

18TH JOINT ANNUAL HEALTH SECTOR POLICY MEETING

JOINT POLICY COMMITMENTS FOR 2018/19

PREAMBLE

Generally there are improvements in several key areas in the health sector in Tanzania. The government in collaboration with partners have ensured reduction in child mortality, decrease in prevalence of a number of communicable diseases and increased life expectancy. To sustain these efforts a continuous focus on quality of care and on improving the health systems are needed to cater for an increasing population. At the same time Tanzania is striving to develop the health system geared towards combating the increasing prevalence of Non Communicable Diseases.

In 2016/17 several areas improved; the budget for health commodities increased substantially together with availability of health Commodities in health facilities. Direct Health Facility Financing was implemented, Star Rating reassessment of health facilities showed improvements in the number of facilities with three stars and specialised services became increasingly available. Furthermore the 2007 Health Policy and the MMAM strategy reviews are ongoing and it is expected that both of these will be finalized very soon and set direction for the future health sector in Tanzania

However there are still challenges and a number of areas that needs further work in order to become a health system fit for a middle-income country. The most important and pressing areas were discussed in the Technical Review meeting and are now turned in to Policy Commitments for the coming year.

The Health Sector Strategic Plan four (HSSP IV) 2015-2020 provides guidance for the implementation of desired health sector performance improvement in Tanzania. A framework to monitor the performance of the health sector in terms of indicators and targets is clearly set in regard to the five strategic objectives outlined in the HSSP IV.

The Government of Tanzania (GoT) will continue to have attention on broad aspects of the health sector priorities as indicated in HSSP IV, but the policy commitments for 2018/19 will focus on acceleration of six priority areas : Maternal Health, Human Resources for Health, Health Infrastructure, Health Care Financing, Continuum of Care and Health Governance. During the Joint Annual Health Sector Technical Review Meeting (JAHSTRM) that was held on 4th and 5th December, 2017, these areas were discussed and considered of high priority due to their potential multiplier effect in addressing the other health systems bottlenecks.

Attention to the previous commitments from 2016/17, 2017/18 and current 2018/19 policy commitments shall be tracked and regularly reported to SWAp Stakeholders in the Health Sector Technical Committee meetings.

On behalf of the GoT, the MOHCDGEC, PORALG and the Sister Sector Ministries in collaboration with all SWAp partners are therefore committed to implement the priority areas under HSSP IV and specifically on the following commitments in 2018/19.

