



Main findings from the assessment of The World Health Organisation (WHO) 2013¹

CONTEXT

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION...

...was created in 1948 as a specialised agency of the United Nations. Its **mission is the attainment by all peoples of the highest possible level of health.**

...directs and **co-ordinates health within the UN system.** It also provides leadership on global health matters, shapes the health research agenda, sets norms and standards, articulates evidence-based policy options, provides technical support to countries, and monitors and assesses health trends.

...is **invested in an ambitious on-going reform process** with three objectives: improved health outcomes, greater coherence in global health, and to be an organisation that pursues excellence.

...has included in its **12th General Programme of Work** for 2014-2019 commitments to improving organisational alignment; enhancing performance, accountability and transparency; and strengthening results-based planning and performance measurement.

...bases its operational planning on its 2008-2013 Medium Term Strategic Plan.

...is funded by **voluntary as well as assessed contributions.**

...was assessed by MOPAN in 2007 and 2010. Its performance has remained steady over the three years since the last assessment.

KEY STRENGTHS OF WHO

- WHO has an organisation-wide strategy based on a **clear mandate.**
- The systems and practices in place for external and internal audits are well detailed and there is evidence that policies are followed. **Financial accountability** is seen as one of WHO's strengths.
- **Procedures are decentralised,** and country offices have a certain level of autonomy.
- WHO makes adequate **use of country systems,** and is recognised for ensuring that ODA disbursements are recorded in national budgets and for avoiding parallel implementation structures.
- WHO's stakeholders appreciate the organisation's contributions to **policy dialogue** and its respect for the views of its partners.

¹ This document presents the main findings from MOPAN's 2013 "WHO Institutional Report".



KEY AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT FOR WHO

- WHO has taken steps to strengthen its **corporate and country focus on results**, in particular the quality of its results frameworks and indicators, and its results management practices at the country level. The organisation is in the midst of a major reform process that will be fully implemented in 2014 and should lead to considerable improvements in this area.
- As part of its reform process, WHO will implement a new **results-based budgeting** system. This is welcome as WHO's reports to its stakeholders do not yet demonstrate the link between budget allocation and expenditures, and expected results.
- Even though WHO has an independent **evaluation** unit, it needs to increase the coverage of evaluations and improve the quality of evaluations conducted. Reforms are underway in this area.
- WHO could improve its reporting on how **lessons learned** and good practices are transforming the organisation's programming.
- **Evidence is limited and unclear of the progress** that WHO is making towards the contributions to organisation-wide outcomes and country-level goals.

The full assessment report, the Executive Summary and the management response by WHO to this assessment are available at: www.mopanonline.org