

UN Agencies in Zambia Declaration of Commitment to Align with IHP+ Principles

1 Introduction

The United Nations (UN) Agencies operating in the Zambian health sector, include the WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNICEF. Each of these agencies provide the sector with specialised support, based on their respective areas of specialisations, under the overall coordination of the WHO. In Zambia, these agencies are actively engaged with the Ministry of Health (MOH), providing significant support at both the policy and implementation levels.

The UN Agencies in Zambia work in partnership with the Zambian Government/MOH and other Cooperating Partners (CPs) to provide for coordinated and synergistic approach, in line with Paris declarations on aid effectiveness and other related initiatives. In this respect, the agencies are active members of the Zambian health Sector-Wide Approach (SWAp), which provides a framework for effective coordination of international support, and are signatories to the 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government and the CPs.

2 Objective

The mission of the World Health Organisation (WHO) is “the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health” (Article 1 of WHO Constitution). The individual objectives of the UN agencies are guided by this mission, and aim at making effective contributions to the governance and performance of the health sector.

3 Scope and Nature of Support

The nature of support provided to the health sector includes influencing policy, as well as active participation and support to the implementation of the various health initiatives and programmes, including provision of specialists, staff training and capacity building. The mode of support includes supporting the SWAp, providing technical and material support, and financing of some activities/programmes. The scope of support provided is outlined in the respective agencies country strategies and support frameworks, which clearly outline the objectives, areas of priority and outlines the planned strategies and activities for a given period.

4 Declaration of Commitment to the IHP

The UN Agencies are committed to providing global level and country level support towards the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The agencies are also committed to the promotion of harmonisation and better coordination of aid, in line with the principles of the Paris declarations on aid effectiveness and related initiatives, and are signatories to the Global IHP Compact, which aims at scaling up support and greater harmonisation and coordination of aid to achieve the health related MDGs.

In the spirit of the IHP+ and having considered the commitments expressed by the Government, in the 2009 Addendum to the MOU, the UN Agencies operating in the Zambian health sector hereby make a commitment to provide support to Zambia on the basis of the IHP principles, particularly the following:

- The UN agencies endorse and commit to comply with the IHP Compact document. In this respect, within the framework of Delivering as One UN initiative, the UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA and UNAIDS commit to adhere to the principles of one country sector strategy/plan, one budget, and one Monitoring and Evaluation system.
- In the context of Delivering as One UN in Zambia, UN agencies will undertake joint interventions and activities in identified areas, in order to ensure more coherent, effective and efficient support to national partners.

In addition to, and in line with the specific roles and mandates of each partner UN agency, the following commitments are emphasised (alphabetically):

UNAIDS

UNAIDS, as the Joint Programme of the United Nations on HIV/AIDS, supports the national HIV/AIDS response in Zambia by mobilizing leadership and advocacy for effective action on the epidemic; providing strategic information and policies to guide efforts in the AIDS response; tracking, monitoring and evaluation of the epidemic; engaging civil society and developing partnerships; and mobilizing financial, human and technical resources to support an effective national response.

In line with the IHP principles, UNAIDS is committed to increase the level of support and the degree of alignment of its entire programme of support, to the IHP principles and the joint CPs commitments expressed in Zambia's 2009 Addendum to the MOU. This will be done within the overall framework of the Delivering as One UN Initiative in Zambia, while emphasizing that HIV/AIDS coordination and alignment is managed through a specific multi-sectoral framework headed by the National AIDS Council (NAC), based on the National HIV/AIDS, TB and STIs Strategic Framework.

UNFPA

UNFPA commits to support MOH by channeling funds through the PROSAUDE II and through project support modalities. UNFPA support to MOH is and shall remain fully aligned with the principles set out in the PROSAUDE II Memorandum of Understanding and the International Health Partnership Compact.

UNFPA is committed to maintain its support to the MOH directly at central level, for implementation of various activities at central and provincial levels, aimed at moving forward a comprehensive Sexual and Reproductive Health Programme.

This support will be within the context of the on-going health sector reforms and Sector-wide Approaches (SWAPs), and include technical assistance and financial support to the health authorities in developing policies, strategies, guidelines, norms and procedures in sexual and reproductive health, in order to ensure reduction of maternal and neo-natal mortality, as well as to expand the national basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric care programme. Specifically, UNFPA will maintain its current support to the MOH in the following areas:

- a) Development and implementation of the Strategic Plans, aimed at achieving MDGs 4 and 5;
- b) Development of a 5 Year Strategic Plan on Reproductive Health Commodities, that includes the Comprehensive Condom Programming Strategy; and
- c) As the convening agency, to support the administrative, management and technical needs of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

UNFPA will also maintain the liaison with MOH, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Youth and Sports, for the provision of youth friendly services at health facilities, schools and communities, aimed at providing skills and abilities in sexual and reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS prevention among the adolescents and young people.

UNICEF

UNICEF is committed to continue providing both, sector budget support through PROSAUDE II and project support through other funding modalities, to support the implementation of the National Health Strategic Plans.

UNICEF's PROSAUDE II funding is and shall remain fully aligned with the principles of the one plan, one budget, and one monitoring and evaluation system. UNICEF's commitment under the International Health Partnership Compact is to increase the degree of alignment of the entire programme of support of UNICEF, within the overall framework of the Delivering as One UN Initiative in Zambia. In particular, UNICEF is committed to maintaining and enhancing its adherence to:

- One single country sector strategy/plan and one single country validation process;
- One single results framework and monitoring process;
- One budget and scaled up financing; and
- One single fiduciary framework and alignment.

At the global level, UNICEF, in conjunction with other UN funds, programmes and agencies, remains committed to exploring different modalities that would lead to an increase in the overall volume of development assistance in order to help achieve the MDGs for children - this includes increased leveraging of resources from a range of partners.

UNICEF will work to strengthen its collaboration with other development partners, to ensure that resources available for Zambia fill the financing gap identified by the Government in its costed national plan, with particular attention to the most vulnerable populations.

WHO

WHO, as a specialized technical agency on health, provides assistance to the Government of Zambia and development partners. WHO contributes by providing technical assistance and catalytic/seed money, support to innovative approaches and building capacity according to the core functions of the organisation, as approved by governing bodies and member states.

The key features through which WHO intends to make the greatest possible contribution to health in the world are outlined in the corporate strategy and the policy framework for technical cooperation with its member countries. WHO will continue to further strengthen its position in Zambia and remained one of the country's key partners in health, providing its technical, intellectual and policy leadership in health matters, as well as its management capacity to help address Zambia's health needs, through a clearly defined Country Cooperating Strategy (CCS).

WHO, serving as the Secretariat of the IHP, will work with the MOH and its development partners, to ensure the implementation of the government's costed National Health Strategic Plan, to strengthen health systems in order to improve health outcomes towards the achievement of MDGs.

WHO commits to align its support to the Zambian health sector, along the principles of the IHP, MOU between the Government/MOH and the CPs, and the 2009 Addendum to the MOU.

5 Framework for Alignment to the IHP Commitments

The UN Agencies do recognize the need to implement all the commitments made by the parties to the 2009 Addendum to the MOU and this letter of commitment of intent. In this respect, the UN Agencies do hereby commit themselves to the Framework for monitoring accountability, which outlines the time frames of our commitments to align to the IHP Principles. See Appendix 1.

6 Commitment to Mutual Partner Compliance Monitoring

The UN Agencies confirm their commitment that they would participate and encourage mutual monitoring of each partners' performance against the commitments made in the MOU and the 2009 Addendum to the MOU. This to be done through the established SWAp governance and coordination framework.

7 Conditions Precedent

[Partners may provide any conditionalities that they consider necessary]

**UN Agencies in Zambia
Framework for Accountability to the IHP**

S/N	IHP Commitment/ Benchmark	Baseline / Current Status	Proposed Date for Compliance by Agency			
			UNAIDS	UNFPA	UNICEF	WHO
1.	Commitment to use ONE single country health strategy and validation process					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the strategy development and approval process. 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use one single joint validation process for the NHSP 2006-10. No additional/separate validation processes. 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the NHSP 2006-10 costing and gap analysis, as the single basis for determining the strategy and priorities for future support to the sector. No requests for additional/separate proposals, plans and justifications. 					
2.	Commitment to use ONE single results framework					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the development, review and approval of the Health Sector Performance Monitoring Framework (HSPMF). 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use one single results framework, approved by the Sector Advisory Group (SAG). 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in joint performance reviews, within the SAG M&E framework - PAF, Joint Annual Reviews (JARs), MTR and ETR. 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Still conducting additional/separate performance reviews and indicators 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use one set of disbursement triggers approved by the SAG. No requests for additional/separate indicators, analysis and reviews. 					

S/N	IHP Commitment/ Benchmark	Baseline / Current Status	Proposed Date for Compliance by Agency			
			UNAIDS	UNFPA	UNICEF	WHO
3.	Commitment to ONE single budget					
	• Use the sector budget as the basis for financing					
	• Budgeting and financial reporting aligned to the Govt/sector financial year and planning calendar					
	• Preferred mode of support					
	• Purpose of funding/programmes or activities supported					
	• Providing confirmation of annual financial commitments according GRZ/MOH planning calendar					
	• Disbursements based on jointly agreed triggers					
	• Financial reporting aligned to Gvt/MOH systems and calendar, as agreed by SAG. No additional reports.					
4.	Commitment to ONE single fiduciary framework					
	• Use one fiduciary framework					
	• Use of other fiduciary frameworks discontinued					
5.	Commitment to Scale up financial support					
	• Pledge to increase financial support from					
	• Preferred mode of support					
6.	Commitment to provide increased, longer term and predictable financing					
	• Long-term financing commitments (minimum of 3 years projected support), based on the NHSP and gap analysis					

S/N	IHP Commitment/ Benchmark	Baseline / Current Status	Proposed Date for Compliance by Agency			
			UNAIDS	UNFPA	UNICEF	WHO
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicated the preferred mode of support 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projections of proposed long-term (minimum 3 years) submitted to MOH 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmations of annual disbursement levels and schedules provided to MOH during the planning cycle 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % Actual funds disbursed against the total pledged for the given period 					
7.	commitment to align their support to the existing government procedures and processes					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and budgeting aligned to government systems and calendar 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disbursement plans aligned to Government financial year calendar 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M&E aligned to the joint/government systems and calendar 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress and financial reporting aligned to jointly agreed framework and calendar 					