

***DPG H Remarks at Joint Annual Health Sector Review Policy Meeting – Dodoma,  
Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019***

*Honorable Minister **Umy Mwalimu**, Ministry of Health, Community Development,  
Gender, Elderly, Children*

*Honorable Minister **Jafo Suleiman**, Presidents Office – Regional Administration and  
Local Government,*

*Honorable Permanent Secretary **Dr. Zainab Chaula**, Ministry of Health, Community  
Development, Gender, Elderly, Children*

*Honorable Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Presidents Office - Regional  
Administration and Local Government, **Dr. Dorothy Gwajima**,*

***Prof. Kambi Mohamed*** Chief Medical Officer,

*Government officials of the United Republic of Tanzania*

*Representatives of CSOs, NGOs and the private sector*

*Heads of Cooperation, Country Representatives, Development Partners,*

*Invited guests,*

**Habari za asubuhi.**

It is a pleasure and great honor for me to give remarks on behalf of Development Partners Group for Health. I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all our partners working in the health and related sectors for their close cooperation as we move towards our common goal of improving the health and wellbeing of Tanzanian population.

This meeting concludes the series of a learning and dialogue process of joint effort to review the progress of the Health Sector and to set priority areas for the coming year.

This year, we meet under the theme **“Strong Stakeholder Collaboration and Alignment is Essential to the Delivery of Quality Health Services for Healthier Population and Tanzania’s National Development”**. This theme is directly related to Tanzania’s strong commitment to making **Universal Health Coverage** a reality. The road to **Universal Health Coverage** requires a strong stakeholder collaboration under High Level Government Leadership, with a focus on equitable access to good quality primary promotive, preventative and curative health services that ensure financial protection.

As a critical part of this effort to have strong and aligned stakeholders, we appreciate government’s effort to involve multiple Government stakeholders in the **Joint Annual Health Sector Review**, from the sub-national level – Regional and District Medical Officers and other government sectoral ministries including Energy; Water; Education; Lands, Housing and Human Settlement; Public Service Management – just to mention a few . All these are key stakeholders - as we strive to address determinants of health outcomes, many of which are beyond the mandate of the Ministry of Health. We commend the government for this

collaboration, and we look forward to a continued multi-sectoral collaboration up to the sub-national level through the agreed decentralized Sector Wide Approach (SWAp).

**Honorable Ministers**, we acknowledge the ongoing key developments in the sector. We congratulate the Government for the recently conducted Mid-Term Reviews (MTR) of the **4<sup>th</sup> Health Sector Strategic Plan IV (HSSP IV), 2015-2020 Health Basket Fund and One Plan II**. which provide us a true picture of the current performance of the Health Sector, it also highlights the challenges and makes key recommendations to guide the next HSSP.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate the teams who undertook this work for their professionalism, hard work and dedication towards producing these quality reports.

We were pleased to note progress across many key indicators including the quality of care due **to star rating**; access to health care through construction of new health facilities and renovation of others, the posting of staff to disadvantaged regions; increased community engagement in the management of Health facilities; and improved health financing at the primary health care through **the direct health facility financing**. All the above are steps towards the end goal of providing Universal Health Coverage!

Challenges were noted; specifically, the management of human resources for health, inadequate domestic financing, high maternal mortality, neonatal mortality, and chronic malnutrition among children.

There is the need to focus much more; on Adolescent Reproductive Health and Nutrition, Gender equality and Equity to ensure we reach the poorest and most vulnerable populations. **All of us should strive to address these critical issues.** We look forward to reviewing the results and recommendations made from the Mid Term Reviews and policy recommendations from the Technical Review Meeting to assist the Government of Tanzania in developing the **5<sup>th</sup> Health Sector Strategic Plan V**. This will also guide our investment decisions to achieve the Tanzania Government's Vision 2025 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

We congratulate the Government for the recently **multi-sectoral Human Resources for Health high level meeting** which took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019 here in Dodoma - which looked at how to address the critical Health Sector Human Resource issues in the country.

We hope that this meeting deliberations will help to obtain increased Budget support that would allow for additional Human Resources recruitment to fill the large and growing human resource gap, especially at the primary Health care facilities where the gap is greatest, and where these additional human resources would also lead to decongestion at District and Referral hospitals

**Honorable Ministers**, we understand that, quality health services improvement should be accompanied by **an accountable leadership**. Development Partners have listened with great interest to PORALG’s assessments of lessons emerging from the **Makole Health Centre experience**. The Makole experience suggests that addressing the accountability of service providers, along with more regular - on the job coaching and supportive supervision, can address poor quality services.

We are keen to collaborate with Government and other stakeholders to explore innovative approaches that will build **Accountable Leadership** for the provision of respectful and good quality services.

As part of **Universal Health Coverage**, we encourage you, Honorable Ministers, to continue championing for **Single National Health Insurance** so that it can be approved. We also encourage you to continue to advocate strongly for a higher Budget Allocation to the Health Sector. The current allocation is insufficient to deliver basic services, and this undermines Tanzania’s development efforts.

**Honorable Ministers**, health policies and systems must actively seek to address the social determinants of health, such as gender, age, socio-economic status, to mention a few. These are issues that require a strong health system with reach right down to the community level, where **knowledge, behaviour and attitudes impact health outcomes**. We (DPs) are very encouraged by the progress made on **the Community Based Health Systems**, specifically the Community Health worker (CHW) policy – which we understand is ready to be approved. This will also help address the triple burden of: (1) communicable diseases, maternal and neonatal

mortality, and chronic malnutrition; (2) the rise of non-communicable diseases, and (3) the emerging health challenges such as pandemics and consequences of climate change in Tanzania. CHWs will also play a key role in changing gender norms at the community level, which will reduce gender-based violence and improve not just the health and well-being of girls and women, but also that of their families and communities.

We take note of the current rate of population growth which will continue to increase demand for health and education services, straining availability and compromising the quality of services. This goes hand in hand with the rapid urbanization which requires an evidence-based restructuring of health systems to address the needs of urban populations to be incorporated into the new health policy and **5<sup>th</sup> HSSP**.

Finally, we would like to stress the growing and emerging threat to the health sector posed by disease outbreaks. The current spread of Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo requires us to strengthen **Tanzania's emergency preparedness** across all sectors and with all stakeholders. Government leadership is therefore critical to ensure various ministries, sectors and partners work together, sharing information, closely coordinating resources and providing up-to-date data to strengthen the health emergency preparedness and response.

On behalf of development partners group for health, we re-affirm our commitment to the health sector and to advance priority policy issues that are most pressing to improve the health care of all Tanzanians.

**Asanteni kwa kunisikiliza.**