



**Harmonization and Alignment in Rwanda of Projects and Programmes  
Meeting on “Harmonizing Basket/Pooled Fund Modalities in Rwanda”**

**11 May 2005  
UNDP (OCHA) Conference Room  
Kigali, Rwanda**

**MEETING MINUTES  
LIST OF ATTENDEES**

**Government of Rwanda Lead:**

External Finance Unit

**Development Partners Lead:**

UK Department for International Development

Belgian Cooperation

**Meeting Chair:**

Aid Coordination Unit, Office of the UN Resident Coordinator

**Agenda Item #1. Brief Overview of the development of basket/pooled funds**

The chair of the meeting, Mr. Gianluca Rampolla, introduced himself as the new Head of the Aid Coordination Unit. He also introduced his co-chair, Mr. Michael Bayingana, the acting Director of the External Finance Unit (EFU) at MINECOFIN.

The chair reviewed the agenda of the meeting and informed participants that the presentations will be highlighting best practices on funding instruments being developed in different sectors with the objective of starting a process to design harmonized modalities for basket funding.

The Chair explained that the DPCG tasked the HARPP to discuss the harmonization of modalities for basket funds, under the leadership of the EFU, DFID and Belgian Cooperation.

The outcome of the work on basket funds should feed into the development of the Aid Policy Document framework to be presented at the 2005 DPM.

**Powerpoint Presentation: “Improving Aid Effectiveness in the Education Sector: Modalities for Sector Wide Support to the ESSP” – DFID (*Annex 1*)**

DFID presented the progress made in the Education Sector on development of modalities for sector budget support. The presentation raised key questions regarding the mechanisms of a joint programme of support. The main objective of this programme of support was to design a framework of support to the Education Sector to enable GoR to deliver an effective Education Sector Strategic Plan (ESSP). In addition to the presentation, the following comments were added:

- Regarding a Joint framework for assessment, the suggestion was to use the Joint Review of the Education Sector.
- On the capacity building aspect of joint support, more clarity was needed on available local resources, especially HIDA's multi-sector capacity building programme, in order to make sure no duplication is taking place.
- The next steps outlined the timing for the design of a single framework. The hope is that sector budget support for Education is realized by January 2006.

**Presentation by the Belgian Cooperation: Health Sector Basket Fund for Human Resources Development**

The Health Sector Basket Fund being developed focuses on human resource development. At this point, a needs assessment is being conducted by MINISANTE. Based on this assessment, a consultancy will develop a costed plan for areas that will be supported through the basket fund.

It is important to harmonize conditionalities and reporting requirements for different sector baskets funds. For Belgium, it is rather new to move into these types of modalities of support to the GOR.

Regarding the funding instrument being developed for the education sector, it could serve as a model for other sectors and the question remains as to whether the health sector should wait for the education sector to finalize its programme of joint support, in order to learn from their experience. One major challenge in the harmonization process is that some DPs will not be able to move into sector budget support modalities. To accommodate project support donors, the Health Sector should clearly identify parts of the strategic plan that can be financed through project funds modalities, and use sector budget support for other parts. Nevertheless, DPs should try to harmonize monitoring and reporting modalities.

Next steps:

- Institutional support to MINISANTE will start soon;
- Support to be complemented by consultants on human resource development specifics;
- HR development plan to be developed in MINISANTE;
- Following finalization of this plan, discussions will start to evaluate which partners can align behind the plan (Belgium will allocate 8 million Euro, GOR for USD 1 million per year, and funds from Global Fund)
- The condition for Belgium is that at least 2 bilateral donors will be contributing to the basket fund.

### **Powerpoint Presentation: Children's Challenge Fund – DFID (Annex 2)**

DFID made a presentation on progress in developing a basket fund for children in Rwanda. Children's rights have not been mainstreamed into the PRSP 1, even though children represent over 50% of the population. The point was made that MIGEPROF has the least personnel and budget of all ministries. The Challenge Fund was presented as a fund to temporarily bridge the funding gap until enough resources are allocated from the general budget (approx. 3 to 5 years).

### **Presentation on DFID/UNDP Joint Programme of Support to MINECOFIN - UNDP**

A programme of joint support to MINECOFIN has been agreed between the Ministry, DFID and UNDP. This programme is an example of pooled funding for project support. In the past, donors have had individual projects supporting MINECOFIN that were not well coordinated.

The three elements of this support are:

- Interim support for finalization of the Ministry's strategic plan and continuous support in areas previously assisted;
- Support to the implementation of the Ministry's strategic plan;
- Support for the development of a capacity building programme in line with the vision of the strategic plan.

The main idea of the joint programme is to develop a solid, coherent framework for support to MINECOFIN that other donors would be able to support.

The joint programme needs to ensure:

- Support from the Ministry
- Mobilization of other donors

The strategic plan and capacity building programme for the ministry should be finalized by the end of the year. By the beginning of 2006, the vision is to have a basket fund to support the ministry.

### **Discussions on Agenda Item #1**

Key Points made during the discussion include:

- The importance of responding to needs and priorities of the Government of Rwanda. Ministries have developed or should develop clear strategic plans and then identify instruments for donors to join the basket fund as well as instruments that project support donors can utilize to support the strategic plan.
- It should be noted that 65% of support to the GOR is project support. The operational needs of project support donors must be accommodated when developing harmonized modalities for basket funding.
- The goal should be to harmonize basket fund mechanisms providing support to different sectors. MINECOFIN trust fund & Children Challenge Fund should be viewed as interim instruments. SWAPs should be the focus of harmonization.
- There is a big difference between sector budget support and a basket-fund. Basket funds do not sit in a central treasury account. The human resource development fund for the Health Sector is more of a basket fund, whereas support to the Education Sector is more sector budget support.
- Suggestion was made to setup a taskforce to elaborate a discussion paper that defines a model for harmonized basket funding that would take into consideration modalities both for sector budget support and project support. The taskforce could be comprised of DFID, Belgian Cooperation, World Bank, European Commission and USAID.
- There is an international learning network (LENPA Network - supported among others by UNDP and CIDA) that elaborates on different programme based approaches and delves into best practices in other countries and it would be useful to consult the documents exchanged through it.

The website addresses are as follows:

- World Bank Practitioners' Forum on Budget Support - May 5-6, 2005 - Agenda and Papers (Jan Wassiler 2005-05-19)

[HTTP://web.acdi-cida.gc.ca/extranet/policy/swapsboard.nsf/vE/6CJVA2](http://web.acdi-cida.gc.ca/extranet/policy/swapsboard.nsf/vE/6CJVA2)

- SPA Workshop on Conditionality and Predictability (SPA Budget Support Working Group) Cape Town, May 3-4, 2005 (Réal Lavergne and Mailan Chiche 2005-05-20)  
[HTTP://web.acdi-cida.gc.ca/extranet/policy/swapsbboard.nsf/vE/6CKQPN](http://web.acdi-cida.gc.ca/extranet/policy/swapsbboard.nsf/vE/6CKQPN)
- SPA Workshop on Conditionality and Predictability (SPA Budget Support Working Group) Cape Town, May 3-4, 2005 (Réal Lavergne and Mailan Chiche 2005-05-20)  
[HTTP://web.acdi-cida.gc.ca/extranet/policy/swapsbboard.nsf/vE/6CKQPN](http://web.acdi-cida.gc.ca/extranet/policy/swapsbboard.nsf/vE/6CKQPN)
- MOU between the Gov of Mozambique and the Program Aid Partners (Réal Lavergne 2005-05-20)  
[HTTP://web.acdi-cida.gc.ca/extranet/policy/swapsbboard.nsf/vE/6CKT3C](http://web.acdi-cida.gc.ca/extranet/policy/swapsbboard.nsf/vE/6CKT3C)

**Agenda Item #2. Presentation by MINECOFIN on Harmonization of Support to the GOR – Director a.i. of External Finance Unit**

The principle of General Budget Support (GBS) is inspired and can enhance and reinforce the institutional capacity of government. If capacity can be enhanced, it can also enforce accountability. The choice of GBS is the preferred modality of support for the GOR. Nevertheless, the GOR is always interested in the complementarity of other types of support.

MINECOFIN does not want to create parallel institutions and should look into the possibility of managing basket funds through existing institutions, rather than create new ones. Project support is always appreciated; the problem lies in the management of project support

**Agenda Item 3. Way Forward**

A taskforce comprising the EFU, Belgian Cooperation, DFID, SIDA, the EC, USAID and the Aid Coordination Unit (ACU) will elaborate a concept note providing the basis for discussions on harmonized basket funding instruments that would take into consideration modalities both for sector budget support and project support.

The concept note will be presented and further developed in the framework of the HARPP.

The outcomes of the work of the HARPP and this taskforce will feed into the development of the Aid Policy Document for Rwanda.

The ACU and EFU are planning to hold in July, as an input to the work of the HARPP and BSHG, a workshop with OECD/DAC experts on the Paris HLF targets and indicators on harmonization and alignment. Furthermore, the ACU in cooperation with the EFU will commission a baseline survey to map aid coordination in Rwanda. The results of the survey are going to be reported to the HARPP and will serve as input to the development of the Aid Policy Document.

# List of Attendees

(by Organization)

	Full Name	Job Title	Organization
1	Dirk Brems	Cooperation Attaché	Belgian Embassy
2	Julie Fournier	Second Secretary, Development Cooperation	Canadian Embassy
3	Dr. Alan Penny	Education Adviser	DFID - UK Department for International Development
4	Renwick Irvine	Assistant Education Adviser	DFID - UK Department for International Development
5	Judy Walker	Senior Social Development Adviser	DFID - UK Department for International Development
6	Thomas Leeming	Economist	EC - European Commission Delegation
7	Jean-Baptiste Luciani	Cooperation Attaché	French Embassy
8	Wolfgang Ahrens	Deputy Director	GTZ – German Technical Cooperation
9	Anna Gahongayire	Secretary General	MIGEPROF - Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
10	Michael Bayingana	Director a.i., External Finance Unit	MINECOFIN - Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
11	Leonard Rugwabiza	SPPMD	MINECOFIN - Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
12	Dr. Kathy Kantengwa	Policy Advisor	MINISANTE - Ministry of Health
13	Sandra Diesel	Program Manager	Sida - Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency
14	Sebastian Silva Leander	SPEMU Programme Specialist, JPO	UNDP - United Nations Development Programme
15	Mr. Kareem I. Oweiss	Aid Coordination Associate	UNRCO - United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
16	Gianluca Rampolla del Tindaro	Head of Aid Coordination Unit	UNRCO - United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
17	Danila Boneva	Programme Specialist, Aid Coordination	UNRCO - United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
18	Caroline Connolly	Health Team Leader	USAID - United States Agency for International Development
19	Kampeta Sayinzoga	Junior Professional Associate	WB - World Bank

*The attendance list did not reach all participants; please inform the DPCG secretariat if any names are missing by sending an email to [dpcg.mail.rw@undp.org](mailto:dpcg.mail.rw@undp.org)*