

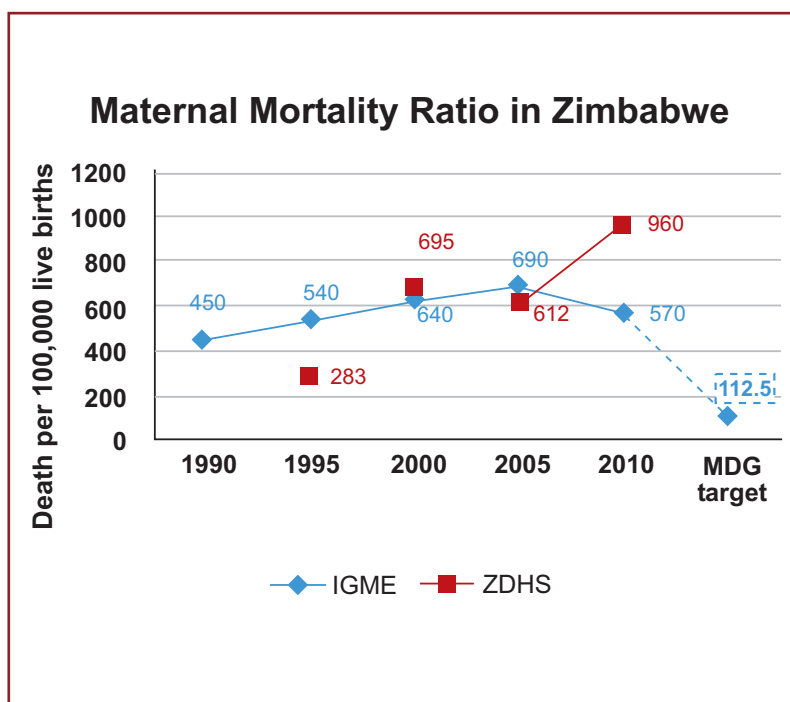
# Health Transition Fund

The Health Transition Fund (HTF) is a multi-donor pooled fund, managed by UNICEF, to support the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare (MoHCW) in Zimbabwe to achieve planned progress towards 'achieving the highest possible level of health and quality of life for all Zimbabweans'. Zimbabwe's recent history of severe deterioration in infrastructure, lack of investment, low wages, decreasing motivation and capacity of the civil service, and absolute shortage of essential supplies and commodities, resulted in the near-collapse of the health sector in late 2008, and early 2009.

The HTF will support the efforts to mobilize the necessary resources for critical interventions to revitalize the sector and increase access to care through eliminating the payment of fees for services for mothers and children under-5 as foreseen by national policy. As such, critical, high impact interventions will reduce maternal and under-5 mortality (MDGs 4 and 5) and reduce prevalence of underweight in children less than 5 years old (MDG 1 c) and assist in combating HIV, Malaria and other diseases (MDG6).

Support to key goals outlined in the Zimbabwe National Health Strategy and the Health Investment Case will be provided in a coordinated and streamlined way and will be aligned with the MoHCW annual operating plan/annual Performance Contracts and review processes. The pooled fund supports the continuation of national-scale health services delivery in critical areas. The mechanism provides strengthened capacity in government to take on sector budget support should the situation improve, while mitigating risks and enhancing preparedness, should humanitarian situations require response.

Based on gaps analysis, principles of aid effectiveness<sup>1</sup> and coordination, the HTF recognizes that health MDG outcomes cannot be achieved without adequate investment in the health systems that underpin health service delivery; that investment in health needs to be embedded in broader development planning and needs long-term predictable funding from donors as well as mechanisms to hold all partners accountable.<sup>2</sup>



#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> In particular applying the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness to the Health Sector to improve complementarity and coordination of funding partners to support harmonization and alignment efforts at the country level.

<sup>2</sup> Outlined in the work plan for the "Health 8" agencies: The Gates Foundation, GAVI Alliance, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Health Organization and the World Bank

**Health Transition Fund**  
Supporting the National Health Strategy to improve access to quality health care in Zimbabwe

Donors and partners: Canadian International Development Agency, European Union, Irish Aid, Norwegian Embassy, Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, UKaid, UNICEF.

The HTF initially focuses on the following four thematic areas, but according to the burden of diseases and available financial resources this could be extended to other areas included in The National Health Strategy for Zimbabwe (2009-2013).

The initial first year focus areas are the three core health system reforms required to support the removal of user fees, and a comprehensive programme implementation area on maternal, newborn, and child health and nutrition to support quality of care improvements.

### The initial four core thematic areas are therefore:

1. Maternal, Newborn and Child Health and Nutrition;
2. Medical Products, Vaccines and Technologies (Medicines and Commodities);
3. Human Resources for Health (including Health Worker Management, Training and Retention Scheme); and
4. Health Policy, Planning and Finance (Health Services Fund Scheme and Research).

Together these pillars provide comprehensive support to the health system and provide the necessary foundation and recurrent revenues to alleviate the collection of service fees from patients. The HTF includes enhancing the health workforce, upgrading essential equipment and logistics, providing equitable financing solutions, ensuring quality of care, improved health practices through social mobilization and integrating community-based strategies.

The HTF will also provide integrated support to monitoring and evaluation and technical expertise in the roll-out of activities. The HTF requires a pooled donor contribution of approximately US\$80 million per year over five years. The pooled mechanism significantly reduces overhead costs in operations, reporting and fund administration ensuring that funding is channeled toward achieving direct programme impact. Further, the HTF scale will allow achievement of results against national scale indicators at the 5 year stage and reduces potential duplication of efforts by development partners.



 **Health Transition Fund** Supporting the National Health Strategy to improve access to quality health care in Zimbabwe