

Building capacity in PBF scheme workshop

The workshop relating to the building capacity in PBF scheme was held on the 22-23th November 2012 at the headquarter of HDP. Its ultimate objective was to exchange ideas on the building capacity in PBF scheme in health sector. The main topic for discussion was "Drawing up an inventory and statement of state and repair on the building capacity in PBF scheme and strategic suggestions". It has been attended by the partners from Burundi and Rwanda. The Congolese partners were absent with apologies for insecure reasons in their country.

During the first session of workshop discussion about the building capacity in clinical and community-based PBF, the consensus reached is that there are expressed needs (in term of gaps) in communication relating to the sharing information between the operational PBF actors, in training area, lack of communication and strictness or rigour at the community level, information, verification and counter-verification, in sense of responsibility and management autonomy.

For the second session, the concern was to identify the different operational actors in health PBF scheme, their threats and their needs and to give strategic suggestions for improvement. Therefore, the main operational actors who are identified are the regulator, the health services provider or caregiver, the health service beneficiary and the purchase agency.

Among the challenges identified at all execution levels of PBF scheme, there are at the regulator level, for example, the holding of several posts concurrently of regulation and purchase and lack of counter-verification and feedback system; at the district level, there is a lack of PBF budget for district health desk; at the level of health services provider, there are weaknesses in technical support and shortage of staff in quality and quantity; at the health services beneficiary or consumer, there is a low membership rate to the health mutual insurance and insufficient involvement of the community in relation to the services provided. Facing these challenges, just to mention that, there are many proposals of improvement solutions which are detailed in the main report of the workshop.

Otherwise, the discussions continued on the other elements necessary to good functioning of the health PBF scheme particularly the knowledge needed in human resources management such as in quarterly report, performance contract, conflict management, leadership, in the financial management regarding the invoicing/cost recovery, in data management and finally in health services management by the health and tender committees.

For the next steps, it is scheduled to develop the tools in conformity with the expressed needs, to test them and to organize the training of health services providers who will use them. So it is also planned to organize a meeting of self-assessment and it will be need to recruit the expertise of the participants who took part in the elaboration of those training tools.