  

**Policy Dialogue on Strategic Purchasing for health services in Uganda**

**Introduction and Background**

The world over countries are trying to achieve Universal health care coverage. To achieve this countries need to strive to achieve adequate financing for health, in addition they need to increase the equitable and efficient use of these resources while reducing direct payments for health (1). Subsequently there has been a call for countries to utilize strategic purchasing approaches rather than passive purchasing (1) (2) (3). Existing evidence indicates that strategic purchasing is able to lead to more efficient use of resources, more value for money in addition to improved quality of services and equitable distribution of the services (1) (4). Subsequently strategic purchasing has attracted increasing attention from both national and global level players with several countries initiating reforms that are aimed at enhancing the strategic purchasing functions (4)(5). Uganda like other countries is embracing changes that are aimed at shifting the purchasing of services from largely passive approaches to more strategic approaches.

Based on this background, Makerere University School of Public Health in collaboration with the Strategic Purchasing Africa Resource Centre (SPARC) has organised a half day workshop to discuss the progress that Uganda has made and to propose recommendations that can strengthen the country’s journey towards the use of more strategic purchasing approaches.

**Expected Participants**

The meeting will be open to a selected number of participants drawn from policy and decision-makers at national and local government level, civil society, private health care providers, implementing partners, researchers, and academia. It is anticipated that about 30 participants will participate in this meeting.

**Objectives of the meeting**

1. Discuss the key concepts of strategic health purchasing including the desirable attributes and functions of strategic Purchasing for health services.

2. Discuss the progress that Uganda has made with regard to strategic purchasing based on findings from the SPARC Framework on strategic Purchasing for health services

and the strategic health purchasing section of the health finance progress matrix.

3. Discuss and propose actions that Uganda can take to achieve the key desirable attributes of strategic purchasing.

**Expected Outcomes**

1. Improved appreciation by stakeholders of strategic health purchasing and the SPARC Framework on strategic Purchasing for health services.

2. Nuanced understanding of the progress that Uganda has made and the challenges that it faces with regard to strategic purchasing based on findings from the SPARC framework on strategic Purchasing for health services.

3. Actions that Uganda needs to take to achieve the key desirable attributes of strategic health purchasing.

**For details, contact**

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Annex 1: Dissemination Program

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| **Date: 14th April 2022**  |
| **Time** | **Activity**  | **Responsible** |
| 9:00am | Registration  | MaKSPH |
| 9:00-9:15am | Welcome: objectives and expectations of the Dissemination Meeting | MaKSPH Professor XXXXX |
| 9:15-10:00am | Presentation on SHP and discussions  | XXXXX |
| 10.00 – 10.30 | Progress made in implementing SHP/ challenges in implementing SHP | XXXXX |
| 10.30 – 11.00 | Break |  |
| 11:00-12:00 pm | Group Discussions- Actions that need to be taken to make progress in achieving SHP | XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX |
| 12.00-1.00pm | Plenary and Summary of key insights from plenary  | XXXXX |
| 1:00Pm | Closing Remarks  | MOH |