

# **World Health Organization (WHO)**

## **Support to AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2010 to June 2011)**

Since February 2009, WHO collaborates, through its HQ and Regional Offices, with NEPAD to implement a project on “Harmonizing Medicines Registration in Africa” (AMRH). The project is funded by a consortium of partners including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Clinton Foundation, WHO and the World Bank.

The AMRH aims to support African countries by building effective medicines registration system through regional harmonization and capacity building. Regional harmonization is linked to existing Regional Economic Communities (RECs) such as the East African Community (EAC); Monetary and Economic Union of West Africa (UEMOA); Monetary and Economic Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC).

NEPAD is responsible for advocacy at the political level and regional coordination and WHO is responsible for all technical aspects of the programme, including supporting RECs in the development of their project proposals to be submitted to the consortium.

In November 2009, WHO/AFRO and NEPAD, in collaboration with the Government of Mozambique, organized the Second African Regulators Conference in Maputo, Mozambique. The conference aimed at tracking progress made by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the implementation of the AMRH initiatives in the African Region and gave overview of the current status of its development. The conference also discussed wide range of issues related to challenges of regulating the pharmaceutical market, including registration of medicines and fighting against the manufacture, distribution, sale and use of substandard and counterfeit medicines; promoting and ensuring Good Governance and transparency in the Pharmaceutical sector; and mechanisms to strengthen human resources capacities for medicines regulation.

In 2009, WHO with other UN partners and the African Union (AU) developed the “Campaign for Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality” (CARMMA). The campaign slogan is “Africa cares: No Woman Should Die While Giving Life”. To date, support was provided to more than 24 countries<sup>1</sup> to launch national Campaigns. This campaign is aligned with many policies and strategies that exist, such as the Road Map to Accelerate the Reduction of Maternal Mortality, the Maputo Plan of Action on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Africa and the MDGs. The campaign seeks to reverse high maternal mortality trend and meet the global target of reducing maternal mortality by 75%, in line with the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 5. In most countries CARMMA was officially launched by high-level officials, at the level of President, First Lady, Prime Minister or Minister of Health.

At the request of the AU Commission, WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA prepared and presented "Discussion paper on Reducing infant and child mortality in Africa - Current status and way forward" during the AU Conference on maternal, newborn and child health held in Addis Ababa,

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<sup>1</sup> Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, CAR, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Mauritius, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senagal, Siera leone, Swaziland, Rwanda, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

19-21 April 2010. The document has been adopted by the AU. Key discussion and recommendations of the Conference included:

- a. The Maputo Plan of Action should be extended for the period 2010 to 2015 to coincide with the MDG targets and indicators, and be reviewed for alignment with national frameworks, as well as the MDG targets;
- b. CARMMA should be broadened to include child health and involve all key stakeholders;
- c. Countries should increase the allocation of domestic resources (through national budgets) to meet the Abuja target of 15 % allocation for the health sector, as well as through Public Private partnerships and other innovative financial health financing and ensuring efficient and effective use of health resources;
- d. Countries should strengthen the health system to provide comprehensive and integrated maternal, newborn and child health services including nutrition and HIV/AIDS services.