

## **WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION (WHO)**

### **Support to AU/NEPAD (Period of July 2009 to June 2010)**

#### **Introduction**

In line with NEPAD's primary objectives of eradicating poverty; placing African countries, both individually and collectively, on a path of sustainable growth and development; halting the marginalization of Africa in the globalization process and enhancing its full and beneficial integration into the global economy and accelerating the empowerment of women, WHO/AFRO in collaboration with other partners has been embarking on joint technical action through the Harmonisation for Health in Africa (HHA). The HHA is a regional mechanism through which collaborating partners (African Development Bank, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank) provide technical support and capacity building assistance to African countries on a demand-driven basis.

#### **Harmonisation for Health in Africa (HHA)**

The HHA has been working with existing development and financing frameworks such as sector wide approaches (SWAs), budget support and poverty reduction strategy papers and other national development frameworks that draw on a country-led and participatory approach to health policies and programmes. Key interventions embarked upon so far include:

- a) provision of technical and capacity building to the development and improvement or implementation of aid instruments (SWAs, budget support)
- b) provision of stakeholders with comprehensive communication on progress and country needs for achieving the health MDGs
- c) serving as a broker and where appropriate provide support in facilitating resource mobilisation and grant proposal preparation for countries

There are several countries that have been supported in the context of HHA. They include Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, which are in the process of adopting the Compact arrangement. Meanwhile Ghana, Gambia, Malawi, Mozambique and Zambia have been supported through the SWAs arrangement.

In addition, through the adoption by the Member States of the Ouagadougou Declaration on Primary Health Care and Health Systems and the endorsement of its implementation framework, the WHO Regional Office for Africa has established a long term advocacy tool in support of the work of NEPAD to influence the necessary reforms for universal coverage of health services, ensuring that services are people-centered, improving health governance and leadership, and ensuring inter-sectoral action in addressing the social determinants of health. Strengthening health systems using the PHC approach will be the focus of the WHO Regional Office for Africa in the coming years. These initiatives will hopefully help enhance Africa's full and beneficial integration into the global economy under the leadership of the African Union.

Another area of collaboration between AFRO and NEPAD is nutrition and food safety. In this context, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, AFRO organized an Expert Consultative meeting on the African Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS). Twenty countries were represented at very senior levels, as well as key stakeholders.<sup>1</sup> NEPAD Secretariat was actively represented at the consultation and made contribution about how NEPAD plans to address micronutrient malnutrition in the region. Consequently, a high-level buy-in and commitment was obtained to address malnutrition in Africa through a multi-sectoral approach using the ARNS as the launching pad. Subsequent to the above WHO and UNICEF collaborated in supporting policy development/revision, capacity building and advocacy in countries in the region to address malnutrition and food insecurity.

WHO/AFRO collaborated with AU/NEPAD by serving on the African Task Force for Food and Nutrition development revitalization. WHO attended the first meeting, and contributed through presentation and worked on the plan of actions to be implemented before the second meeting. WHO contributed to the implementation of the activities and in the development of the concept note for the second meeting which was held in November 2009. The second meeting was held in November. In this second meeting, WHO contributed through the creation of a presentation, as well as chairing a session and in-group work on capacity building. For the forthcoming activities WHO will closely work with partners on capacity building and development of a nutrition information system work plan to be implemented in 2010.

WHO/AFRO also worked with African Union on a European Union funded project aimed at improving access to the international food trade, including improving food inspection and animal health in Africa through contribution to the Better Training for Safer Food series as facilitator, and participation in the high-level meeting on food safety for Africa.

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<sup>1</sup> *AED/AFRICA 2010, ECSA, FAO, GAIN, IPGRI, HKI, NEPAD, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNICEF, WAHO, WB, WFP, WHO/HQ*