

## **Tanzania: A Dedicated Unit for Increased Public-Private Partnerships in Health**

**Interview transcript, November 2013**

**Dr. Mariam Ongara:** I am Dr. Mariam Ongara. I am the national PPP in health coordinator at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

**Why was a health public-private partnership (PPP) unit created?**

**Dr. Mariam Ongara:** The PPP unit was very necessary to be formed at the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare according to the PPP policy of 2009 and also the Health Sector Strategic Plan of 2009 to 2015 whose strategy number six is on public-private partnership. So, we can't implement public-private partnership without at least having a house within the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare.

**When was the PPP unit formed and what are some of its primary functions?**

**Dr. Mariam Ongara:** The PPP unit was formed in 2010 and the function of the unit is to coordinate the private sector in the country; actually coordinating PPPs in the country and the PPCs as well – public-private cooperation and public-private partnerships in the country. It also encourages planning, like the Comprehensive Council Health Plan. So, we encourage really the participation of the private health sector in these planning techniques.

**What challenges has the PPP unit faced?**

**Dr. Mariam Ongara:** The problem we are having actually is the problem of human resources that the capacity of the PPP sub-unit is not functioning well because we are having shortages of staff. We need people with multidisciplinary skills and some of them are lacking. That is a big problem to us, but the Ministry is working hard to improve the situation.

**What have been the PPP unit's major achievements?**

**Dr. Mariam Ongara:** The major achievements of the PPP unit -- one is that we have been able, first of all, to have a house within the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare and we have already developed a PPP guideline in line with the national PPP policy. We have also started developing the PPP manual which is actually to be finalized soon. This PPP manual is for training on PPPs in the country on health. We see that we are improving and through our technical working group, we are working hard again to develop a communication strategy as we know that this is somehow a new idea and a new concept of PPP. We need to advocate a lot to sensitize people. We have to have a PPP communication strategy.