

UGANDA

The Government of Uganda (GoU) and Health Development Partners (HDPs) had agreed to collaborate in implementing the National Health Policy (1999) and the first Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP I) 2000/01-2004/05 through a Sector Wide Approach (SWAp). A detailed framework for operating this partnership was agreed upon and reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that was signed by the parties in August 2000. The second Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP II) 2005/06 – 2009/10 was also implemented through the SWAp guided by the MoU for HSSP II signed in 2005. The SWAp embraces various mechanisms of financing and the MTEF and annual budget development process, led by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, is participatory with room for integration of planning and budgeting.

Uganda is a signatory to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (2005), which is in line with the Partnership Principles outlined by the Government of Uganda in Volume 3 of the Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) “Building partnerships to implement the PEAP” (2001). The PEAP was the main framework that guided the overall country development since 1997 to date. The Uganda Joint Assistance Strategy (UJAS) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) represented the harmonized assistance strategy for the Development Partners and specifically for the UN, respectively, in support of the implementation of the Government’s PEAP covering 2005/06–2008/09.

Uganda’s population is approximately 30 million people with population growth of 3.2% per annum. The Infant Mortality Rate is 76 deaths per 1,000 live births, and Maternal Mortality Ratio 435 deaths per 100,000 live births. The Total Fertility Rate has remained high at about 7 children per woman. Uganda is experiencing a strong economic growth averaging 6.5% per annum since 1991/92, with the inflation at an annual average of 4.8%. Uganda has had the poverty eradication as the overriding priority for Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP). The new development framework, the National Development Plan 2009/10–2013/14 (NDP) focuses on “growth, employment and prosperity”.

While considerable progress has been made in improvement of health outcomes, MDG 4 and 5 remain a challenge. The Mid Term Review of both HSSP I and II noted that the health sector is still underfunded, effective and efficient use of resources needs considerable improvement and health system constraints limit progress in coverage of quality health services. The Ministry of Health (MOH) is in the process of drafting the second National Health Policy (NHP II) (2009-2018) and the third Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP III). This presents an opportunity to review the systems, structures and procedures for the functioning of the health partnership in order to ensure that the obligations of the partners are being met towards improvement in mobilization, effective and efficient use of resources.

Uganda was represented at the IHP+ Inter-Ministerial Review meeting held 4-5 February 2009 in Geneva and became signatory. Since then, the MOH with assistance from WHO,

World Bank and other partners has moved ahead to organize briefings on IHP+ to its Top Management and to the HDPs. The MOH and Partners are ensuring that the principles of the IHP+ are reflected into the new health policy and the strategic plan. It has been agreed that an external review of the current SWAp mechanisms be undertaken with technical assistance provided by the Harmonization for Health in Africa (HHA). The MOH has also committed to the elaboration of a Road Map that will lead up to the signing of the Country Compact to coincide with the launch of NHP II