

**Report on the Proceedings of the Breakfast Meeting  
to establish the National Support Structure/Task Force for  
South-South Co-operation in Uganda**



**Held at Kampala Serena Hotel, – Uganda**

**September 24, 2010**

***Prepared by Family Health Department***

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## **Executive Summary**

The United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in 1994 in Cairo, gave strong support to the concept of direct support to the South-South Cooperation as a way to strengthen and deepen the impact and effectiveness of population and development programmes. In this regard, PPD was established as an intergovernmental vehicle for the promotion of South-South Cooperation in 1995 and it has since expanded to 25 member countries. Member countries have shared considerable technical programme expertise as well as experience in the field of RH, gender, population and development. Capacity has also been built for some members in research, training and management of commodity security, provision of FP and other RH services.

Although it is anticipated that continued sharing of these resources will undoubtedly promote further implementation of the ICPD PoA within the broader framework of MDGs for the member states, having only the Partners Country Coordinator in the lime light at country level, makes the efforts challenging. It has been realized that bringing different stakeholders of RH, gender, population and development on board will enhance South-South collaboration (SSC) in the field of Population, Reproductive Health and Development. Against this background and with financial and technical support from Partners in Population and Development (PPD), Population Secretariat organized a breakfast meeting on September 24, 2010 that brought together several stakeholders to dialogue on establishment of the National Task Force for South-South Cooperation.

The NSSSSC will work as platform to bring together policymakers, NGOs/CSOs, academicians, researchers and private entrepreneurs to engage in thoughtful public dialogue and cooperative efforts.

The objectives of the meeting were;

- To increase visibility of PPD and to promote the concept of South-South cooperation among stakeholders in Uganda.
- To establish a National Support Structure for South-South Cooperation (NSSSSC).
- To Coordinate with Government and other stakeholders in the field of gender, RH, Population and Development.

- To advocate for an enabling environment for the promotion of RH programme through the South-South cooperation modality.

Participants having listened to the day's presentation and the benefits and gains of PPD to date, agreed that the establishment of the NSSSSC was feasible. They unanimously agreed to embrace the NSSSSC, which will be coordinated by POPSEC.

Twenty institutions including government ministries and agencies, academic institutions, CSOS and development agencies will constitute the NSSSSC. POPSEC will call another meeting in due course to develop the operational modalities and identify the pertinent issues to move on the agenda of RH, gender, Population and Development.

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## **List of Acronyms**

CPR	Contraceptive Prevalence Rate
CSO	Community Society Organizations
DSW	German Population Foundation
EARHN	Eastern Africa Reproductive Health Network
FBO	Faith Based Organization
FHD	Family Health department
FHI	Family Health International
ICPD	International Conference on Population and Development
INGOs	International Non Government Organizations
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MoH	Ministry of Health
NGOs	Non Government Organizations
NPA	National Planning Authority
NSSSSC	National Support Structure for South-South Co-operation
PACE	Programme for Accessible health Communication and Education
PCC	Partner Country Coordinator
PPD	Partners in Population and Development
POPSEC	Population Secretariat
RH	Reproductive Health
RHU	Reproductive Health Uganda
SBP	Strategic Business Plan
SSC	South-South Co-operation
S-S	South- South
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

## **1.0 Introduction**

The United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) held in 1994 in Cairo gave strong support to the concept of direct support to the South-South Cooperation as a way to strengthen and deepen the impact and effectiveness of population and development programmes. In this regard, PPD was established as an intergovernmental vehicle for the promotion of South-South Cooperation in 1995 and it has since expanded to 25 member countries. Countries have shared considerable technical programme expertise as well as experience in the field of RH, gender, population and development. Capacity has also been built for some members in research, training and management of commodity security, provision of FP and other RH services.

Although it is anticipated that continued sharing of these resources will undoubtedly promote further implementation of the ICPD PoA within the broader framework of MDGs for the member states, having only the Partners Country Coordinator in the lime light at country level, makes the efforts challenging. It has been realized that bringing different stakeholders of RH, gender, population and development on board will enhance South-South collaboration (SSC) in the field of Population, Reproductive Health and Development.

Against this background and with financial and technical support from Partners in Population and Development (PPD), Population Secretariat organized a breakfast meeting at Kampala, Serena Hotel on September 24, 2010 that brought together several stakeholders to dialogue on the establishment of the National Support Structure for South-South Cooperation (NSSSSC).

### **1.1 Meeting objectives**

The main purpose of the meeting was to dialogue on the constitution of a NSSSSC in order to co-ordinate with government and other stakeholders in the fields of Population, Reproductive Health and Development. The following were the specific objectives for the meeting.

1. Increase visibility of the PPD and promote the concept of SSC
2. Share knowledge, information, documentation and dissemination of best practices.
3. Advocate for developing policies and creating enabling environment for SSC.
4. Enhance sustainable supply of RH related commodities.

## **2.0 Welcome Remarks by Mr. Charles Zirarema, A.g Director- Population Secretariat**

Mr. Zirarema welcomed all participants to the meeting and thanked them for having been able to make it despite their tight schedules. He gave a brief background about PPD and South-South Cooperation noting that SSC is a partnership that was agreed to in 1994 during the ICPD so that countries in the south collaborate and share population, RH and development challenges and learn from each other.



He further pointed out that PPD has a membership of 25 countries and the cooperation in each country is coordinated by a Partner Country Coordinator (PCC). He further informed participants that the PPD Secretariat is based in Dakar, Bangladesh and the PPD Africa regional office was established in Kampala in 2007 to strengthen the cooperation among African countries.

He informed participants that the purpose of the meeting was to put in place a NSSSSC to support the PCC's efforts in the struggle and also galvanize the efforts of the different stakeholders in order to enhance the cooperation. Mr. Zirarema again thanked everybody especially the Members of Parliament for the continued support to population and development issues in the country. He wished the meeting fruitful deliberations.

## **3.0 Terms of Reference for reinforcing the National Support structure for South-South Cooperation by Mr. Abdelylah Lakssir, International Programme Officer – PPD-ARO**

Mr. Lakssir informed participants that he was delighted to be part of the meeting that aimed at establishing the NSSSSC. He gave an outline of his presentation which included PPD's Vision, mission, focus areas, key activities, the Strategic Business Plan, NSS and way forward.

Mr. Lakssir comprehended that PPD was established in 1995 following the ICPD resolution in 1994. The first 10 member countries included; Bangladesh, Colombia,

Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe. PPD has regional offices in China, Uganda and a Permanent UN Observer in New York. The country leadership is assigned to the Minister in charge of Health, Planning or Population, and for Uganda's case, the Board Member is the Honorable Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Planning).

Mr. Lakssir intimated that the establishment of the NSS is within the Business Strategic Plan (BSP) of PPD. It is anticipated that the efforts of the NSSSC could help PPD achieve its vision which is *“To drive the global Reproductive Health (RH) agenda to attain sustainable development by the year 2014”*.



He highlighted the focus areas of PPD as; Integration of MDGs and ICPD goals, promotion of reproductive health and rights, improving gender equality, strengthening the integration of RH and HIV/AIDS, improving adolescent sexual and reproductive health and improving reproductive health commodity security. Key activities along these focus areas include; documentation and dissemination of best practices, successful approaches and lessons learned in selected member countries, development of generic modules for partner institutions, high policy dialogue and advocacy, establishment of Reproductive Health Networks, identification, building capacity and deployment of FP/RH champions and establishment of NSS in PPD countries.

Mr. Lakssir informed participants that PPD's SBP 2008-2011 is an operational tool designed to establish specific goals as well as time bound outputs. It is also a tool for mobilizing resources for PPD programmes from member countries as well as donor organizations and foundations. The first goal of the SBP is Strengthened South-South Cooperation. This requires enhanced commitment of policy makers and programme managers, improved communication and sharing of information and strengthened support systems and structures at national level.

Over the years, PPD has realised that the PCC is overburdened with the task and cannot effectively deliver alone. To this effect, there is need for a national support structure to

bring together all national actors including private sector, parliamentarians, NGOs and CSOs involved in promoting RH issues for better social change. Hence, the structure is relevant to:

- Advocate with government officials to support creating a mechanism that aims to raise awareness for a strengthened SSC.
- Promote and reinforce coordination between stakeholders to synergize activities related to SSC.
- Collect, share and disseminate successful experiences and lessons learned during forum and conferences.

Mr. Lakssir explained that the process of establishing a national South-South structure would require;

- Involvement of members from Ministries, NGOs, CSOs, Media, FBO, etc.
- Development of guidelines in collaboration with stakeholders to define and specify their responsibilities.
- Allocation of a budget to support the National Structure, to facilitate its implementation and operationalization.
- Coordination at National Level by PCC.
- Organization of a workshop to develop a National Action Plan that will be implemented under the supervision of PCC.
- Organization of quarterly follow-up meetings during the implementation of the Action Plan.
- Preparation of a quarterly technical report: focus on key achievements, lessons learned, main challenges in the implementation process, and make recommendations for the sustainability of the National SS Structure.
- Documentation of the process of creating the National SS Support Structure and the implementation of the Action Plan.

If well implemented, the NSS would be able to efficiently and effectively promote national ownership, advocacy for specific budget line, work plan development, sustainability and reporting to PPD Secretariat.



## 4.0 Discussion

### 4.1 Benefits

Having heard from Mr. Zirarema and Mr. Lakssir, Mr. Burunde, the meeting Chairperson moderated a vibrant discussion which initially probed if Uganda had any gains from PPD and if not, how she could explore the gains from PPD as a member country. In response to this, participants were informed that Uganda had gained a lot from the South-South cooperation including;

#### 4.1.1 RH Equipment and supplies



Through the SSC, the Peoples' Republic of China has donated sophisticated RH equipment worth 277,000 USD and two million condoms to Uganda. Following the donation, a team from China came in to install the equipment in 3 hospitals namely; Mbarara Teaching and referral Hospital of Science and Technology, Jinja referral Hospital and Reproductive Health Uganda. The equipment mainly diagnostic included X-ray machines, Ultra sound machines, mammograms, laboratory machines etc.

#### **4.1.2 Capacity building**

Ugandans have been supported through the SSC to acquire a Diploma in Demography at Cairo Demography Centre, some of whom subsequently graduated to Masters in Demography. Several others have participated in short seminars and capacity building workshops on maternal and child health, population, environment and development in China. All seminars are fully supported by the Peoples' Republic of China.

PPD ARO has supported some Ugandans to participate in study tours and exchange visits to Ghana, South Africa and Ethiopia. The visits/tours are very inspiring and give lasting commitment to eradicating the suffering and compromises that still affect so many in the continent.

#### **4.1.3 Advocacy and best practices**

As a member country, Uganda has also benefited from sharing lessons and best practices. Mr. Burunde who had just recently participated in the “documentation of the best practices” exercise informed participants that Uganda’s experience in advocacy with Members of Parliament and Cultural leaders is a strong and powerful best practice that has been documented and will be duplicated by other countries. He also reported that Kenya and Rwanda had also performed so well in efforts to step up contraceptive prevalence rates (CPR), hence it is important for the different members to learn from each other.

As bio to the best practices documentation exercise, participants heard that PPD sent a questionnaire to member countries to fill in what they believed were their best practices and a committee went through the different submissions to select the best practices. This is an annual exercise implemented by the PCC.

#### **4.1.4 Regional Networks**

Under the auspices of S-S Cooperation, the Eastern Africa Reproductive Network (EARHN) was established in 1997. Currently constituting of 6 Countries; Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, the network provides a forum for members to share experiences and ways of overcoming RH and Population and development challenges in the region. The network produces and shares the EARHN Annual Newsletter and policy briefs. EARHN’s Programme implementation is country specific and countries come together during the Annual coordination meeting to reflect and share country specific interventions based on the EARHN Strategic Plan.

Most of the support for the annual coordination meetings has previously come from PPD ARO. During the 2010 ERHN coordination meeting, PPD supported the network in selecting family planning champions who will be nurtured to front FP in the respective

countries. A regional meeting was held in Kampala between September 1 and September 4, 2010 in this regard.

#### **4.2 Eligibility of membership to the NSSSSC**

Concern was raised on which members were eligible to constitute the NSSSSC and what their role would be.

Clarification was made that the NSSSSC would constitute of members from both Government and Non Government agencies and institutions in the field of RH, gender, Population and Development who would advocate for an enabling environment for the promotion of RH programmes through the S-S cooperation modality.



#### **4.3 Roles and Responsibilities**

The main objective of the meeting was to establish the NSSSSC and the responsibilities would be assigned having agreed on a work plan. Another meeting would be necessary to develop the operational mechanisms of the NSSSSC. The NSSSSC would be charged with identifying the key issues and move them/share with the S-SC through PPD.

#### **4.4 Output (s) of the NSSSSC**

Participants were reminded that the main goal of the NSSSSC is to accelerate the progress towards achieving the ICPD agenda and the MDGs through south-south cooperation and the objectives would include;

1. Co-ordinating with government and other stakeholders in the fields of Population, Reproductive Health and Development
2. Increasing visibility of the PPD and promoting the concept of SSC
3. Enhancing sustainable supply of RH related commodities
4. Sharing of knowledge, information, documentation and dissemination
5. Advocating for developing policies and creating enabling environment for SSC
6. Facilitating National Capacity Building to address SSC

#### **4.5 Sustainability of the NSSSSC**

Most participants were not convinced with the name “Task Force”, so agreed to temporarily adopt the NSS to identify the issues, and give a more permanent name to the structure thereafter. PPD would provide both technical and financial support towards the strengthening of the NSSSSC.

#### **5.0 Constitution of the NSSSSC**

Having agreed that the establishment of the NTFSSC was feasible, participants agreed and selected the following institutions to constitute the NSSSSC;

1. Population Secretariat (coordinating agency)
2. National Planning Authority (NPA)
3. Ministry of Health (MoH)
4. Uganda Health Marketing Group (UHMG)
5. Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development
6. Ministry of Natural Resources
7. German Foundation for Population (DSW- Uganda)
8. The Social Services Committee – Parliament of Uganda
9. The Food Security, Population and Development Forum – Parliament of Uganda
10. Makerere University School of Public Health
11. Makerere University Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics, Department of Population Studies
12. Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in Uganda
13. Family Health International (FHI- Uganda)
14. Programme for Accessible health Communication and Education (PACE)
15. Reproductive Health Uganda
16. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS)
17. Uganda Health Communication Alliance
18. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
19. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
20. Reproductive Health Uganda.

#### **5.1 Conclusion and way forward**

POPSEC as the government agency coordinating SSC would coordinate the NSSSSC. POPSEC would communicate to the heads of the selected institutions to identify the focal

persons to represent the institutions and call for the subsequent meetings to develop work plans and in principle agree on the operational modalities, functions and roles of the NSSSSC.

## **6.0 Closing remarks**

### **6.1 Remarks by Mr. Charles Zirarema, A.g Director –POPSEC**

Mr. Zirarema thanked all participants for their time and ideas that led to realization of the meeting objectives. As recommended, POPSEC would immediately communicate to the selected institutions and quickly organize the follow up meeting.

He emphasized that the NSSSSC would further advance the agenda of RH, gender, population and development at both national and international levels. He thanked PPD for the continued financial and technical support, urging participants that we should always grab the opportunity and potential benefits that may accrue from having PPD ARO in Uganda. He wished everybody a safe journey back to their respective destinations.

### **6.2 Remarks by Dr. Ochan Wilfred, Assistant Representative-UNFPA**

Dr. Ochan added his voice to Mr. Zirarema's in thanking the participants who came for the meeting and also echoed that the SSC is in line with the UNFPA resolution. He intimated that UNFPA was pleased to know that the NSS had been established and called on the members to promote not only the inter country field visits and experience sharing, but also the intra country collaboration especially for the districts which are performing well.

## Appendix I REGISTRATION FORM

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## Appendix II Programme

### Breakfast Meeting

Promoting Reproductive Health, Population and Development

Through the National South Support Structure of Uganda

Venue: Kampala Sheraton Hotel

September 24, 2010

TIME	ACTIVITIES	Responsibility
07:30 - 08:00am	Registration	Ms. Winnie Kyokunda
<b>Chairperson</b>	Partner Country Coordinator (PCC) of Uganda	Dr. Betty Kyaddondo,
08: 00 - 08:30am	<b>Welcome/Opening Remarks</b>	
	Acting Director Population Secretariat	Mr. Charles Zirarema
	Country Representative, UNFPA, Uganda	Ms. Janet Jackson
08:30 - 08:45am	Terms of Reference for Reinforcing the National Support Structure for South – South Cooperation.	Mr. Abdelylah Lakssir, PPD International Programme Officer
08:45 - 09:00am	Constitution of the National Task Force for South-South Cooperation (NTFSSC)	Mr. Charles Zirarema  Acting Director, Population Secretariat
09:00 - 09:30am	<b>Discussion and Way Forward</b>	

## Appendix III Aide Memoire

### AIDE MEMOIR

The United Nations International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994 gave strong support to the concept of direct South-South Cooperation as a way to strengthen and deepen the impact and effectiveness of population and development programmes. In this regard, Partners in Population and Development (PPD) was established as an intergovernmental vehicle for the promotion of South-South Cooperation in 1995 at an inaugural meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe.

The membership of PPD has since grown to 25 countries and the framework of South-South Cooperation in population and development has expanded to envisage an increasing role for developing countries.

Over the past 14 years, the PPD countries have shared considerable technical and programme expertise as well as experience in reproductive health, gender, population and development. Some countries have also acquired valuable expertise and experiences in research, training and management of commodity security, provision of family planning and other reproductive health services. Continued sharing of these resources will undoubtedly promote further implementation of the ICPD PoA within the broader framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In Uganda, Population Secretariat is the coordinating agency for PPD. In order to further strengthen South-South Cooperation, Population Secretariat will have to involve on a regular basis officials from other concerned ministries and representatives of various training and research institutions as well as interested parliamentarians and CSOs.

In this regard, Population Secretariat is organizing a Breakfast meeting to establish the national support structures for South-South Cooperation on Friday, September 24, 2010 at Serena Hotel, Kampala starting at 8.00am.

Below are the meeting objectives

1. To increase visibility of PPD and to promote the concept of South-South cooperation.
2. To establish a National Task Force for South-South Cooperation (NTFSSC).
3. To Coordinate with Government and other stakeholders in the field of gender, RH Population, and Development.
4. To advocate for an enabling environment for the promotion of RH programme through the South-South cooperation modality.

## Appendix IV Presentations

### OBJECTIVES:

- To increase visibility of PPD and to promote the concept of South-South cooperation.
- To establish a National Task Force for South-South Cooperation (NTFSSC).
- To Coordinate with Government and other stakeholders in the field of gender, RH, Population and Development.
- To advocate for an enabling environment for the promotion of RH programme through the South-South cooperation modality.

### **PPD MISSION AND PROGRAM FOR SOUTH- SOUTH COOPERATION**

*Abdelyah Lakssir  
International Program Officer, PPD ARO  
Kampala, Uganda  
September 24, 2010*



*Partners in Population and Development*

### **CONTENT**

- About PPD
- Vision of PPD
- Mission of PPD
- Focus Areas
- Key activities
- Strategic Business Plan
- National Support Structure
- Way forward



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### **About PPD**

- PPD was inceptioned in 1994 within the framework of ICPD 1994 in Cairo.
- The establishment was in 1995 by 10 countries (Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Thailand, Tunisia and Zimbabwe)
- The leadership is assigned to the Minister in charge of Health, Planning or Population.



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## ***VISION OF PPD***

To drive the global Reproductive Health (RH) agenda to attain sustainable development by the year 2014.



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## ***MISSION OF PPD***

To assist each Member Country and other developing countries to address successfully the sexual and reproductive health and rights including family planning and HIV/AIDS and population and development challenges through South-South Collaboration by raising a common voice and sharing sustainable, effective, efficient, accessible and acceptable solutions considering the diverse economic, social, political, religious and cultural characteristics of our countries.



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## ***FOCUS AREAS***

- Integration of MDGs and ICPD goals;
- Promotion of reproductive health and rights;
- Improving gender equality;
- Strengthening the integration of RH and HIV/AIDS;
- Improving adolescent sexual and reproductive health;
- Improving Reproductive Health Commodity Security.



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## ***KEY ACTIVITIES***

- Documentation and dissemination of Best Practices, successful approaches and lessons learned in selected Member Countries;
- Development of Generic modules for partner institutions;
- High policy dialogue and advocacy;
- Establishment of Reproductive Health Networks;
- Identification, building capacity and deployment of FP/RH Champions;
- Establishment of National task Force in MCs.



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## ***STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN***

PPD developed a Strategic Business Plan (SBP) for the period 2008-2011. The SBP is an operational tool designed to establish specific goals as well as time bound outputs that PPD will strive to achieve in support of the Strategic Plan. It is also a tool for mobilizing resources for PPD program from member countries as well as donor organizations and foundations.



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## ***STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN (con't)***

### ***Goals of the PPD SBP:***

1. Strengthened South-South Cooperation
2. Strengthened capacities at systems, institutional and individual levels
3. Strengthened networks and partnership
4. Improved voluntary FP and other RH services
5. Enhanced resources availability
6. Strengthened PPD through adequate mobilization of resources and improved programs



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## ***SOUTH-SOUTH COOPERATION IN SBP***

### **Goal 1: Strengthened South-South Cooperation**

- Enhanced commitment of policy makers and programme managers
- Improved communication and sharing of information
- Strengthened support systems and structures at national level



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## ***NATIONAL SS STRUCTURE: Why?***

- Lack of adequate structure to promote SSC
- Need of Task Force to gather Actors at national level: including private sector, parliamentarians, NGOs and CSOs involved in promoting RH issues for better social change



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## ***NATIONAL SS STRUCTURE: Why?***

- Advocate with government officials to support creating a mechanism that aims to raise up awareness for a strengthened SSC
- Promote and reinforce coordination between stakeholders to synergize activities related to SSC
- Collect , share and disseminate successful experiences and lessons learned during forum and conferences



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## ***NATIONAL SS STRUCTURE: Approach?***

- Involvement of members from Ministries, NGOs, CSOs, Media, FBO, etc;
- Development of a guideline in collaboration with stakeholders to define and specify their responsibilities;
- Allocation of a budget to support the National Structure, to facilitate its implementation and perationalization;
- Coordination at National Level by PCC.



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## ***NATIONAL SS STRUCTURE: Approach? (Con't)***

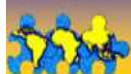
- Organization of a workshop to develop a National Action Plan that will be implemented under the supervision of PCC;
- Organization of quarterly follow-up meetings during the implementation of the Action Plan;
- Preparation of a quarterly technical report: focus on key achievements, lessons learned, main challenges in the implementation process, and make recommendations for the sustainability of the National SS Structure;
- Documentation of the process of creating the National SS Support Structure and the implementation of the Action Plan.



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## ***WAY FORWARD***

- Ownership by Uganda
- Advocacy for specific budget line
- Work plan developed
- Ensure sustainability
- Reporting to PPD Secretariat



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