



Sector Wide Approach and health policy reforms: SWAP is the answer, but what is the question ?

Elisabeth PAUL*, Bruno DUJARDIN
and Dirk Van der Roost *****

**Research Group on Cooperation Instruments s
supporting Sector Policies (GRAP-SWAP)**

**•University of Liège , ** Université Libre de Bruxelles a
and *** Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerpen**



1. The new aid paradigm (late 1990s)

Several principles to improve aid effectiveness :

- 1. Government's ownership over its policies and strategies**
- 2. Government accountability for resource use and results**
- 3. Better donor coordination and coherence with national systems**
- 4. Long term strategies and institutional reforms**
- 5. Real partnership between government, civil society and donors**



Paris Declaration (March 2005)

International commitment to these 5 pillars :

- **Ownership, Alignment, Harmonisation, Managing for Results and Mutual Accountability**

To put these pillars in practice, new aid modalities relying on national health systems are proposed : sector wide approaches (SWAP) and budget support



Basic definitions

- **A SWAP is :**
A method of working together between a Government and development partners, who work jointly to progressively implement a comprehensive and coherent sectoral policy and strategy, that is a common approach for a whole sector (health, education,...)

- **Budget Support is :**
A method of financing a partner country's budget through a transfer of resources from an external financing agency to the partner government's national treasury in accordance with the national budgetary procedures.



Challenges to SWAP approaches

- **MDGs focussing on at risk populations and some main diseases, but not promoting health for all**
- **Explosion of new actors and partnerships :**
 - **Global Health Initiatives (GHI): more than 80 (100 ?) in one decade: who is leading? Who keeps the overview?**
- **Strong national vertical programmes (AIDS, TB, Palu, ...)**



The case for SWAP

- **International Health Partnership (2007)**
Where partners commit to support a single global health programme with a single budget framework, a single results framework, a single policy matrix a single budget reporting
- **Last WHO report (2008) : Primary Health Care : more than ever**
- **Some GHIs (GAVI, Global Fund) introduce a component “health systems strengthening”**



SWAP is the answer and the question (still) is :

How to proceed to ensure a coherent and sustainable global effort to improve health systems and health care for all ?



Purpose of this parallel session

To present and discuss some good practices of how new aid modalities in some countries have been able to strengthen primary health care and health systems as a whole