



## **AFRICITIES SUMMIT**

**NAIROBI - KENYA, 18 – 22 September 2006**

**« Building local coalitions for effective implementation of the Millennium Goals in African Local Governments »**

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### **INFANT MORTALITY**

#### **DRAFT RECOMMENDATION**

##### **Preamble**

In the light of the global target for the reduction of infant mortality by the year 2015 as contained in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the roles of the respective stakeholders involved in local government development were examined and it is therefore recommended that:

##### **\* To Ministers**

- 1) Central Governments need to improve the data collection and analysis systems so that segregated and up to date and accurate data can be made available
- 2) Formulate appropriate policies that take into account the differences between the rural and urban situations.
- 3) Enact laws that discourage women exclusion
- 4) Provide financial systems to local governments so that they can be able to undertake their mandates.
- 5) Ensure that Local Governments have an integrated and focused approach to program planning and service delivery so that they are able to reach more newborn
- 6) Demonstrate sufficient political will and administrative commitment in the implementation of programmes.

##### **\* To the Mayors**

- 1) Place emphasis on sensitising local communities especially in rural areas to the availability of information and techniques for the reduction of infant mortality;
- 2) Construct of municipal hospital to allow and bring poor people to have access to low cost treatments and drugs;
- 3) Create awareness among traditional practitioners and local communities to discourage harmful cultural practices that impact negatively on child mortality;
- 4) Give priority to the distribution of mosquito nets and the draining of malaria breeding places to reduce the prevalence of malaria;
- 5) Encourage systems that allow mothers and guardians to have access to consultation on nutrition and health;

- 6) Institute and sustain school feeding programmes at local level;
- 7) Prioritise primary health care in the Local government programmes;
- 8) Promote collaboration with and encourage the use of the media in sensitisation programmes;
- 9) Identify and sensitise local communities to the integration of positive cultural practices in the child health programmes;
- 10) Encourage Public Private Partnerships in primary health care programmes for improved quality and efficiency, and
- 11) Demonstrate sufficient political will and administrative commitment in the implementation of programmes.

**\* Development Partners**

1. Development Partners should support a close partnership between local and international stakeholders to address infant mortality.
2. Recognise and accept the development priorities of local partners and not dictate to them on programmes.
3. Provide tailor-made skills training based on local areas of interest for which the international partners have capacity.
4. Establish appropriate modus operandi for executing programmes in particular disbursement of funds for specific activities, and
5. Adopt qualitative transparent and regular feed back information system aimed at achieving effective programme evaluation.