

- 20. Monthly Progress Review and Coordination Meeting (PRCM) was instituted to strengthen coordination amongst departments and agencies and also to review activities carried out in a month, challenges faced and activities to be carried out in the forthcoming month.
- 21. Weekly coordination meetings within Departments were instituted to streamline departmental activities and focus.
- 22. Open forums were instituted in JDWNRH to lend voices to health workers in the clinical field.
- 23. The Human Resource Committee was restructured and its decisions made transparent.
- 24. Policy level national meetings in the form of Annual/Biennial Health Conferences were organized. Clinical Conferences were organized amongst clinicians and hospital based staff to deliberate on technical issues and local researches.

- ब्रह्म स्थान स्था
- वन्त्रालुः सरामञ्जूनायन् भी मुनि निरायर्थिना स्वीं न्यूनी स्वायः स्वीं निर्मायः स्वायः स्वीं निर्मायः स्वीं नि

- 25. The Ministry has initiated web based Hospital Information system (HIS) in the JDWNR hospital on pilot basis in order to bridge the time gap in reporting and easy retrieval of data. This initial step would be expanded to include all regional referral and district hospitals.
- 26. Publication of quarterly morbidity and health activity status in the form of QMAR reports was initiated to facilitate timely use of health information for decision making.
- 27. System reviews in the form of Annual Joint Health Sector Reviews were carried out to review progress and provide critique to systemic aspects of health sector.

# वर् रेग्रब रेंब प्रदेव रूट इग् ग्रबे व्यव हेंग्।

## गर्भे मदीमाने हेदायमि कथा

- १४ ) श्रुं त्यं १०११ में त्यं सहया स्वान्त्र के त्यं मुला वित्य के त्यं प्रवान के त्यं प्रवास क
- ४५) न्नो'योगशस्या'त्यः वन्यत्रे'कृषः वि १००० वि स्वतः सुन्यत्रे म्यून्यः वे स्वतः सुन्यत्रे म्यून्यः वे स्वतः सुन्यत्रे क्ष्या स्वतः स्वतः वि स्वतः सुन्यत्रे क्ष्यः स्वतः स्वतः सुन्यत्रे क्ष्यः स्वतः सुन्यत्रे क्ष्यः स्वतः सुन्यत्रे क्ष्यः स्वतः सुन्यत्रे स्वतः सुन्यतः सुन्य
- ४० ) हे अते तकर मानिते मान्य स्वरास्त्र वर्षा पर्या कि स्वरास्त्र मानि के स्वरास्त्र मानि होने स्वरास्त्र मानि स्वरास्त्र मानित स्वरास्त्र स्वरास्त
  - ३०१ वि २० र्वे रचते ५२.५ ग्राम् वर हेरावना श्चवावरा
  - १०१ त्व. व्यत्ये प्रत्ये प्रह्माश्चर्यः व्यव्याश्चर्यः व्यव्याश्चरः व्यव्याश्यः व्यव्याश्यः व्यव्याश्चरः व्यव्याश्यः व्यव्यव्याश्यः व्यव्यव्याश्यः व्यव्यव्यायः व्यव्यव्यायः व्यव्याश्यः व्यव्यव्यायः व्यव्यव्यायः व्यव्यव्यव्यायः व्यव्यव्यव्यायः
  - देता. त्री. १४० मूर न्यापु. श्रूर सीर जिर हिंग्या गार्ड निष्टेष सीय जिर
- ३१ क्रियायन दृतः श्रुत्र र्श्वेन ग्री स्रुप्त राष्ट्रीया क्रिया क्रया क्रिया क्रया क्रिया क्
- मुर्श निर्देशक् क्षा क्षं अप्तृत्व प्रमृत्व स्थि पर्द्ध म्या क्षेत्र विषय क्षेत्र

### **Diagnostic and Curative Services**

#### Health Infrastructure

- 28. As of end 2011, there are 428 ORCs with sheds, 89 ORCs without sheds, 169 BHU II, 15 BHU I and 31 Hospitals providing health care services across the country.
- Constructions of 150 bedded regional referral hospital in Gelephu,
   bedded hospital in Samtse and bio-safety level 3 Public Health
   Laboratory have been initiated.
- 30. Some of the most critical health infrastructures were launched during the 10th Plan, the initiation of which were made during the previous plan periods:
  - 20 Bedded Dagana district Hospital
  - 350 bedded JDWNRH
  - 150 Bedded Mongar Regional Referral Hospital
- 31. All Health Centers in Southern Bhutan which were closed due to security concerns have been reopened, with some reconstructed/upgraded.
- 32. In order to improve access to quality health services, the Ministry has initiated establishing sub-posts for every villages having population of 200-300 inaccessible till date. A sub-post is manned by a health assistant and is equipped with adequate and appropriate medical supplies.

बह्नरङ्गरः व्यक्षतः ह्रीत्रात्यः ह्रीत्रा ह्रीत्रात्यः व्यक्षः व्यवक्षः व्यक्षः व्यवक्षः विवक्षः विववक्षः विववक्षः विववक्षः विववक्षः विववव्यवविववव्यवविवववववव्यवव

### दर्मः श्रुेभः त्यु वायम् विकारम्

- त्व्रातः न्द्रभावन्याः भ्रेन्।
  त्व्रातः न्द्रभावन्याः भ्रेन्यायाः भ्रवायमः भ्रवायमः भ्रवः व्यायः व्यः व्यायः व्यः
- द्ये प्रतिस्थात्म मुलाविन्य क्षेत्र मुलाक्षेत्र व्यास्थित स्वित्य स्थान्य स्यान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्यान स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान्य स्थान
- मुप्तः र्सुग्रामः निष्यः मुप्तः यान्यः ग्राम्यः विषयः विषय
  - सिट्र्ड्यम्बर्भ्यतायरार्द्ध्यः वित्रमञ्जीयायस्ये रस्यार्द्धाः स्ट्रान्यमाञ्जीदायरः द्वाः प्राप्ताः वित्रमञ्जीयायराष्ट्राः स्ट्रान्यमाञ्जीदायरः ने प्राप्ता



33. The GIS mapping of health facilities was carried out to enhance planning processes that will foster equity of access to health care. This exercise also provides an overview of health infrastructures, health indicators and accessibility of health services in the country.

#### **Ambulance Services**

- 34. In line with the Government commitment of providing two functional ambulances in each of the Dzongkhag hospitals, all Dzongkhag hospitals today have at least two functional ambulances.
- 35. A fleet of 107 functional ambulances equipped with GPS and GIS exists in the country today.
- 36. In addition to the Government commitment, the following policy objectives were achieved:
  - Provide 5 ambulances for regional hospitals, 2 for district hospitals and 1 for BHU-I.

- ર્સું 'તુર' ઇવશ' છેતું સ્ત્રુવશ' ક્રેયા વર્ષ કર્યું પાય ક્રેયા ક્રેયા

## मार्श्व प्रतिः र्योगान्य प्रताः हो प्रा

- क्ष्यश्रायव्यक्ष ख्रिन् क्ष्रे स्था विष्ण स्था क्ष्य स
- मैच क्ष्यं मार्यः स्वरं स्वरं

### क्तुरन्देरञ्जूद पर्देश

- Station 15 ambulances to community strategic areas to facilitate transportation access during emergencies.
- 37. In order to free the ambulances from allied and administrative duties, the Ministry has provided one utility vehicle each to all hospitals and sourced three vehicles to be used as specialized Blood Bank Vans.

#### **Health Help Center**

- 38. The Health Help Center (HHC) represents a significant milestone in the development of health services in the country particularly in areas of improving access, services equality, reaching the unreached and acceleration of the MDG achievements. It has enabled people to access the services of health professionals, through a toll free number, within one hour, at anytime from anywhere so long as there is telephone/mobile network.
- 39. The HHC covers a broad array of medical assistive services ranging from medical emergency services, medical triage, health counseling, provision of information on health services and facilities as well as SMS prescription for over-the-counter drugs. There is complaint logger system as well to enable corrective actions in services delivery.

#### Telemedicine

40. The Rural Telemedicine Project for Primary Healthcare launched in 2009 has aided the peripheral health centers to avail specialist diagnostic services and advice.

- क्र्या-स्वानः स्वानः स्वान स्वानः स
- स्वाप्ताः स्वापताः स्व

# श्चरायराबरा पहुराश्चिराज्यराचश्चरा

- क्वायाय अवतः न्युश्वाया अवतः विश्वाया अवः विश्वाय अवः विश्वाया अवः विश्वाय अवः विश्वा



- 41. Through the SAARC Telemedicine Project, which links all the SAARC countries through a regional telemedicine network, access is provided for specialist consultation with super specialty hospitals in the region.
- 42. Telemedicine has facilitated Continuing Medical Education (CME) to clinicians, specialists and other categories of health workers.

#### Management transformations in hospitals

- 43. In order to ensure that people across the country have access to best possible hospital services, an initiative by the name of Hospital Administration and Management Transformation (HAMT) was initiated. This is a package of services aimed at services improvement, efficiency and patient satisfaction with rigorous monitoring system in place. Initiatives include:
  - Day Patients: Reduce waiting time for patients; Improve patient satisfaction related to service delivery

- बर्चलम् बर्च/बर्न्नमः १० खितः वितः क्षेप्राख्याः कुष्याः क्षेत्रः कष्णेत्रः क
- र्स.क्ट्र. अर.स्त. तम्मैत.व्री चपु.र्देश.क्ट्र. अर.स्त. तम्मैत.व्री योचेया. त्र्या. त्र्या. त्र्या. व्या. व
- त्रीं चुर्र्स्वयाक्रियाक्षे हिंदा हिंदा हिंदा है स्वर्धा है स्वर्ध है स्वर्य है स्वर्ध है स्वर्ध है
- कुष्यत्र तुष्र हुं भ्रूनायर दुः स्वरक्षा कुष्य प्रत्येत्र स्वेत स्वर्थ स्वय्य स्वय्य स्वय्य स्वर्य स्वय्य स्वय्य स्वय्य स्वय्य स्वय्य स्वय्य स्वय्य
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# र्श्वमस्यस्यः मुस्यस्रुत्वयसःह्रम्।

द्रियायः मी द्रिया क्रिया प्रमेश्व क्ष्री प्राप्त क्ष्री क्र

- Inpatient /Ward: Increase efficiency of bed occupancy; Minimize waiting time
- Surgery/OT: Improve OT utilization through better appointment system and reducing turnaround time; Minimize delays at OT
- Emergency Department: Minimize time taken for Doctor/Health
  Worker to attend to patients; Limited time spent at emergency
  room; Reduce time taken for ward availability for emergency
  patients.
- 44. The JDWNRH now functions as an administratively autonomous organization managed by an independent Board. This initiative is expected to generate further operational efficiency in the conduct of hospital activities and improve services delivery.
- 45. An alternative semi-autonomous management framework with clearly identified services indicators have been piloted in Bumthang hospital. This pilot project would provide valuable insights into the improvement of hospital management system in the country.

#### **Special Consultation Services**

46. Special Consultation Services (SCS) was initiated at the JDWNRH with the goal of providing choice of services to the people besides decongesting crowds during regular hospital hours and motivating hospital staff. Services provided, on certain structured fees, include consultation with specialists and medical officers, general health

तस्त्र-प्रमेश्वर्प्तस्त्रम् निस्त्र ने प्रमाणितः स्त्र-प्रमाण्डे प्रमाणितः स्त्र-प्रमाण्डे प्रमाणितः स्त्र-प्रमाण्डे प्रमाणितः स्त्र-प्रमाणितः स्त्र-प्रमाणित

- मुश्चित्रः तथा मुल्याम् ह्रं मीः विनश मृत्या त्रिश्च मीः विनश मृत्या त्रिश्च मीः विनश मृत्या त्रिश्च मीः विनश मृत्या त्रिश्च मित्र विनश मृत्या विश्व विनश मृत्या विश्व विश्व
- त्यचर्क्, व्यानक्रम्भूतः चर्षेत्रम्भः चर्षेत्रम्भः चर्षेत्रम्भः विचर्क्, वयन् क्र्यं वर्षेत्रम्भः वर्षेत्रम्भः चर्षेत्रम्भः चर्षेत्रम्भः वर्षेत्रम्भः वर्षेत्रमः वर्येत्रमः वर्षेत्रमः वर्षेत्रमः

### श्चव रेगमार रायसुव रेगा

- क्रेंच्वर क्रेमामिले पर्श्वमाय प्रमानिक्ष्य । वर्ष्ण प्रमानिक्ष्य । वर्षण प्रम
- तः रेश्रम्भः प्रस्थः स्वाप्तः अर्थः भ्रम् स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप भ्रम् स्वाप्तः स्वापतः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वाप्तः स्वापतः स्

- check up, general laboratory diagnostic services, X-ray, ultrasound, CT, MRI, ECG and medical fitness certificates for employment, training, visas and driving licenses.
- 47. Since its inception one and a half years ago, the SCS has catered to about 2-3% of total out-patient load in JDWNRH. The top three services availed were medical (5.3%), surgical (8.9%) and gynecological (4.6%). The SCS generated total revenue of Nu. 6.2 million out of which Nu.3.1 million was deposited as government revenue and Nu.3.1 million distributed as payments to the health personnel.
- 48. The Ministry is currently reviewing the SCS to examine whether the stated objectives are being met and decide on its continuity and gradual rollout around the country.

#### **Medicines and Technologies**

- 49. In order to review and assess introduction of new technology in health care (supplies, processes, policy) in light of cost-effectiveness and conformance to the national values and principles, the Essential Medicine and Technology Division has been established staffed with appropriately qualified personnel.
- 50. Significant measures were taken to streamline the procurement and distribution systems for drugs and medical supplies.
- 51. The Essential Drugs List has been developed. The National Essential Medicines Formulary, National Antibiotic Guideline & Standard Treatment Guideline have been revised. Assessments were conducted for drug & laboratory re-agent supplies in the country including those of traditional medicines.

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- 52. Health workers were trained and advocacies conducted for rational use of drugs, especially the use of antibiotics.
- 53. Recognizing that antimicrobial resistance can be a critical impediment in global efforts towards achieving UN Millennium Development Goals, especially MDG 6 that addresses containment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other diseases, advocacies and trainings were carried out in the country. Since a regional collaboration is essential to prevent cross-border influx of resistant drugs and microbes, a regional collaboration was established for the 11 countries in South East Asia through the Jaipur Declaration.

## वर्सेन्'नक्षेत्'परःइग'न्नः वन्दिग्रशंक्रित्ववर्गेग'न्नकंन्'वहेत्

### क्रुें अप्रम्खार्थितीयर्थे राम्ब्रेदा

- मुक्षां त्या क्ष्मां क्ष्मां

### षेळेषादेशें/षेटशेंर्ट वद्यादार्म्यावर्म्या वर्षेट देवश हर्यदेद्दावि

पत्रें त्यात्र्वात्वा मेशः क्वायाव्यात्वरः क्षेत्रः कष्णेत्रः कष

# Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Control

#### **Maternal and Child Health**

- 54. The Maternal Mortality Rate has gone down from 560 in 1990 to 255 per 100,000 live births in 2000. The current estimate is 146 (about more than 40% decrease from 2000 baseline) indicating that we are on the track to achieve the target of 140 per 100,000 live births by 2015.
- 55. Under-five mortality rates have been brought down from 84 in 2000 to 61.5 per 1000 live births. As such the country remains comfortably on track to achieve the MDG target of reducing U5MR by two-thirds.
- 56. Infant Mortality Rate has been reduced from 60.5 in 2000 to 40.1 per 1000 live births. It is highly probable that the country will achieve the MDG target of reducing IMR by two thirds well ahead of time.

#### HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

57. The Ministry has developed the 'National Strategic Plan for Prevention and Control of STIs, HIV and AIDS, 2012-2016' to tackle the spread of HIV virus and contain the spread of AIDS epidemic in the country.



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The Strategic Plan focuses on additional measures to prevent mother to child transmission, provide anti-retroviral treatment and standardized care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS, besides the general efforts at prevention which remains the core intervention. As is the expected trend and an epidemiological profile globally, the number of HIV cases has increased from 2 in 1993 to 270 today.

58. The number of Tuberculosis and Malaria cases has dropped from 4232 and 22126 cases in 1990 to 1250 and 194 cases in 2011 respectively. The Ministry is confident on meeting the MDG targets on these fronts. Bhutan may become malaria free country in next few years if the current efforts and programs are sustained.

#### Nutrition

- 59. The general nutritional (including micronutrients situation) status of the people has been improving over the decade. An MDG target indicator of halving the rate of under-five children who are underweight has been achieved as this indicator has been brought down from 38% in 1989 to 18.7% in 2000 to 12.7% in 2010.
- 60. While malnutrition indicators like underweight prevalence and wasting have improved, stunting prevalence of 33.5% still remains as a major public health issue. Stunting indicates the cumulative deficient growth associated with chronic insufficient dietary intake,

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- ५५ ड्रिन'श्रुब'चर्ड्ब'छैं-'त्यन्'ने'र्थेन्। तद्नेनीबाबार्ड्ब'छैं-'त्यन्'ने'र्थेन्। द्रम्'कें कुव्रर्सेन्यन्'ने'र्थेन्।
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frequent infections and poor feeding practices over a long period of time. Initiatives through advocacy, mobilization of cross-sectoral participation, awareness and nutritional supplementation have been rolled out to address this issue.

- 61. Micronutrient deficiency of Vitamin A is also no longer a public health problem though iron deficiency anemia among pregnant women still remains a critical concern.
- 62. Bhutan has been experiencing sporadic outbreaks of Vitamin deficiencies, particularly Vitamin B1 and B12, since 1998 and occurrences have been recorded almost every year. The recent outbreak reported at Orong, Samdrup Jongkhar was assessed and contained. To prevent such outbreaks in the future, menu consultation and vitamin B supplementation have been initiated in armed force, schools and institutions.

#### **Immunization**

- 63. Immunization coverage has been sustained at above 90%. Additionally, immunization coverage levels were also maintained at over 85% for all Dzongkhags.
- 64. In 2009, Bhutan received the Best Immunization Performance Award from the Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunization
- 65. Given the fact that cervical cancer is the number one malignancy diagnosed in Bhutanese women, the Ministry launched the

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### त्रचुःकेषःबेन्यदेःबन्देग्बा

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- nationwide HPV vaccination in 2010 for girls ranging from age group of
- 12-18 years as a preventive measure against cervical cancer. Despite the substantial cost involved, Bhutan is one of the few countries to include this vaccine as part of routine immunization programme.
- 66. The Ministry introduced Pentavalent vaccine; a single dose vaccine containing antigens of Diptheria, Pertusis, Tetatus, Hepatitis B and Haemophilus Influenza B. This move incorporates new vaccines in the traditional immunization schedule as well as generate cost saving and accrue logistic convenience. Post reports of adverse events in 2010 and subsequent investigation, Pentavalent vaccine was re-



#### Non-Communicable Diseases

- 67. The National Policy and Strategic Framework on Control and Prevention of NCDs has been launched and being implemented.
- 68. The Package for Essential Non-Communicable diseases (PEN) project was launched as a pilot in Bumthang and Paro Dzongkhags. This project explores the feasibility of integrating NCD services into the mainstream Primary Health Care system. Evaluations in both Paro and Bumthang have been completed and appropriate policies and strategies are being designed for the national rollout.

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- 69. A National High-Level Multi-sectoral Advocacy on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) was organized with participation of Cabinet ministers, Parliamentarians, senior officials from ministries and agencies, Dzongkhag officials, and representatives from development agencies, non-governmental organizations and media. Such advocacies are expected to highlight concerns on NCDs and mainstream NCD activities into the respective organizations' activities.
- 70. Bhutan participated in the High Level Meeting of the *United Nations General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non Communicable Diseases*. The meeting generated global political commitment and emphasized concerted efforts by governments, development partners and other non-governmental actors to fight NCDs.

#### Tobacco and alcohol

- 71. A significant milestone in the history of tobacco control in Bhutan was the enactment of the Tobacco Control Act of Bhutan, 2010 by the Parliament. With the Act fully enforced beginning January 2011, significant reduction on the use of tobacco in the country has been achieved. However, there were issues on some of the provisions of the Act and a Parliamentary review of the Act was initiated. The revised Act was endorsed by the winter session of the Parliament in 2011.
- 72. World No Tobacco Day Award for 2011 was presented to His Excellency Lyonpo Zangley Dukpa for his outstanding contributions in the area of tobacco control by the World Health Organization.
- 73. The National Strategic Framework for Reducing Harmful Use of Alcohol has been developed.

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74. To reduce harmful use of alcohol, community based pilot interventions were carried out in Mongar and Lhuentse. The reviews of these two Dzongkhags were largely encouraging and the Ministry is in the process of national rollout of these interventions.

#### **Healthy Ageing - Geriatric Care**

- 75. Population above the age of 65 years is projected at 200,000 by 2020.

  The Ministry established Geriatric Care Program to address the need of the elderly population in the country to promote resourcefulness, productivity, vitality and happiness.
- 76. A pilot project was launched in Khaling community to determine the feasibility of providing community based health care for the elderly for two years. Upon completion of the pilot, the project would be rolled out to other areas in phased manner.

### क्षेत्रायः बेन्यते तस्त्र स्कुन्तः गर्डन्य्युः तर्थेन्यक्षेत्रा



77. Health workers have been trained on elderly medical check-ups, treatment interventions and follow–ups.

#### Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation

- 78. A prominent priority of the Government is to ensure that everyone has access to safe and convenient drinking water.
- 79. The proportion of population with access to safe drinking water increased from 84.2% in 2005 to 96.1% in 2010 with improvements particularly noticeable in rural areas.
- 80. A review carried out on the rural water supply schemes in 2008 (reported in 2009) highlighted that 12% of the schemes were nonfunctional. A host of corrective measures were taken including enhanced supervision (visit by MOH officals to Dzongkhag with low functionality), capacity building of communities to manage their schemes and exploring alternative sources and measures. An ongoing assessment of functionality through the new Geog-Based Information System reflects that 5.8% of the existing schemes are non-functional (Based on data received from 13 Dzongkhags. Complete data is excpected by end june 2012)

- 81. The MDG target of reducing by half those without access to safe drinking water has already been achieved well in advance. The future challenge is to achieve and maintain universal access to safe drinking water, particularly in rural areas of the country.
- 82. There are still pockets in the country where traditional approaches in supplying safe water are not feasible. Alternative technologies in the form of rainwater harvesting system (Mongar, Pema Gatshel, Paro, Trongsa, Lhuntse), pumping water supply (Pema Gatshel, Samtse, Chukha) were implemented. Technologies such as bio-sand filtration were also implemented to ensure safety of supplied water.

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83. To avert water borne diseases and enable access to clean and safe drinking water throughout the country, the Ministry developed tools and protocols for water quality testing in both in urban and rural areas. Institutionalization of this system for periodic and regular water quality monitoring is being done.



- यद्द्रश्चेतुःश्रधियःम्रेष्ट्रत्यम् क्ष्यः विश्वायित्वायः विश्वायः विश्वायः

- 84. An assessment was conducted to identify all village/institutes which still have difficulties in accessing safe drinking water source. The findings are being used currently to strategize innovative provision of the services.
- 85. The proportion of the Bhutanese population with access to safe excreta disposal is 94.5% now as compared to 90% in 2000. In rural areas, 74.2% of the households had garbage pits and 58.6% of them availed proper drainage and footpath services. The MDG target in this context of halving the proportion of people without access to safe sanitation was achieved some time ago. (The Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey, 2010 which used more advanced definition on sanitation coverage (improved sanitation) reported use of improved sanitation facilities at 58.4%.



# र्थिः र्स्ट्रेट्चॅ ट्राययेथा चीः द्रीयाषा (यार्थे प्र)

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Millennium Development Goals (Health)							
Goals	Indicators	2000	2007	2010	2011		
Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Hunger and Poverty	1.Prevalence of underweight children under five years of age	17%	-	12.7%	9%		
Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality	1.Under-5 Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	84	60.1	69	-		
	2.Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	60.5	40	47	-		
	3.Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized against measles	85%	90%	94.5%	-		
Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health	1.Mortality Ratio (per 100,000 live births)	255	-	-	146		
	2.Percentage of births by the skilled attendants	24	53.6	69.5	69		
Goal 6: Combat HIV/ AIDS, Malaria and other diseases	1.HIV case detected	38	144	246	270		
	2.TB cases per 100,000	168	150	191	176		
	3.Malaria incidence per 10,000	87	16	7	5		
Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability	1.Percentage of population with access to safe drinking water	78	82	88	96.1		
	2.Percentage of population having access to sanitation (excreta disposal)	90	91	93	94.5		

#### <u>রশ'নপ্তৃ</u>

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### श्चेष्यदेभी क्री

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### रेगा इव उदा शुः क्रुं गर्धिगा

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#### वर्ष्युयःश्चवःषया

#### Nutrition

Malnutrition in children under five years of age was reduced from 17 % in 1999 to 12.7 % in2010. In case of stunting, it was reduced from 40 % in 1999 to 33.5 % in 2010. With regard towasting, it increased from 2.6 % in 1999 to 5.9 % in 2010.

#### **Maternal Mortality**

With increased births attended by skilled personnel, institutional delivery and other ante natal care services, there was significant achievement in reducing maternal mortality ratio from 255 in 2000 to 146 in 2011. Since 2000, while maternal mortality ratio has not been calculated, the Ministry has been keeping track of actual number of maternal deaths to monitor maternal health programmes. The absolute numbers indicate significant decline.

#### **Skilled Birth Attendants**

Despite the difficult geographic terrain and scattered nature of settlements, targeted approach by the Ministry has resulted in increased percentage of births attended by skilled personnel from 24 % in 2000 to 69 % in 2011.

#### **Fertility**

Total fertility rate has reduced remarkably from 4.7 in 2000 to 2.8 in 2010. In addition, this can also be attributed to rise in living standards, improved health care system, increased level of education and literacy rate, and increased prevalence of contraception.

#### **Immunization**

Since the introduction of expanded programme for immunization in 1979, Bhutan witnessed significant decline in child mortality rate. The country's 

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### केवाया सेन्यती त्यु राखु

achievement of Universal Child Immunization (UCI) in 1991 was marked by national immunization levels focused on wide vaccination coverage for major diseases like BCG, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, measles and hepatitis B. The coverage for these antigens for children with proper immunization cards showed that 90% of all children were fully vaccinated while 10% remained partially vaccinated. Rubella vaccine was successfully introduced in the year 2006 with mass national rubella vaccination campaign. Looking at the overall coverage trend, immunization coverage increased from 85 % in 2000 to 94.5 % in 2010.

#### **Child Mortality**

Under-5 mortality rate significantly declined from 84 % in 2000 to 69 % in 2010. Similarly, infant mortality rate reduced from 60.5 % in 2000 to 47 % in 2010. According to Bhutan Multiple Indicator Survey 2010, infant and under-5 mortality rates were higher in eastern Bhutan than in Central Bhutan. The study also showed that child mortality was significantly different in terms of educational levels and wealth, wherein a child born to the poorest family in rural areas and with uneducated mother was more likely to die by the age of five as compared to a child born to a rich and educated family in an urban area.

#### **Safe Drinking Water**

Royal Government places highest importance in ensuring access to safe drinking water. As a result, Bhutan has seen remarkable achievement in providing safe drinking water especially to the people in rural areas. The proportion of population with access to safe drinking water increased from

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### শর্থনন্ত্রা

अर्देव,प्रांचला विद्यां स्वितः स्व ४००० मी. ज्ञांच्यांच्याः स्वतः स्वितः स्वतः स

### लेकेलदेश/लेट्या

78 % in 2000 to 96.1 % in 2010. According to BMIS 2010, there was slight variation in access to safe drinking water by rural and urban with 95 % in rural areas and almost 100 % in urban areas. In terms of geographic disparity, western region had 92 %, eastern region had 90 % and central region had 82 % of coverage.

#### Sanitation

According to BMIS 2010, use of improved sanitation facilities related positively with education level of the household head and wealth index of the household.

#### **HIV/AIDS**

The number of HIV cases detected gradually increased from only 38 in 2000 to alarming figure of 270 in 2011. Most infected are between 25 to 39 years of age, who are the most economically productive age groups. According to a study, almost 90 % of infections were through unsafe sex with multiple partner and increased casual sex. Recognizing the importance of preventive measures in combating HIV/AIDS, Royal Government took various initiatives to reach out and communicate to all sections of Bhutanese society. A multisectoral task forces comprising of all stakeholders were created in all 20 districts to coordinate and implement HIV/AIDS prevention and control activities at the community level. As for treatment, free anti retro viral (ARV) treatment is provided to HIV/AIDS patients.

ब्रैट्येम्। लश्चःस्रीची, लश्चःलपु.सु./ल्रेट्सु.मुस. पर्युट्सुर्य-मैटा,वृद्धःस्रेचात्तियोकाल्य्नात्त्र, अस्यामणा विवा, लश्चःलपु.सु./ल्रेट्सु.मुस. पर्युट्सुचःसुवा ट्रेप्यट्सात्त्र, सूर्यामणा विवा, लश्चःलपु.सु. लश्चःसु.प्युट्स्यो न्यूट्स्यो ट्रेप्यट्सात्र, सूर्यामणा विवा, लश्चःलपु.सु.प्युट्स्य विवायःस्य प्राची विवायःस्य प्राची स्वायःस्य प्राची प्राची स्वायःस्य प्राची स्वायःस्य प्राची स्वायःस्य प्राची स्वायःस्य प्राची स्वायःस्य प्राची स्वायःस्य प्राची प्राची स्वायःस्य स्वयःस्

### यद्गाव स्त्रीं गर्डेटा

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### र्क्र यदि बर्ग्य वि

Nevertheless, according to BMIS 2010, 16.3 % of women aged 15-49 years did not hear about HIV/AIDS. It was also reported that 34 % of women aged 15-49 did not know that HIV/Transmission could be prevented by using condom. BMIS 2010 also reported that less than half of rural women received counseling on HIV/AIDS compared to two third of women in urban areas. Therefore, women in rural areas are more vulnerable to HIV infections.

#### **Tuberculosis**

With successful integration of tuberculosis (TB) programme with the general health services and intensive implementation of advocacy and campaigning programmes, Bhutan had been able to keep incidence of TB under control. The incidence of TB was only 168 per 100,000 in 2000 and 176 per 100,000 in 2011. Although the incidence of TB appears to be low, it is a serious public health concern given its infectious nature and vulnerability to HIV/AIDS co-infection. The incidence of deaths caused by TB was also reduced with introduction of early diagnosis system and Directly Observed Treatment Short course (DOTS).

#### Malaria

Malaria cases significantly declined from about 87 cases per 10,000 in the year 2000 to only 5 cases per 10,000 in the year 2011. Similarly, the number of deaths caused by malaria had also been remarkably contained with only 1 death in the year 2010 as compared to 15 deaths in the year 2000. These significant results could be attributed to various preventive measures such as information dissemination, increasing use of insecticide treated bed nets, early diagnosis system and effective treatment.

श्री त्रिया के त्रिय स्त्रिय के त्रिया के त However, Bhutan experienced abnormal outbreak of malaria in the year 2009 with 972 positive cases. This was mainly attributed to abnormal rainfall patterns coupled with high infection rates across the border in India.

# ल्वायहवादा कुवार्स्स्ट साहेगामी यमारीया

### मर्थे नदीय ५५८० मी सुद नहद मद्या है।

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### Sustainability, Regulatory and Monitoring Programs

#### Sustainability in Health Financing

86. A series of exploratory studies on health financing was undertaken to better understand the existing framework as well as to tap into the international evidences on financing healthcare. The initiatives were an offshoot of the overwhelming concern on the sustainability of free health care both from within and outside the health sector.



87. The National Health Accounts, the first of its kind in the country, have been initiated in order to periodically track the national spending and resources flow in health. It would provide crucial indicators to signal policy review in health financing and also increase accountability based on resources and results.

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NHA estimates revealed that the public health expenditures as a percentage of total government expenditures is 6.27 percent and as a percentage of country's GDP is 3.23 percent. The estimated numbers reveal that about 88 percent of the resources for health care are from the government and about 11 percent from households. Of the total government resources, nearly 30 percent is allocated to districts under the decentralized system. External assistance plays a considerable role in the health sector of the country accounting for about 18 percent of the total government spending on health. Of the total resources spent on health in the country, 52 percent is spent on public providers, while about 24 percent is spent on general health administration. 9 percent of the total resources are spent on private providers which include treatments outside country and care from traditional practitioners.

88. A national healthcare costing study was conducted to provide necessary tools and benchmarks for estimation of resource needs, forecasting as well as building cost consciousness among both healthcare providers and the clients.

An OPD visit is generally four times as costly at referral hospital compared to a BHU and twice as costly compared to a district hospital. Inpatients unit costs show the same pattern. The average inpatient cost of a referral hospital is about three times that of a BHU and more than one-half time that of a district hospital. Providing services at the lowest level of service delivery (facilities) is the most cost-effective way of providing services in the long run. It is a challenge to control demand for services and channel the patients to the right facilities. If this is managed, it will in the longer run result in cost savings.

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89. In order to build upon the sustainability of national healthcare resources, the Ministry is also exploring, through a consultative process, the feasibility and modalities for charging non-Bhutanese, including tourists, seeking healthcare in Bhutan.

### **Private Sector Participation**

- 90. A framework guideline, which would serve as the basis for screening proposals, to establish private selective diagnostic services has been launched by the Government in close consultation with the respective specialist departments and in tandem with the existing regulations of the BMHC, DRA and the National Health Policy.
- 91. In order to improve service delivery in the hospitals as well as to improve cost effectiveness, security services, laundry and parking in JDWNRH were outsourced to the private sector, while services like patient diet, gardening and cleaning services are at various phases of being outsourced for private sector engagement.
- 92. In line with the Government commitment of establishing a tertiary level super-specialised hospital in Bhutan through Foreign Direct Investments, the Ministry in collaboration with the Druk Holding and Investments (DHI) carried out a feasibility study. The findings indicate that the medical tourism could be economically unfeasible. The Ministry is, therefore, focusing on developing the existing facilities within the country as well as exploring prospects in wellness services for foreign markets.
- 93. Modalities and frameworks are being developed for establishment of high-end medical diagnostic services, treatment facilities and training centers through private sector engagement in the country.

८०) वर्यते श्रवन्तः स्टायुग्याची श्रवन्तर्वेषः व्यवस्य वर्षः में स्वर्धः प्रस्ति स्वर्धः स्टाय्यायान्तरः से स्वर्धः स्वरं स्व

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94. Traditional medicine, spiritual healing, hot stone/spring bath and spas have also been identified and promoted as avenues for commercialization.

#### **Bhutan Health Trust Fund**

- 95. The initial target of USD 24 Million (approx Nu. 1 billion) for the Bhutan Health Trust Fund has been achieved. As of December 2011, the total fund stands at Nu.1.122 billion.
- 96. The Trust Fund procured Diptheria Tetanus and Pertusis (DTP), Hepatitis B, Haemophilus influenzae type B and Anti-Rabies vaccines, and provided support to the nationwide Measles Rubella vaccination campaign.

#### **Bhutan Medical and Health Council**

- 97. The Bhutan Medical and Health Council, as a regulatory agency governing all health professionals in Bhutan, have registered about 90% of health workers in the country. The remaining 10%, mostly foreign health workers, are also being registered with the Council.
- 98. Besides the registration and regulation of professional practice, regulations and guidelines were prepared to improve professional practice.
- 99. Disciplinary proceedings framework for medical malpractice and negligence has been instituted to provide safety and protection to the general public.

## **Drug Regulatory Authority**

100. With delinking from the Ministry of Health in late 2008, the role of Drug Regulatory Authority was enhanced in order to ensure effective monitoring of the medicinal products in the country in terms of safety, efficacy and quality to both human as well as

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- १०१ ) श्रुवःरेणयः कुवःपर्गेर्द्रप्रदाहेवः ग्रुवः तुषः प्रत्यः वर्शेः प्रवः वर्शेः श्रुवः रेण्यः १८९० श्रे वर्षे प्राप्तः श्रुवः रेण्यः १८०० हें हेणः भ्रे प्रवः वर्षे प्रवः व
- १०४ ) श्रुवःरेण्यः र्कुः र्कुः र्यायः र्वेतः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वायः स्वयः स्
- १०५ ) क्षेर-भेरी: प्रश्न क्षेर-देन क्षेर-सेना क्षा क्षेर्य क्षेत्र क्

# पर्विगार्श्वे हसान्यायहूयाम्यान्तेः रम्भ्रेम्यसान्ते

- १०० व्राप्तित्वर् मुल्यात्वर्षे म्यात्वर्षे स्वात्वर्षे स्वात्वर्ये स्वात्वर्षे स्वात्वर्ये स्वात्वर्षे स्वात्वर्षे स्वात्वर्षे स्वात्वर्षे स्वात्वर्षे स्वात्वर्ये स्वात्वर्यत्वर्ये स्वात्वर्ये स्वात्वयत्वय्यत्वयत्वयः स्वात्वयत्वयत्वयत्वयत्यत्वयत्वयत्वयत्वयत
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- ३०५ र्मा तर्मे तद्देव तद्यन दे। इत्या तर्मे तद्देव तद्यन है। इत्या स्थान के त्या के
- १००) त्र्व्याःमी:५अ:तु:५अ:तहेंद्व:चउतःविस्रसःतरेः श्वेःर्यः४०११ त्रुःतर्यःकेंसः१०सः वर्माः वर्षाः प्रवासः वर्षाः वर्षाः

animal.

- 101. The Authority registered about 1004 human allopathic medicines excluding the expired list, 88 *So-ba-rigpa* medicines and 65 veterinary medicines.
- 102. Numerous inspections of pharmacy shops, hospitals and health centers were carried out to ensure proper storage and dispensing of medicines.
- 103. In order to ensure competency in dispensing medicines by the private sector, training programmes were conducted for private Pharmacists along with certifications of competent persons.

#### Bhutan Narcotic Control Agency: an autonomous agency

- 104. A rehabilitation centre for drugs and alcohol dependence has been established at Serbithang.
- 105. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between Bhutan and India on "Drug Demand Reduction and Prevention of Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and precursor of Chemicals and related matters."
- 106. Inter-country meetings and consultations were held to discuss issues and develop joint interventions on illicit trafficking of controlled drugs and other narcotics and psychotropic substances.
- 107. The Tobacco Control Act 2010 was implemented with effect from 1st January 2011. In order to control tobacco use, a Tobacco Control Board (TCB) and Demand and Supply Reduction Committee were established.
- 108. Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials on III effects of tobacco use have been developed.

- १०० वृणार्धेन्यः क्रुं। ह्यान्यादिव घनयः द्युयः श्चेषा वर्गेन् ग्रीः तूः व्हं प्यनः यह्या वसूः धी
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- 109. The formulation of National Drug Control Strategy has been completed.
- 110. The initiatives to strengthen awareness, advocacy, education and counseling programmes on harmful effects of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and tobacco were conducted in the seven existing Drop-in Centers at Thimphu, Phuntsholing, Bumthang, Mongar, Samdrup Jongkhar and Gelephu. 245 teacher counselors and 700 students also participated for the advocacy programs.
- 111. Sensitization on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Substances abuse (NDPSSA) Act 2005 and harmful effects of drug use were conducted for 139 local government officials in different Dzongkhags.
- 112. Recognizing the importance of strengthening counseling services to the drug dependents, recruitment of counselors has been increased from 10 to 15. The training on outreach and counseling to the Peer Counselors was conducted.
- 113. Detoxification unit of JDWNRH and Narcotic Drugs Law Enforcement unit, RBP has detoxified 250 male and 42 female drug and alcohol dependents, and rehabilitated 56 male and 25 female at Serbithang.
- 114. The capacity of law enforcement agencies including Royal Bhutan Police, Department of Revenue and Customs and Public Health Laboratory was built up and provided with drug detection test kits.
- 115. On prevention of diversion of precursor chemicals from illicit purpose, awareness programme was carried out to the Department of Revenue and Customs followed by the inspection of chemicals used by the industries in Samtse, Gomtu, Phuntsholing, Pasakha, Gelephu and Samdrup Jongkhar.

# सर्ग्रेम्बर्य्स्य उत्त्रीं प्रच्या की सेति न्या पर्मे न्या परमे न्या परम

## लेतु १ मः अत्रावरायमा लेत ५८ वर्षे ते स्वर तुर्वा

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# Accelerated Bhutan Socio Economic Development (Health Sector)

#### Charter 1: Hospital Operations and Cost-efficiency

- ✓ The Hospital Administration and Management Transformation (HAMT) initiative has been rolled out across the country aimed at services improvement, efficiency and patient satisfaction with rigorous monitoring system in place. Patient waiting time in JDWNRH has been reduced by 30% as an outcome of the operational reforms.
- ✓ Since its inception one and a half years ago, the Special Consultation Services (SCS) has catered to about 2-3% of total out-patient load in JDWNRH. The SCS was initiated with the goal of providing choice of services to the people besides decongesting crowds during regular hospital hours and motivating hospital staff.
- ✓ Reforms in the health procurement system have, besides improving efficiency, transparency and accountability, generated savings in medical supplies expenses.

#### Charter 2: HR Masterplan

✓ The HR master plan has been launched and implemented to improve deployment, recruitment and focused skill development.

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#### Charter 3: IT-Enabled Healthcare Services (Health Help Center)

✓ The Health Help Center (HHC) represents a significant milestone in the
development of health services in the country particularly in areas of
improving access, services equality, reaching the unreached and acceleration of the MDG achievements. It has enabled people to access the services
of health professionals, through a toll free number, within one hour at
anytime from anywhere so long as there is telephone/mobile network.

#### Charter 4: Healthcare Financing

✓ With the view to create a structure that will allow financial sustainability in healthcare while maintaining equity of provision and access, a series of studies and consultative processes were carried out. The National Health Accounts has been instituted and a healthcare costing study was conducted. The Ministry is also exploring, through a consultative process, the feasibility and modalities for charging non-Bhutanese seeking healthcare in Bhutan.

#### Charter 5: Private Sector Participation

- ✓ In order to improve service delivery in the hospitals as well as to improve cost effectiveness, security services, laundry and parking in JDWNRH were outsourced to the private sector, while services like patient diet, gardening and cleaning services are at various phases of being outsourced for private sector engagement.
- ✓ The framework guideline, which would serve as the basis for screening proposals, to establish private selective diagnostic services, has been launched by the Government

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## **Health Sector Challenges**

- 116. Bhutanese avail free health services from primary to tertiary level health care. The Constitution of Bhutan states under Article 9 under the Principle of State Policy, Section 21: "the State shall provide free access to basic public health services in both modern and traditional medicines." In the face of rising costs, increased demand for quality health services and dwindling global resources for health, provision of free health services represents a major challenge.
- 117. Bhutan's difficult geographical terrain and scattered population continue to pose challenge in the move towards providing universal quality services.
- 118. Shortage of human resources continues to plague the health system while the system gears towards providing a responsive and equitable access to quality health care. Even the world as a whole is facing shortage of four million doctors, nurses and other health personnel. While numerous initiatives have been made with visible achievements in this front, we are yet to attain the international standards with respect to health HR indicators to ensure top notch quality of care.
- 119. Given its inherent complexities, health procurement is a highly specialized and technical service. The volume of resources involved also makes it susceptible to corrupt practices. In view of this, there is a need to have a highly professional body with skilled manpower in appropriate disciplines supported by sound and transparent systems. While the Ministry has made tremendous initiatives/reforms toward this end, it is still constrained by the absence of health procurement specialists.

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- 120. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) is already establishing its stronghold with sedentary lifestyle, traditionally high-fat based dietary habit and consumption of alcohol and tobacco. Consequently, diabetes, hypertension, cancers and traffic injuries are increasingly on the rise.
- Climate change poses a major, and largely unpredictable, challenge. Besides the risk to properties and human lives from frequent flashfloods, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood and landslides, significant public health vulnerabilities exist in the form of wider spread of vector borne tropical diseases, waterborne illnesses and malnutrition. Besides, the scarcity and drying up of water sources present significant challenges in our move towards universal coverage of safe drinking water.
- By 2020, it is projected that more than 50 percent of the population in Bhutan will be living in urban areas. Urbanisation leads to overcrowding, sanitation issues and deterioration of air and water quality thereby adversely impacting health. Diseases transmitted through respiratory and fecal-oral routes such as tuberculosis, rheumatic heart diseases and helminthic infections will be more frequent. Further, the stress of living with limited privacy contributes to the rates of intentional injuries, both suicide and homicide, and to mental illness in general. Air pollution would assume major role in morbidity and mortality.

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- 123. Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases like H1N1, H5N1 pose severe challenges to the health sector both in terms of response capacity and financial resource.
- 124. Decentralization health services management is plagued with a host of issues related to inefficiencies in management, weak coordination and meagre capacity in engineering, operations and maintenance of infrastructure and high-end/sophisticated medical equipments.