

World AIDS Day High Level Meeting on Domestic Financing for Health

Elephant Hills, Victoria Falls 30 November 2014

Itai Rusike-Community Working Group on Health (CWGH)/Africa Civil Society Platform

“Invest in Health. Get to Zero-Africa’s Responsibility to End AIDS by 2015”

“The role of civil society in increasing domestic finance for health”

The Community Working Group on Health (CWGH) applauds Zimbabwe for making provisions for improved health and quality of life in the new constitution by acknowledging that health is a fundamental human right, and that access to quality health care should be universal to all citizens. We further appreciate the opportunity given to CWGH, other members of the civic community, individuals and institutions to have their voices heard in the constitution making process, and we now demand to see the provisions of the new constitution implemented.

The civil society acknowledges that government cannot accomplish its goal and national vision of “delivering the highest possible level of health and quality of life for all citizens” alone, but requires the **“combined efforts of individuals, communities, organisations and the government”**

Civil society and other non state actors need to work with our governments to strengthen the evidence base on the impact of initiatives and interventions at the frontline

Promote shared learning based on what works within the region, through strategies such as well- performing countries visiting those that are not doing so well to strengthen the latters’ capabilities and participating in regional forums such as the this high level meeting on Domestic Financing for Health here in Vic Falls

Lobby for the increase in national health sector budgets to at least 15% as agreed in the 2001 Abuja Declaration

Increase fiscal space by expanding and improving current tax collection measures; as well as proposing new taxes that ensure progressiveness and sustainability.

Countries can choose from a wide variety of innovative revenue generation mechanisms as earmarking “sin taxes, levies on mining industries, environmental taxes, financial transaction taxes, levies on mobile calls and so on. In some of the instances, earmarking of certain tax heads will not necessarily mean increasing taxes, earmarking revenues for the health sector within the current tax levels.

Revitalise the drive for National /Social Health Insurance in order to minimize catastrophic spending on health through provision of a pre-payment mechanism for both informally and formally employed citizens.

Given the tight fiscal space, there is need for the country to look at the quality of its expenditures in order to gain some efficiencies. Implementing cost effective interventions will also ensure that interventions with the greatest impact are prioritised.

Promote transparency and accountability in governance and management of health sector resources and in service delivery. Ensure transparency and accountability, encouraging civil society organizations, labour unions, health workers’ associations and communities to take part in health policy consultations and budget allocation processes; and to monitor budget expenditure and service delivery quality.

Ensure community accountability mechanisms through the strengthening of health governance at all levels of the health delivery system by putting in place community involvement mechanisms at all levels of health care provision, capacitating and monitoring them to perform.

Build public trust, communication and a political culture of transparency and intolerance to corruption in the management of funds for health.

Improve on health financing literacy and financial jurisprudence across all levels of the health delivery system.

I THANK YOU

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