

Network for Africa: Public-Private Linkages for Health

The Network for Africa, launched at the Addis Workshop on Public-Private Linkages for Health in May 2008, is a community of practice strengthening African governments' capacity to partner with the private health sector. The network comprises ministry of health staff and private sector leaders from over 15 African countries. Its purpose is to:

- foster the exchange of experiences and best practices in partnering with the private health sector
- share tools and materials used to engage and partner with the private health sector
- build capacity within the public and private sectors to effectively dialogue and partner together to meet shared public health objectives.

Virtual Meeting Place

The network's website functions as a meeting place for its members and a clearinghouse of information on the private health sector in Africa.

www.shopsproject.org/network4africa

Members have access to:

- A member's directory
- A resource center of materials related to public-private partnerships in health
- Examples of private health sector tools and methodologies applied in Africa
- Quarterly e-letters highlighting African success stories in working with the private health sector
- News stories on lessons learned in working with the African private health sector
- Announcements on private sector events



Doctors Ronald Mande and John Osika at the Network for Africa 2010 Regional Workshop in Mombasa.

Barbara O'Hanlon, O'Hanlon Health Consulting

Online Chats

To encourage networking and technical discussions among its members, Network for Africa hosts quarterly online chats with international experts. Topics include:

- Vouchers, contracting and other approaches to engage private health care providers
- Strategies to increase private providers' access to credit
- Best practices in legal/regulatory reforms to enable a greater private sector role in health
- Experience in performance based financing with the private health sector
- Access to finance and other business challenges for private health sector

Webinars

The Network for Africa team is planning a webinar based on the Burkina Faso technical exchange on public-private partnerships in West Africa in 2011. The webinar will include presentations on best practices in policy and stewardship, partnerships approaches and financing mechanisms, and an opportunity to ask the presenters questions via an online chat.

Technical Exchanges

Network for Africa conducts bi-annual technical exchanges. Participating members meet for three days to share experiences and best practices, and visit successful private sector programs. The meetings in 2010 focused on defining a private sector role in addressing HIV/AIDS, promoting effective policy and regulatory practices supporting private health sector, and building public sector capacity to engage the private sector. Possible topics for 2011 are creating a public-private partnership unit within ministries, performance-based financing and other contracting mechanisms, and best practices in public-private partnership laws and strategies.



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Participants at the Network for Africa Technical Exchange for West African countries, Burkina Faso, September 2010.

For more information or to join the Network for Africa, please contact:

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The Strengthening Health Outcomes through the Private Sector (SHOPS) project is a five-year cooperative agreement (No. GPO-A-00-09-00007) funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The project focuses on increasing availability, improving quality, and expanding coverage of essential health products and services in family planning and reproductive health, maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, and other health areas through the private sector.

To access the capabilities of SHOPS, USAID missions and bureaus can buy into the leader agreement or issue their own associate awards.

SHOPS is led by Abt Associates Inc., in collaboration with Banyan Global, Jhpiego, Marie Stopes International, Monitor Group, and O'Hanlon Health Consulting.

The views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States government.

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