



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**ANNUAL REVIEW AND 4th JOINT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR
THE EAC INTEGRATED HEALTH PROGRAMME (EIHP)**

**VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
7TH - 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2020**

BACKGROUND PAPER

**EAC SECRETARIAT,
P.O. BOX 1096,
ARUSHA, TANZANIA.
TEL:+255 27 2504253/8
E-MAIL:EAC@EACHQ.ORG**

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1. Background

The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat is implementing the EAC SIDA Integrated Health Programme (ESIHP) 2016 – 2020, a component of the broader EAC Integrated Health Programme whose implementation period runs from 1st October 2016 to December 2020. The goal of the programme is to contribute towards the elimination of preventable maternal, new-born and child deaths, AIDS, and improvement of wellbeing among women, children, adolescents and families in the East African Community. The purpose is to strengthen regional cooperation in regional Sexual Reproductive Health / Reproductive Maternal New Born Child and Adolescent Health (SRHR/RMNCAH) and HIV/AIDS as well as adoption of innovative health policies and approaches.

The priority EIHP actions are drawn from the EAC HIV/AIDS and STI's Strategic Plan (2015/2020)/EAC HIV & AIDS Programme and the EAC Integrated RMNCAH Strategic Plan (2016-2021) / EAC Open Health Initiative. The programme seeks to sustain actions and results attained under the two programmes in an integrated manner but also address various challenges bedeviling the health sector including:

- i. The triple burden of diseases including common infections, under nutrition, and maternal mortality, increasing prevalence of non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), pandemics and epidemics.
- ii. Less than satisfactory progress during the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) era and need to accelerate momentum in consolidating the gains achieved.
- iii. Weak health systems; and
- iv. Limited investment with a narrow fiscal space for investing in health in the region, within a changing financing landscape, among others.

Through a comprehensive review / evaluation of the EAC Integrated Health Programme (EIHP) the EAC Secretariat has assessed the progress of the programme against stated outputs / targets as of October 2016, and has been able to highlight issues and challenges affecting effective and efficient implementation of outputs and their contribution to project outcomes and impact. The review has documented the achievements and identified gaps that still need to be addressed in order to fully achieve the programme objectives. A draft report of the assessment is available.

The programme is convening its first Annual Review Meeting (ARM), that is expected to provide a platform to discuss the programmes' performance and related issues as well as the future of the regional Sexual Reproductive Health / Maternal New Born Child and Adolescent Health (SRHR/RMNCAH) programming in the region.

Further, the programme had scheduled its 4th Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meeting in March 2020 but it was interrupted by the current COVID -19 pandemic.

2. Convening of the Meetings

The ARM and the 4th Joint Steering Committee (JSC) meetings for the EAC Integrated Health Programme (EIHP) will be held from 7th and 8th September, 2020, respectively Via Video conference.

3. Meeting objectives

The Annual Review Meeting (ARM) is organized with the aim of reviewing progress against the EIHP annual work plan and set targets. Since this will be the first ARM, the programme will use the opportunity to share the programme review report, use the platform to get a better understanding on the programmes' performance, discuss arising issues and build consensus on the future direction Sexual Reproductive Health/Maternal New Born Child and Adolescent Health, HIV and AIDS programming in the EAC region.

The overall objective of the 4th JSC meeting is to assess progress in implementation of the recommendations for the previous meeting and provide policy direction on programme implementation. Specifically, the meeting will provide an opportunity to:

- i. Review the status of implementation of the EAC Integrated Health Programme (EIHP) and receive updates on implementation of the recommendations of the previous JSC meetings;
- ii. Consider the summary report for the Review/Evaluation of the EIHP specifically highlighting potential areas for future SRHR/RMNCAH, HIV and AIDS regional programming;
- iii. Build consensus on next steps for the EIHP

4. Participants

4.1 ARM

The ARM will be attended by members of the JSC, EAC Secretariat management and staff East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC), representative of the EAC Partner States and implementing partners supporting the health sector, as indicated below:

- i. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- ii. USAID East Kenya and East Africa
- iii. UN agencies including UNAIDS East Southern Africa Regional Support Team; UNDP, UNFPA;
- iv. WACI health
- v. KANCO
- vi. APHRC

- vii. EANNASO
- viii. East Africa Health Platform (EAHP)

4.2 JSC meeting for the EIHP

The JSC meeting participants will include members of the JSC, EAC Secretariat, and implementing partners supporting the health sector as indicated below:

- i. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)
- ii. USAID East Kenya and East Africa
- iii. EANNASO;
- iv. East Africa Health Platform (EAHP);
- v. UN agencies including UNAIDS East Southern Africa Regional Support Team; UNDP, UNFPA; and
- vi. The East African Community (EAC) represented by Deputy Secretary General (Productive and Social Sectors), Director Social Sectors, Director Finance and staff from the programme and health department.

5. Meeting Agenda

The meeting will consider the following proposed agenda:

- i. Official opening.
- ii. Updates on progress made by the EIHP since the last JSC meeting.
- iii. Presentation of key findings of the EIHP Review/Evaluation report.
- iv. Consideration of the Review/Evaluation for the EIHP specifically highlighting potential areas for the future SRHR/RMNCAH, HIV and AIDS regional programme;
- v. Roadmap for EIHP closure and consensus on next steps for the programme

A detailed program of the meeting will be provided ahead of the meeting.

6. Expected Outputs

- i. Better understanding among the key stakeholders on the status of implementation of the EIHP i.e. achievements, challenges, gaps and key recommendations
- ii. Recommendations for improvement in future design of regional programme;
- iii. Potential areas for future SRHR/RMNCAH, HIV and AIDS regional programme identified;
- iv. Roadmap for EIHP programme closure and consensus built on the next steps for finalization of the second phase proposal EIHP; and
- v. Meeting report

7. Key supporting documents

1. Technical Narrative Report for the EAC Integrated Health Programme for the period 1st October 2016 to 31st December 2019.
2. Draft Review/Evaluation Report of EAC Integrated Health Programme 2016 - 2020.
3. Regional reports of the Integration Study 2019;
4. Minutes of previous meetings
5. EAC Minimum Standards for Reproductive Maternal Newborn Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) and HIV Integration and Linkages; and
6. Agenda and programme