

# COMMUNITY WORKING GROUP ON HEALTH (CWGH)

## 15<sup>th</sup> National Conference Resolutions 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2008

*“In pursuit of Equity in Health through People Centred Health Systems”*



**Crown Plaza Monomotapa Hotel**

## Harare

We, the delegates attending the Community Working Group on Health (CWGH) 15<sup>th</sup> National Conference held at the Crown Plaza Monomotapa Hotel in Harare from 23 to 24 October 2008 having:

- **Shared** experiences on Primary Health Care in Zimbabwe, its challenges and opportunities;
- **Assessed** the performance of the Health Services Board (HSB) since its inception in 2005 and the challenges it faces;
- **Discussed** people's right to essential medicines, water and health and observed their lack of formal protection in the current constitution;
- **Considered** Zimbabwe's Equity Watch and the challenges to progress in Primary Health Care, especially for the most disadvantaged and;
- **Explored** options for strengthening Primary Health Care and addressing the deteriorating of quality care in health institutions in Zimbabwe.

### **WE THEREFORE RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING:**

#### **1. On reclaiming equity and the right to health**

- That the Right to health be included in the national Constitution, and that CWGH will raise awareness, lobby and advocate for its inclusion and organize communities to demand their health rights.
- That the Ministry of Health fulfill its policy commitments and declarations in health, and that CWGH will join other stakeholders in

monitoring implementation, including through advocacy around an annual equity watch;

- That CWGH lobby government to give the Health Services Board more autonomy in decision making

## **2. On strengthening Primary Health Care and district systems**

- That CWGH strengthen the capacities, functioning and recognition of health centre committees, and lobby for incentives and resources for community health workers from government;
- That CWGH lobby communities to dialogue with health institutions on their fee policies to remove high charge barriers;
- That CWGH lobby government to put in place a clear, relevant, effective guidelines and policies to retain Health workers

## **3. On improving Environments for health systems**

- That CWGH lobby for the Government to subsidize water tariffs to cover essential levels of access to and use of safe water
- That CWGH include rights to safe water in the right to health campaign

## **4. On fair financing for health**

- That CWGH sensitize communities on the Abuja Declaration and lobby the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on health for increased funding;
- That CWGH continue to lobby for the fair allocation of resources at national level to build primary health care and ensure that central and higher level resources reach and strengthen the base of the health system.

## **5 On Participation and people's power in health**

- That CWGH develop a proactive agenda on health issues and forge and strengthen strategic partnership locally and regionally to take this forward;
- That CWGH capacitate its districts to enable them to advance and monitor the implementation of these resolutions;
- That CWGH ensure that the health delivery system is not used for partisan politics.