

Asha Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2011

Attendees: Murali, Itisha, Gaurav, ArvindV, Sindhu, Ranga, Savitha, Sharanya, Bhaskar, Rahul

1. GSK Update 2 (Murali)

- No questions from first update presentation
- Murali went through the annual report
- Three schools in rural/tribal areas, 1 in urban setting to show their method works
- Rural schools - GSK better than existing government schools
- Urban schools - better alternatives available, GSK competing against such schools
- Is this model replicable in other parts of India?
 - Not really sure, especially in the urban areas
 - To see if this model can be applied to other Asha projects
 - Learn from the model to see if we can use it for other projects
- Audit reports for 2010-11
 - Asha support close to 20 lacs (Austin and SV), Vibha support of 6 lacs
- Materials ready to use till 8th
- Rajasthan, history of non-profits taking care of education, which we don't see elsewhere
- Government provides resources, operations run by boards
- Do most of the children in the villages go to a school? Jaganpura, GSK is the only school. Bodal, there is a government school, but children prefer GSK. 60 kids at the government school before GSK. Whether they have achieved 100% in the villages?
- Teachers encouraged to stay back at the village, big part of recruitment, and generate social awareness
- Everybody in the villages knows GSK, teachers, Maneesh Pandey
- Government school in Bodal was not operational, not done anything with the government schools
- Outreach part of GSK is to eventually improve the government schools
- Can GSK take care of the government schools in Bodal?
- Established GSK as the resource school
- Training is organization-wide
- Where GSK is not present, get their outreach program working; In Bodal, community is with GSK
- Effect of RTE
- Children after 8th standard go to government schools, they like to come to GSK, GSK provides guidance
- Where do you see this 10 years from now?
 - 4 schools run by GSK
 - Each resource school services a cluster of government schools in the area
 - In 4 years, expectation is 100 government schools would have joined this model
 - Hemant Kothari Foundation has adopted 12 government schools
 - Outreach workers to provide material, bring out their own model
 - What is an alternative system?
 - Spending on educating the villages, for the villages to start changing the government schools, resources, materials to the schools
- Asha for Education, Austin supports GSK for the period from Jul-Dec 2011, for 2131.5 USD (1,06,575 INR).

Yes: 8

No: 0

- Budget for next 6 months to be taken up in 2012

2. Humana Update 2 (Itisha)

- Itisha went through the answers to questions raised from update 1 and answers to general questions regarding the project following project update guidelines
 - A few other chapters were supporting Humana in the past, and they do not fund now
 - Q: Why?
 - No corpus fund initiative for this school; and not Humana wide
 - India been declared a "middle income country", so most European funding agencies shifting focus to Africa
 - How we can help?
 - Have a school in US interact with children of the school
 - Lot of corporations started CSR initiatives, help them network to a company
 - Asha-Austin supported 75% of funds needed for the school for 2011. Annual budget of approx. 4k.
 - What do the kids do in the day time?
 - Household duties, work
 - It is a thickly populated slum area in an industrial place, close to Delhi
 - Hard to reach by vehicles
 - No reserves as such, rotation of funds received to take care of deficits
 - Asha for Education, Austin approves the amount of 2649 USD towards first installment for Humana, for the first half of the academic year, 2011-12.
- Yes: 5**
- No: 1** (Bottom line issue - migrant laborers, concern if this education is sufficient for the program, bridge course is solving the problem adequately; is this the best we can do?)
- Migrant laborers - little we can do about it, uprooting themselves from the villages to urban centers, need rehabilitation, for these families, sending such children to schools is low priority, talk to these people, education is important, not going to help them in the future. Access to government schools, admissions, etc. intervention to put the children in government schools
- Abstain: 4**
- Is the vision to put these children into government schools?
 - Is Asha-Austin's role to fill in this need?
 - What kind of issues migratory workers face, for general discussion.
 - RTE bill makes it mandatory for children to attend schools, Humana's approach might not be the best approach
 - Bridge courses formal component of SSA
 - If there is provision in RTE for bridge courses?

3. ARC Proposal (Rahul)

Chapter Life Cycle Protocol

- Once in 6 months, chapter has to communicate to Secretary team's questionnaire, biannual sync-up
- New chapter setup
 - 10k as seed money
- Periodic sync-up
- Chapter Life-Cycle Protocol
- Currently no formal process to close the chapter right now
- Financials, to be sent by chapter treasurer

- Questionnaires, to be sent by chapter coordinator
- Dormant, one year to revive itself, Asha-wide teams to help and reduce the burden on the chapter
Even after a year, chapter will be closed
If chapter agrees to close down, then no need to go through the one year dormant probation period

Votes:

- A1 (Failure to submit chapter financials by treasury-set deadlines) **Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 3**
- Closer to beginning of the year, Jan 31
- Date vague, specific date
- A2 (Failure to turn in the periodic sync data in a timely manner, twice a row) **Yes: 9 No: 0 Abstain: 1**
- B1 Number of active volunteers being less than six **Yes: 5 No: 4 Abstain: 1**
- Abstain: 1**
- B2 Less than three meetings in the past six months **Yes: 9 No: 0 Abstain: 1**
- B3 Low fundraising **Yes: 0 No: 7 Abstain: 3**
- B4 Zero project funded in the last twelve months **Yes: 0 No: 6 Abstain: 4**
- B5 Zero updates to the project database in the last six months **Yes: 5 No: 3 Abstain: 2**
- B6 Zero or very low participation in Asha-wide activities **Yes: 0 No: 7 Abstain: 3**
- Seed money of 10k for new chapters too high - Austin, Stamford, SFO **Yes: 0 No: 8 Abstain: 2**
- Enforced central banking only clause - **Yes: 9 No: 0 Abstain: 1**
- Only exception Seattle, which is willing to move Jan 2012

Revival clauses and time frame

Supplementary Funds Proposal

- General funds (funds received without chapter affiliation)
- Use additional funds from General Funds as assist funds
- 1.7 million
- 500k reserved for GF split (70% chapters, 20% large scale initiatives, 10% relief)
- 250k as assist funds
- If assist funds used, no new initiatives
- Total request > 250k?
Divide equally
Divide proportionally across projects
Divide proportionally across chapters

Votes:

- Should assist funds be used to support chapter in need of funds? **Yes: 5 No: 3 Abstain: 2**
- Should the original amount be changed from 350k to 250k **Yes: 0 No: 7 Abstain: 3**
- Fellowships Safety Net to be used for Assist funds **Yes: 7 No: 0 Abstain: 3**
- Abstain: 3**
- Should have a good fundraising, return the funds? **Yes: 3 No: 4 Abstain: 3**
- **Penalty for defaulting**
- E1 GF penalty only 2
- E2 Asha-wide penalty 0
- E1 and E2 3
- No penalty 0

4. Sandeep Pandey Visit

- 100\$ expenses for trip to Austin
- Donor from chapter to sponsor his visit
- Asha Austin is acceptable to the above?
- **Votes: Yes: 10, No: 0**

4. PJ update (Sharanya)

- April 2011-March 2012
- Supported by SAC
- \$42,408 sent by Asha-Austin till date
- Budget for 2011-12: 6495\$ (@45INR)
- Increased by 50k INR (Breakup not known)
- New child, Navya, to be admitted to the nursery school, currently in the rehab (details awaited)
- Why didn't they let us know that there will be an increase?
- Assessment of the communication channel with Mami? Friendly, but not detailed. General updates.
- Update on the construction and issue of reduced playing space?
- Do they make annual reports?
- Template for updates? Have this question: Is there any issue that we as a funding agency need to know?