

**Impact of Social Accountability Interventions on Healthcare Delivery and Outcomes in
Uttar Pradesh, India (P150365)**

Impact Evaluation
Virtual Concept Review: Decision Note
October 27, 2014

1. A virtual review of the Concept Note for an impact evaluation "Impact of Social Accountability Interventions on Healthcare Delivery and Outcomes in Uttar Pradesh, India" was conducted during October 13-18, 2014. The concept note was originally reviewed by the panel of experts constituted by Strategic Impact Evaluation Fund (SIEF) and the process was managed by Joost de Laat (Program Manager, SIEF). The peer reviewers were kept confidential to allow for candid comments. The Concept note package was circulated amongst India county team, HNP GP India, India WBG Family, Martin Rama (Chief Economist, SAR) and Dhushyant Raju (Senior Economist, SARCE).
2. The package consisted of the draft concept note, final technical proposal submitted and cleared by SIEF incorporating peer reviewer comments, the comments from the peer reviewers, and the detailed team response to the peer reviewer comments by the team.
3. The objective of the activity is to evaluate the impact of social accountability interventions in improving primary healthcare delivery and health outcomes in Uttar Pradesh, the most populous low income state in India. Results from this impact evaluation will influence better design of social accountability initiatives for large scale roll out under the ongoing World Bank UP health systems strengthening project and other national programs (National Health Mission). The intervention is focused on primary care services in the rural areas, which benefits the poor and women.
4. The peer reviewers have obtained clarification on the following key areas:
 - i. administrative arrangement for gram panchayat as implementation units;
 - ii. clarification of the project intervention in terms of separating an "information only component" and an "information plus community action" component;
 - iii. evaluation design, data collection and outcome indicators, sampling and power analysis;
 - iv. composition of the research team;
 - v. dissemination plan and engagement strategy;
 - vi. budget and funding justification.
5. The team has reviewed all the comments provided by the reviewers and provided detailed responses. The suggested changes in the intervention design and research methodology has been incorporated in the final concept note, which has been cleared by SIEF.

6. On the first issue related to applicability of findings due to heterogeneity of gram panchayats, the team clarified that, the proposed evaluation will carefully document the mechanisms through which social accountability impacts health service delivery, which will help us learn about the generalizability of the effects. Moreover, the findings from these two districts will help state in scaling up evaluation across other districts.

7. On the second issue related to clarification sought on the components, The team emphasized that the pilot project for social accountability intervention will test and implement all the strategies before scale up. It was also clarified that the component I will focus on information dissemination and awareness through communication, while the component II is mainly to facilitation process that encourages community members to participate in the discussion to identify solutions to health challenges.

8. On the third issue, there was concern about community participation through various participatory process, need for baseline, use of outcome indicators that has multiple determinants for health, and sampling method for selection of districts and households that will represent UP. The team clarified on the use of existing government guidelines for implementation of village health, nutrition, and sanitation committees (VSHNC) for the intervention. Baseline data will be collected at the beginning of the impact evaluation, and this data will be used to do the random assignment. The team also clarified involvement of relevant stakeholders whose performance will be assessed and improved through the intervention.

9. On the fourth issue related to dissemination, the team clarified on specific steps that will be followed for reaching out to national and international experts and ensures wider dissemination of learning among admissions and development professionals.

10. On the fifth issue of funding justification, the team has revised the budget and provided further breakup to build clarity in the proposal. The revised budget and costing was justified with specific activities and counterpart funding. The revised cost was approved by SIEF team.

11. The Chair summarized the following decisions of the meeting:

- a. The chair provided a go ahead for the impact evaluation and emphasized the need for linkages with the ongoing project “Uttar Pradesh Health System Strengthening Project”.
- b. Although additional support should not be ruled out if requested by the client, the team should concentrate on the current set of activities to ensure their completion by activities planned under intervention before trust fund closing date.
- c. The team should ensure ongoing documentation of IE activities and outputs.