Report on Eswatini mentorship program achievements

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Duration: 3 months ending

Introduction

In December 2022 the Kingdom of Eswatini launched the CVRS Improvement Programme. This saw the UNECA team undertake a mission to Eswatini where to team met with the Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs Her Royal Highness Princess Lindiwe, the Principal Secretary in the Ministry Nxumalo Nhlanhla M, the then out going Registrar General Mrs. Sibeko N and the Deputy Registrar General Mr. Nxumalo Russel. The UNECA Team Mr. Muhuvwa William (team lead) and Ms. Kinuthia Violet also introduced the country Mentor Mr. Masuku Mzwandile. The mission and programme were positively welcomed by the Ministry and over the week the met with crucial stakeholders in CVRS in Eswatini. The purpose and outcome of the mission appear in the mission report attached hereto.

Coordination and collaboration achievements

Eswatini has two standing structures in the Steering Committee composed of Agency and Department Leads and a Technical Working Group composed of technical staff. These structures have clear terms of reference and have scheduled meetings. One of the important contributions from the UNECA Team mission was that through the UNECA team support the Eswatini CVRS team identified further crucial stakeholders who were previously left out. This came at an opportune time when the country is working is going through a CVRS strategy. The Eswatini team has developed work plan for the year and are working on their strategic plan. The team has support from UNICEF, WHO and IPCAP.

Key Implementation

- The team has standing coordination structures in two levels as appears above. They have ToRs and have standing meeting. A structure at the level of Principal Secretaries is proposed and the team is lobbying key Principal Secretaries for this purpose.
- As part of the ICD 11 implementation the CRVS TGW team initiated the updating and modification of the BMD 11 (a document used to record a death at a facility) to an Medical Certificate Cause of Death (MCCoD) as per the ICD 11 standards. Pilot began in October where a 2 days onsite training was conducted by these champion doctors with the support from the regional and national offices. Pilot is still ongoing, and it will end in March 2022 with anticipation of a national rollout of the system after May 2022.
- The team has a work plan which was develop with support from the UNECA team
- The team has under gone and held a successful the BPI training supported by the UNECA technical team.
- The team is working on a CRVS Strategy with support from WHO. Having undergone the BPI training the team is using the knowledge and tools gained at the BPI training in the developing the strategy.
- Pursuant the BPI training the team reviewed the strategy and held a costing working session.
Other achievements

- The retired RG and country mentor attended the expert Group meeting of African Registrar Generals in Kigali/Rwanda - 23rd-26th November 2021 where the mentorship experience from other countries were shared.
- The first UNECA mission into the country enabled the country to identify stakeholders who have not been participating in the past and have since been included.
- The BPI training presented an opportunity for the CVRS Department to realize the need to review and sensitize their staff on the CVRS SOPs.
- The Country Mentor has standing weekly update meeting with the DRG.

Challenges

- A gap still exist with regards the Ministry of Health in relation to recording events that occur in health facilities.
- The country is currently working on new legislation especially in the advent of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act 2012 which introduced a new dispensation with implications in CVRS. This process is not consultative and accommodating all stakeholders as should be the case and is taking long having started in 2014 after the CVRS Assessment.
- The CVRS department is currently finding its footing after the retirement of the former Registrar General who retired in the same month of the introduction of the BPI CVRS Improvement initiative.
- There is a shortage of working tools with CVRS staff currently using personal laptops for office work. This also one the challenges faced in relation to the mopping exercise.

Activities ongoing and activities for the coming year

- The enabling legislation is currently under review and a bill have been developed for consultation.
- The CVRS Strategy is currently being developed.
- The MoHA which houses is currently engaged with a mopping exercise intended to bring over the counter CVRS services to grassroots level. This has been positively received by the communities and Members of Parliament.
- The Mentor is attending the online Data for Health Gender Equity Unit's