

# Partnerships for Health in All Policies: Role of Central Government

By

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# About the Policy Analysis and Coordination Division

- This Division is one of the several Divisions in the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office is in the Office of the President.

Its main responsibilities include:

- (a) the co-ordination of policies and programmes of Ministries to ensure that they are compatible with each other and the overall policy of Government;

# Main Responsibilities (cont'd)

- (b) ensuring that policy proposals reflect national, and not just ministerial or sectoral perspectives (the silo mentality issue);
- (c) coordinating and facilitating the implementation of Cabinet decisions; and
- (d) monitoring and evaluating the implementation of Cabinet decisions.

# Main Responsibilities (Cont'd)

The core responsibilities of this Division in the national policy process entail provision of oversight function and ensuring that all that need to be carried on board vis-à-vis cross-cutting issues are indeed mainstreamed.

# Main Responsibilities (Cont'd)

In this regard, officials in Ministries involved in the preparation of policy documents are required to comply with the laid down requirements through adherence to laid down procedures, processes, standards and formats as prescribed in the reference document called the Guide to Preparing National Documents and Cabinet Memoranda.

# The HiAP Approach

- Still in the early stages.
- About to formally institutionalise it in the national policy making process.
- Ministry of Health undertaking activities in this regard.
- Elements of the HiAP approach have been long integrated in the national policy making process. As such, we are able to draw lessons that can inform the HiAP approach.

# Partnerships for HiAP: Role of Central Government

**Provide the necessary leadership by:**

**Listening to:**

- stakeholders including expert opinion. – these are the frontline liners in terms being repository of valuable evidence and experience.
- Advantage of knowing likely consequences of its action even before it acts.
- Consequences of poor listening is, more often than not, likely to be poor policy outcomes. In turn, this will lead to policy inconsistencies and, sometimes, policy reversals. Policy reversals or inconsistencies are not the best way to go in promoting the determinants of health.

# Role of Government (cont'd)

## **Galvanise Support:**

- Galvanize support from the general public for the intended course of action. Among others, this can be done through effective communication; sensitization; use of champions. So, in galvanizing this support, Government will have to identify and work with various interest groups.
- This helped Zambia contain the HIV/AIDS epidemic.



# Role of Government (cont'd)

## **Conducive Environment:**

- Create or facilitate an environment that promotes Determinants of Health. This may be achieved through appropriate incentives, reforms, policies and appropriate legal framework to influence action towards Government's desired goals.
- Infrastructure provision also contributes to promoting a conducive environment. Inadequate infrastructure such as roads, water and sanitation and other amenities further compound levels of poverty, vulnerability and inequality. This re-enforces poor health outcomes.

# Role of Government (cont'd)

## **Mainstreaming Gender Issues:**

- though gender refers to both men and women, empowering women both economically and in terms of better education produces better health outcomes. It is an established fact that women spend proportionally more of their income on improving the welfare of their families.

# Role of Government (cont'd)

## **Forge Partnerships with Other Key Players:**

- **Traditional and community leadership**
  - Still important in the governance of rural areas where the majority of the population still lives in rural settings.
  - Valuable partners in the fight against GBV and early girl marriages. In Zambia, many traditional rulers have been retrieving girls married off at under-age or were still school-going. Most of these girls have found their way back to school.

# Role of Government (cont'd)

- **Cooperating partners** for financial and technical assistance
- **Faith-based organisations**—some are doing tremendous work, complimenting Government efforts in education, health delivery
- Civil society—advocacy, including hands on work
- Media—for awareness promotion/sensitization
- Schools- preparing the mindset of the young.
- Private sector for innovative resources.

# Role of Government (cont'd)

## **Mind-set Change:**

- Government must foster mind-set change. In Zambia, we are faced with the situation where a significant proportion of citizens expect Government to do things for them even in areas where they are able to help themselves. This has promoted a dependence syndrome phenomenon which re-enforces poor health-seeking behaviours and general wellbeing by the citizens.

# Role of Government (cont'd)

## VII. **Capacity Building in HiAP Approach:**

- Expose to and/or train relevant bureaucrats in the HiAP approach.

# Role of Government (cont'd)

- I thank you !!!!