Evaluation of the health sector-wide approach (SWAp) at

district level. pilot case study: Kwimba district, Tanzania

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**Evaluation of the Health Sector Wide-Approach (SWAp) at the district level. Pilot case study: Kimbwa district, Tanzania.**

Zinnen V, Porignon D, Paul C, Robert A.

5th European Congress in Tropical Medicine and International Health, May 24-28, 2007, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Objectives: To develop and test an evaluation framework for assessing whether the health SWAp in Tanzania has improved health service delivery at district level in terms of quality, equity, efficiency and effectiveness.

methods Information was collected from literature review,

Methods: Information was collected from literature review, local health reports, observation, focus group discussions, semi-structured and in-depth interviews. The pilot study was conducted in June 2006 in Kwimba district. It covered 10 villages, eight dispensaries, two health centres, the district hospital, district management team members (11), health workers (64), patients (117) and community representatives (189). The sampling approach was based on targeted variables, interviewed people and required information. Elements to evaluate were extracted from the Tanzanian Health Strategic Plan. Quantitative methods (Prevalence Ratio with 95% CI, χ2, Fisher Exact, Mann-Whitney or Kruskal-Wallis tests) to ensure statistical significance and qualitative methods to investigate for possible causal effects were used.

Results: Improved quality of service delivery was perceived in all

interviewed groups. As compared to a few years ago, people

reported improvements in drugs and supplies availability, in

attitude of staff and in infrastructures. Financial accessibility was

no longer a problem in that district but community participation,

referral system and working conditions demonstrated slow

improvements. Major health indicators did not significantly

change. The reasons mentioned to explain the results were mainly

a mix of the new policies such as decentralisation of planning and

decision-making, community sensitisation, increasing of funds,

staff trainings and recruitment of new health workers.

conclusion This pilot study allowed establishing, testing and

Conclusion: This pilot study allowed establishing, testing and correcting tools. The improved framework will be used in four other districts to evaluate more widely the results of a SWAp at district level for the health sector.