

## **Strengthening Community Participation in Health Project**

### **Background of the project**

Strengthening Community Participation in Health' Project is a three year program (2013-2016)that comes in to augment efforts made by the Health Transition Fund (HTF)to improve the quality of health services, particularly the delivery of quality Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH)services in the country. It comes against a backdrop of deteriorating health indicators, evidenced by rising rates of maternal mortality (960 per 100,000 live births in 2010-2011) and child mortality (86 per 1,000 births in 2009).

### **Aim and Objectives of the project**

The project aims to improve the quality of health services, particularly the delivery of quality MNCH services.

### **Below are the key result areas:**

- 1: Raised awareness of community rights to quality and affordable MNCH
- 2: CHCs and supporting structures are in place and operating effectively
- 3: Improved governance interface, dialogue and provider responsiveness
- 4: Facilitated change in the enabling environment

### **Where is the project being implemented:**

It is being implemented in 22 districts, 8 provinces. The project targets 14 districts in 8 provinces.

### **Projects Operational framework**

The project is built upon four operational result pillars to include, supporting and strengthening community structures (Health Centre Committees); community awareness raising on MNCH; ensuring governance interface and dialogue; and lastly facilitating and ensuring policy change.

### **Who does the project work with**

In an effort to strengthen community participation in health, the project supports existing community structures, namely HCC, Village Health Workers (VHWs)or Health Literacy facilitators (HLF), and health providers to revitalise and strengthen the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM). The CFM is a mechanism that works to communicate positive and constructive feedback and responses on views concerning delivery of health services from local clinics.

In its advocacy efforts, project works with various stakeholders at district and national level, to raise awareness on health issues from the communities, and thus engaging them in dialogue.

**What are the project activities:**

- \* HCC trainings that aim to empower HCC on their roles and responsibilities, and hence represent the voice of the community
- \* HLF trainings that raise awareness of MNCH and patients rights (patients charter), as the HLF or VHW are the cadres of community health education
- \* HLF trainings that empower HLF or VHW on using community monitoring tools to assess community perceptions of health services
- \* Community level meetings to discuss health advocacy issues emanating from the Community feedback mechanism
- \* District level meetings to discuss health advocacy issues with key stakeholders and come up with action plan for a redress.
- \* National advocacy activities