

## **WORKSHOP EXERCISE SHEET**

### **SCENARIO**

You have been asked to assist the Minister of Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The Minister is responsible for the financing and provision of the country's health service delivery system.

Nigeria is now five years from the end of 2015, by which time the world has committed that all poor countries, including Nigeria, will have achieved the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are eight time-bound development targets that cover poverty, education, health, gender equality, and environmental sustainability. In health, these include drastic reductions in child and maternal mortality. They are at the heart of Nigeria's own development strategies.

Nigeria needs to consolidate on recent progress towards achieving the health goals and requires new thinking on how the country can change its development trajectory. It is up to you to come up with policies that will steer Nigeria back on to the right track.

The Minister is to address the National Council on Health in two hours time. He has asked you to put together five policy recommendations that will address the country's still high rates of child and maternal mortality. It is critical that progress is made in this meeting towards improved policy on these issues. An election looms and it is unclear that the new Minister will be as motivated as the incumbent.

### **YOUR TASK**

The Minister of Health has asked you for five recommendations towards addressing Nigeria's high rates of child and maternal mortality. Some questions you might want to think about are:

1. Where are we now with regards progress towards achieving the MDGs? What are the areas where we are most falling behind and to what extent?
2. What should our priorities be and why?
3. What are the key constraints to overcoming these challenges?
4. What has worked in Nigeria before and why? What has worked elsewhere before and why?

It is critical that you identify relevant policies in the limited time available. You should present your findings in a manner you feel will be digestible to a Minister under extreme time pressure. Your report should not be more than two sides of A4 paper. As a team, you are expected to manage your time appropriately. You may utilise any external reports you have brought with you or can source within the allotted time.

You will be marked on your analysis of the data provided, your understanding of the policy context of a typical developing country, and on your presentation of your recommendations.

### **IN YOUR BRIEFCASE**

The National Planning Commission has put together a few documents that they thought might be useful in your work. These are attached, and are:

- A profile of Nigeria's development setting (Source: Nigeria's MDG Report 2004)
- A profile of Nigeria's institutional setting (Source: World Bank Public Expenditure Review 2007)
- Nigeria's progress towards the MDGs by indicator (Source: Nigeria's MDG Report 2010)