

The Woodrow Wilson Center's Global Health Initiative and Africa Program

Improving Ministry of Health
and
Ministry of Finance
relationships

Presentation

by

Eva Esselba Mends

Head Budget Development Unit

Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

Budget Preparation Process



What are the issues

- Ministry of health does not have adequate resources to enable them meet set targets
- That the Budget negotiation/planning process does not allow for effective negotiations
- There is lack of appreciation of health issues by budget staff of MOF
- That the communication and relationships are not strong to foster effective dialogue and consensus
- There is lack of capacities in various areas including analytical capacities, communication, advocacy and negotiations
- That there are no institutional and well structured systems for dialogue

The Budget process

- The process is both a technical and political process.
- It requires both technical abilities like analytical skill, data management skills, presentation skills and
- It also requires negotiation and people skills

What Can the Ministry of Finance Do

- Better communication – (explanation of issues)
- Need for Staff of Ministry of Finance to have better understanding and appreciation of health issues(the e.g. of H.M Treasury U.K.)
- Establish better working relations
- Provide feed back
- Make budget negotiation more of an interactive processes
- The issue of aid which sometimes clouds the judgment and for which they do not have absolute control
- Multiplicity of donor funding means that the budget process becomes even more complex.
- Better implementation of the Paris declaration

What Can the Ministry of Health Do

- Involve the budget officers of the Ministry of finance throughout the budget process i.e. policy planning and budget planning
- Establish a liaison for close collaboration with the MOFEP.
- Share results of findings and studies on health issues with Ministry of Finance
- Have frequent interaction with MOF budget staff and not wait till there is a crises
- Develop interpersonal relations etc.

Proposed improvements in the Current process

- Both the need for institutional readjustments
- Change the job descriptions
- Better understanding of the relationships
- Better communication
- Improved interpersonal relationships

What Can Woodrow Wilson Center do to facilitate or Possible next staeps

- Develop a program with support from the center and other interested development partners meet capacity gaps either through funding or technical support or both
 - develop concept paper on next steps
 - Appointment of coordinator/s to manage the program and provide feedback

Short term

- Awareness creation
 - The center disseminates the information to African governments – MOF, MOH Minister's and Permanent Secretaries, Development Partners who are in health
 - experts to provide support in pilot countries in identified areas like presentation and data collection and analysis skills – evidence for a more compelling argument and negotiations for additional resources

Next Steps

- Medium to Long Term
 - The Center can singularly or with other DPs, develop a program to meet capacity gaps
 - These include
 - providing Budget officers within the Ministry of Finance with training in Health management or recruit health professionals and train them in public financial management to be embedded within the two ministries to provide technical backstopping to the Budget Team
 - Provide training in negotiation and advocacy skill.
 - Facilitate institutional and structural reforms through the development of better system at the two ministries

Conclusion

ACTION!!! ACTION!!! ACTION!!!

- Very good and useful study
- Identifying the challenges is and establishing the fact is a good effort and has been useful
- Will be better if action is taken
- Urge the center to take it a step further and get some action done for results
- Willingness to provide technical support and