

4TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA NETWORK OF EDUCATION SECTOR SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION AND HIV & AIDS FOCAL POINTS

STOCK TAKING OF SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION IN THE EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA COUNTRIES

KAMPALA-UGANDA, 6-8 DECEMBER 2011

Uganda, through the Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES) will host the above captioned meeting from 6-8 December, 2011. The workshop will bring together the School Health, Nutrition Coordinators, school feeding and HIV/AIDS Focal Points and/or Coordinators from the 12 Eastern and Southern African countries (Angola, Burundi, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania (Mainland & Zanzibar), Uganda, Zambia) that make up the network. Representatives from bilateral and multilateral donor agencies, Regional Economic Communities, nongovernmental agencies as well as academic institutions are also expected to participate in the workshop.

The main objectives and outputs of the workshop are: (i) Reviewing the work of the network including new concepts like the Healthy Children Initiative (HCI) and the Home Grown School Feeding concept, and agreeing future activities; (ii) Introducing and discussing school-based deworming, the home grown school feeding concept and how to implement them in respective countries; (iii) Introducing and facilitating feedback on benchmarking School Health and School Feeding; and (iv) facilitating knowledge and experiences exchange, sharing best practices and lessons learned from national programs and partners. Achievement of the following objectives is expected to result in: (a) better understanding of the state of SHN in the Eastern and Southern African countries and how the Global Partnership for Education can support activities in this region; and (b) validation of the school health and school feeding benchmarking framework.

Rationale for the Meeting. Alongside the provision of quality schools, textbooks and teachers, the health of school children is also necessary for the achievement of the Education For All (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). HIV & AIDS, malaria, worm infections, anemia and hunger that are prevalent among school children have a negative effect not only on the learners and their education but also teachers and quality of education provided. The HCI therefore, aims to improve health, reduce absenteeism and improve cognition and learning for school children and adolescents and also seeks to reduce hunger, promote enrolment and attendance and provide social safety nets for the poor school children by improving the quality and scale of existing school feeding programs.

About the Network. The Network is an effort supported by the school health team in the World Bank in partnership with the World Food Program (WFP), Partnership for Child Development (PCD) and other partners. The partnership has been working with the Ministries of Education in sub-Saharan African countries to assist them with the implementation of school health in general; and accelerating their responses to the HIV and AIDS epidemic in particular. The different education Ministers have since appointed civil servants to serve as coordinators/focal points for School Health, Nutrition and HIV/AIDS. At the request of these focal points, networks have been formed in the different parts of Africa, linking them to the different regional economic communities (ECOWAS Network in West

Africa, ECCAS network in Central Africa, and Eastern and Southern Africa network in East Africa) to initially share information and experiences.