



GOVERNMENT OF KIRIBATI

GoK (14) DPF (Presentation 01)

DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS FORUM

Tarawa, Kiribati
13-14 March 2014

AGENDA ITEM 4: Infrastructure (Health)

CONCEPT NOTE ON MHMS HOSPITAL UPGRADING

Purpose

To provide an overview of the Social Infrastructure for MHMS, in highlighting the upgrading of the four hospitals for the population of Kiribati, and aiming for new buildings, facilities, equipment and staff training on medical equipment.

Background

The four hospitals in Kiribati, two are located in South Tarawa namely Tungaru Central Hospital (TCH) and Betio Hospital (BH), one in Tab North (TNH) serving the Southern Gilbert Islands and one in Kiritimati Island (KH) serving the Line and Phoenix Island Groups. These four hospitals receive and accommodate patients at general wards but the increase in number of admitted patients usually overcrowd the present wards especially at TCH and BH where the population is very dense. At present TCH has different wards for specific kind of diseases such as TB, Obstetric, Leprosy and Children diseases and where most referral cases from the three hospitals and Health Clinics and Centres at outer islands are also received but these wards are not enough to meet the demands. In connection with this the expansion of the emergency and outpatient room to accommodate increasing number of patients, the establishment of the pharmacy storage for outer islands for efficient logistic, the maintenance of staff quarters for TNH and the new hospital for Kiritimati are also considered important in the MHMS future plans.

The four hospitals also provide preventive and curative services using all types of support and equipment available to fight CDs and Non CDs but lack of appropriate medical equipment for diagnosis and treatment is one of the critical concerns of MHMS that needs to be resolved quickly. Old equipment need to be replaced by new ones that are more effective and efficient.

Social Impact

The people always view treatment overseas is best as our hospitals in Kiribati are not well equipped with satisfactory facilities and medical equipment. Seeing patients in the general or other wards that are not healthy looking and without proper beds etc., is not encouraging at all. Excellent facilities and equipment will help patients delighted and receive best treatment. Their

expectation for treatment in Kiribati rather than referral offshore arrangement will save a lot of expenses for other necessary and emergency cases.

Challenges/Issues

The increasing number of population and endemic diseases outbreaks on Communicable Diseases (CDs) and the NCD cases on the other hand usually overcrowd the four hospitals especially TCH and BH where the population is very dense. This is a signal of inadequate facilities at hospitals. At present extension of roofs to accommodate patients at TCH and BH is inadequate. Thus the need to build more wards/quarters in particular for the TB, obstetric, children and another for general patients will warrant healthy environment and conveniences to the increasing number of incoming admitted patients.

The four hospitals and their wards usually have medical equipment ready for urgent cases and are adequate to the number of people received every day but due to the increase of population and the overcrowding issues which resulted in the increase of patients admission received with complex diseases, the old medical equipment need to be replaced by new technology medical equipment that are best for diagnosis and treatment of the kind of diseases that are commonly received for treatment at the hospital.

Recommendations:

In upgrading the four hospitals the following are recommended:

1. The upgrading of TCH which requires an estimate of \$660,000 for new buildings and \$1,278,823 for equipment and training. Such upgrading are: a TB maneaba as a ward for easy access to treat TB patients – a way forward to eliminate TB disease in alignment to Millennium Goals; a Pharmacy Storage for outer island medical stock for efficient logistic/distribution; an Obstetric ward for increasing number of obstetric patients; a Children ward for the increasing number of children patients; and an expansion of the Emergency Outpatient room to accommodate increasing number of general and emergency patients.
2. Betio Hospital upgrading needs the General Ward expansion conducive to hygienic and healthy environment with an estimate cost of \$50,000.
3. Tab North Hospital requires maintenance of quarters for staff with an estimate cost of \$50,000.
4. Finally, Kiritimati Hospital needs upgrading introducing a new set of buildings and facilities similar but smaller to Tab North Hospital that will accommodate incoming general patients and referrals within the Line and Phoenix region only. The estimate cost for the hospital complex is (\$2.7m)

The overall total estimated cost for the four hospitals is \$4.74m which is anticipated to fulfil the priority needs of the MHMS for better welfare and treatment of sick people within the parameters of those hospitals which will certainly pave ways to help reach millennium targets and in particular to cut cost on overseas referral cases when proper staffing, amenities and equipment are available.