

Ambassadors Health troika (DK, GER, NL) meeting with Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Dr. Hussain Mwinyi

Start: Again commending appointment as new Health Minister, look forward to good cooperation and partnership. Achievements MDGs 4 & 6, limited progress MDG5. How to expand and improve health services delivery, and ensure more sustained progress?

1. Priorities and progress in Health sector reform

Comprehensive **Health Systems Strengthening Initiatives** are being implemented, managed and coordinated by MOHSW, supported and funded by DPs. Initiatives are well funded, though the speed of implementation is unnecessarily slow. For example:

1. **Monitoring&Evaluation** Strengthening Initiative (MESI) to ensure functional routine Health and Management Information Systems and surveys, and lead to improved evidence based decision making in the health sector.
2. **Human Resources for Health** Initiative helping to increase and improve the number and quality of Health Workers.
3. **Health Financing:** while substantial progress was made at the technical level, Health financing strategy development needs political leadership and coordination across ministries (MoHSW, MoL, MoF, PMO-RALG)
4. **Commodities:** Family Planning (prioritise and allocate resources), medicines and supplies (overcome bottlenecks between MoHSW, msd, regions/district to ensure availability of drugs)

2. Health Financing

DPs are concerned with the decrease in the MoHSW budget. GoT has made strong global commitments to reach the health-related MDGs (4, 5 and 6). However, the GoT % budget allocation for sector Health has not increased but decreased over the last years. Domestic accountability is questioned, which may have a negative effect on (future) DPs support. We are aware of the need for budgetary consolidation and support GOT in sound macroeconomic policy, but at the same time the cuts to the MoHSW budget and sector Health in general, threaten to stall or reverse progress Tanzania has made in health and jeopardize efforts to achieve the MDGs. *[request update on MTEF preparation]*

Under the leadership of the health ministry – the minister in person – develop a **health financing strategy** that will provide direction to further enhance equity across regions and districts, and improve efficiency in health care provision (*value-for-money of public funds*). As a next step, establish an interministerial steering committee (IMSC) – MoHSW, MoF, MoL, PMO-RALG - as a platform for consultations among government ministries, reach out to non-government stakeholders, specifically the Private Sector. *[request feedback on status of IMSC launch]*

Health Basket Fund: preferred funding modality and useful for the Health Sector. Should be treated like that by MOHSW: defend and promote it, and provide evidence of its positive impact (financing for results, performance based financing, equity & services at district level). Improve the planning and quality of the dialogue and reporting with a constructive approach on both sides, strengthen the team working on district related issues/relations with PMO-RALG.

3. Leadership, Transparency and political dialogue: Crucial: Strengthened leadership (Permanent Secretary and CMO); the suspension of the previous holders of these positions has damaged the image of the MoHSW and trust in its commitment. Reply to Basket partner letter still pending! Political dialogue and strategic decision making - jointly with all SWAp stakeholders - has lost focus and vigour. Senior staff/directors seem overwhelmed, at all levels are acting positions, functional delegation is limited.