

Notes from the HDP core team meeting on the Health Financing Strategy - 14th January 2014

Members Present:

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| 1. Dr. Peter Okwero | World Bank |
| 2. Mr. Filippo Curtale | Belgian Technical Cooperation |
| 3. Mr. Cools Wouters | Belgium Embassy |
| 4. Dr. Juliet Bataringaya | World Health Organization |
| 5. Dr. Grace Kabaniha | World Health Organization |

The meeting deliberated on the status of the Health Financing Strategy and proposed measures for consideration by HDPs to expedite the development of the strategy. The meeting noted (a) the development of the strategy has been bogged by delays; (b) comments submitted earlier by P4H had not been incorporated in the recently circulated draft Health Financing Strategy; and (c) conceptual differences on the focus of the strategy i.e., on whether or not the strategy should be the main vehicle for health sector reform.

The team reflected on the process so far adopted for development of the Health Financing Strategy and also commented on the content of the recently circulated draft of the Health Financing Strategy.

The team proposed the following actions for consideration by HDPs:

- a) Regarding the process of the development of the Health Financing strategy. The team proposes the following:
 - a. The Ministry of Health renews its commitment to finalization of the Health Financing strategy by placing the leadership of the process at Top Management level. The PS or DG should be asked to chair the Task Force responsible for the development of the strategy; that way accountability for the process will rest with the Top Management of the Ministry.
 - b. A new Task Force made up of technical officers from government and partners is constituted to draft the Strategy. It is recommended that membership of the Task Force should include the relevant sectors such as Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development,.
 - c. Since the completion timeline of December 2013 that was agreed upon at the 19th Joint Review Mission was not met, the Ministry should provide clear timelines within which the Health Financing Strategy is to be finalized

- b) Regarding the content of the Health Financing Strategy, the HDPs maintain the opinion that the Health Financing Strategy should not incorporate the broader health reforms. The proposals for the broader health reforms should be proposed in the subsequent HSSIP whose development is soon starting. Detailed comments on the current draft of the HFS were provided by the P4H team. It was agreed that HDPs

with comments would forward the comments for Grace to collation and eventual submission to the Ministry. Among others these should include the need for more explicit indications on the proposed modalities for “Ensuring Development Partners make more use of country mechanisms” (page 36).

- c) The Health Development Partners should to the extent possible remain committed to supporting the development of the Health Financing Strategy. In doing so the HDPs will work in collaboration with P4H who have supported the process since 2010.
- d) Since the Hon Minister is yet to reply to the HDP letter on the HFS, it may not be prudent at this time to meet the team from the MoH to discuss the strategy. Rather, it may be necessary for the HDPs (led by the HDP Chair and WR) to arrange a meeting with the Hon Minister to further discuss the matter in a face to face meeting.