

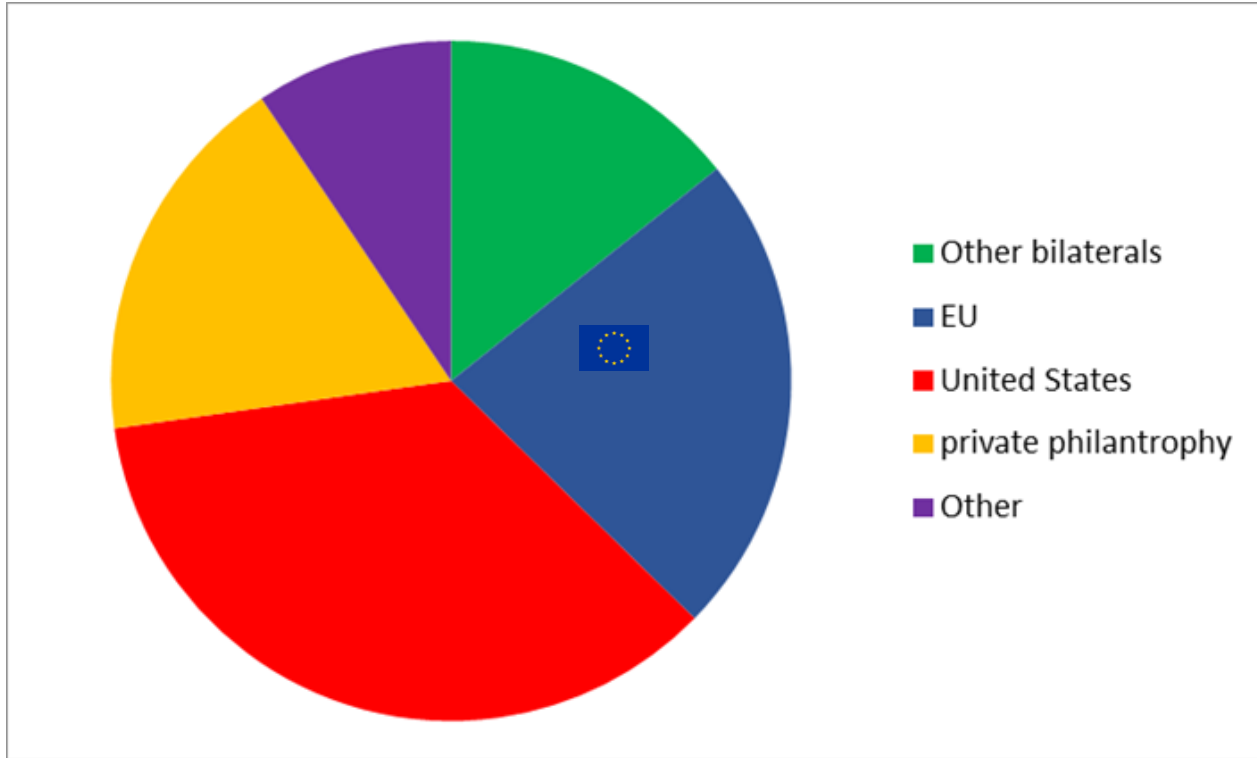
The role of the European Union and its member states in strengthening health systems in Sub-Saharan Africa

Lies Steurs



Background: debate on health system strengthening

Vertical	Horizontal
Disease-specific	Focus on primary health care and strengthening the general health system
Parallel systems	Using the existing systems
Measurable, concrete	Abstract
Short-term	Long-term



DAH by source of funding, based on IHME DAH DATABASE 2014



Strong rhetoric in policy documents:

*“The Council calls on the EU and its Member States to act together in all relevant internal and external policies and actions by **prioritizing their support on strengthening comprehensive health systems in partner countries**, which are central to all global health challenges.”*

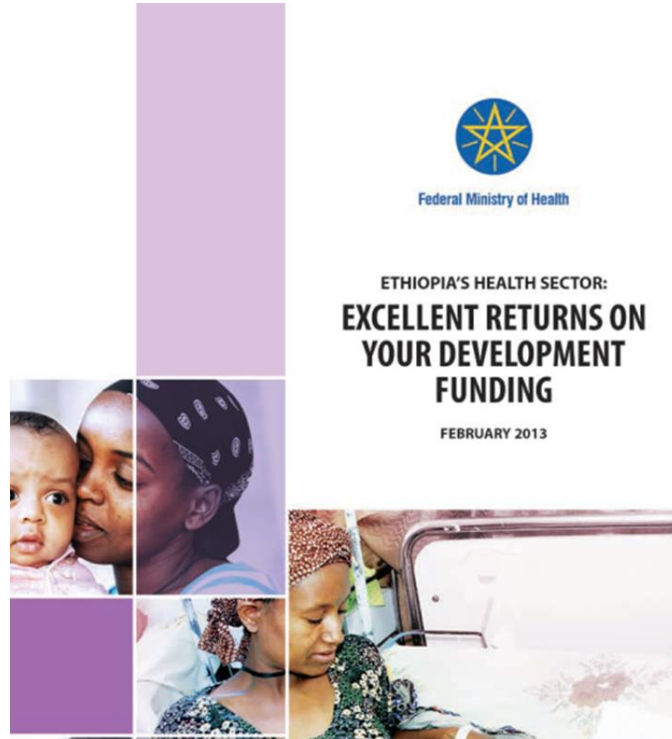
(EU Council Conclusions, 2010)



Still a lot of verticality

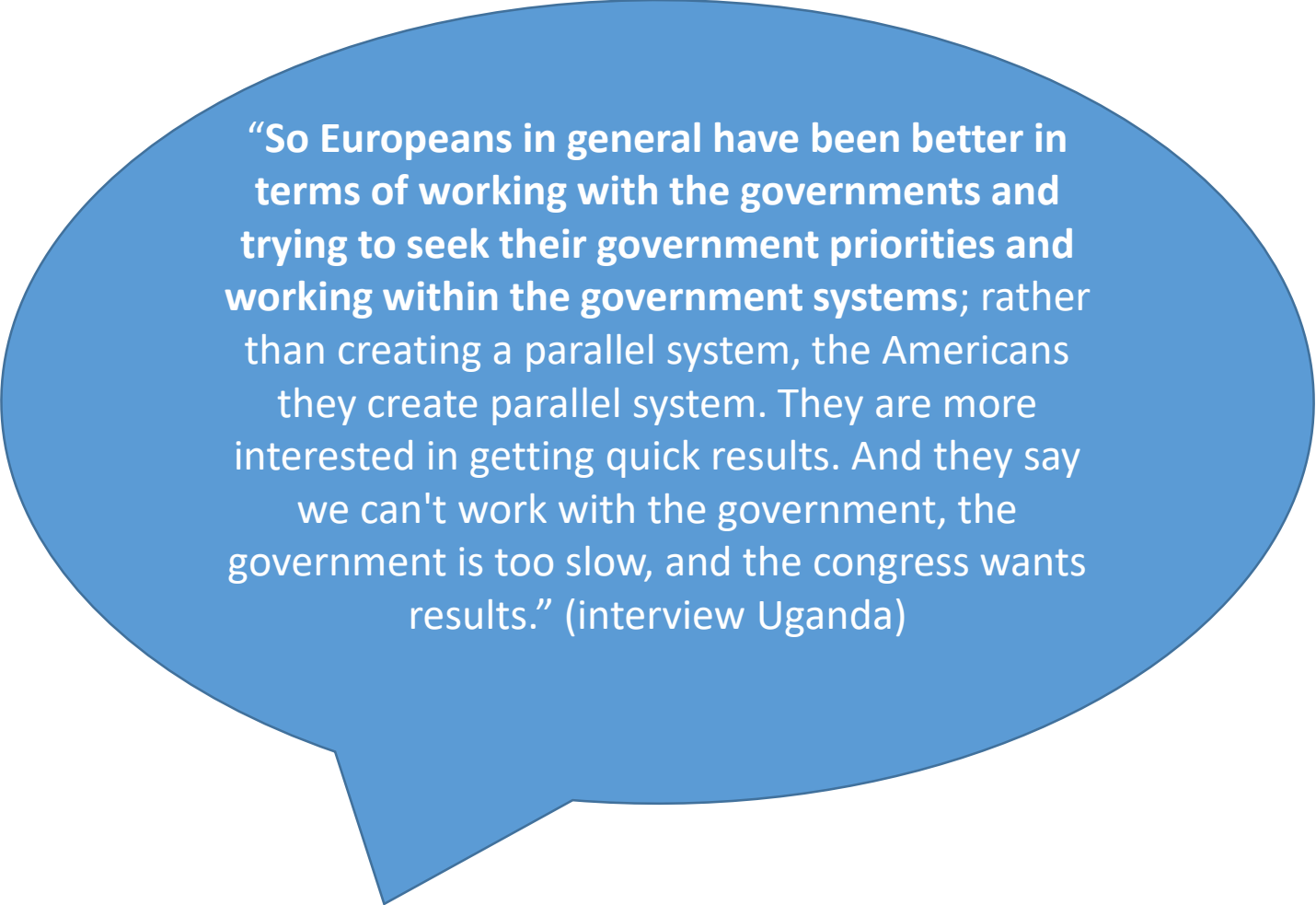


Important role of the Ministry of Health



Everyone claims to do HSS, but different approaches...

“ I think **the European donors try to align as much as possible**. That either being through sector budget support or through support to the MDG or SDG PF. I think there, I think the majority are quite committed to really working in line with the government and the priorities, whereas you have the US working in parallel” (interview Ethiopia)



“So Europeans in general have been better in terms of working with the governments and trying to seek their government priorities and working within the government systems; rather than creating a parallel system, the Americans they create parallel system. They are more interested in getting quick results. And they say we can't work with the government, the government is too slow, and the congress wants results.” (interview Uganda)

EU donors are trying to focus on HSS

- Strong collaboration/alignment with the government
- Comprehensive focus (not on specific diseases)
- Contributions to pooled funds
 - MDG performance fund in Ethiopia
 - Prosaude in Mozambique
 - Sector Budget Support in Uganda

BUT: big challenges

(1) Weak leadership of the government

E.g. Corruption cases in Uganda & Debt crisis in Mozambique

Can you still work with the government then?

Donor nations suspend aid to Mozambique over debt scandal

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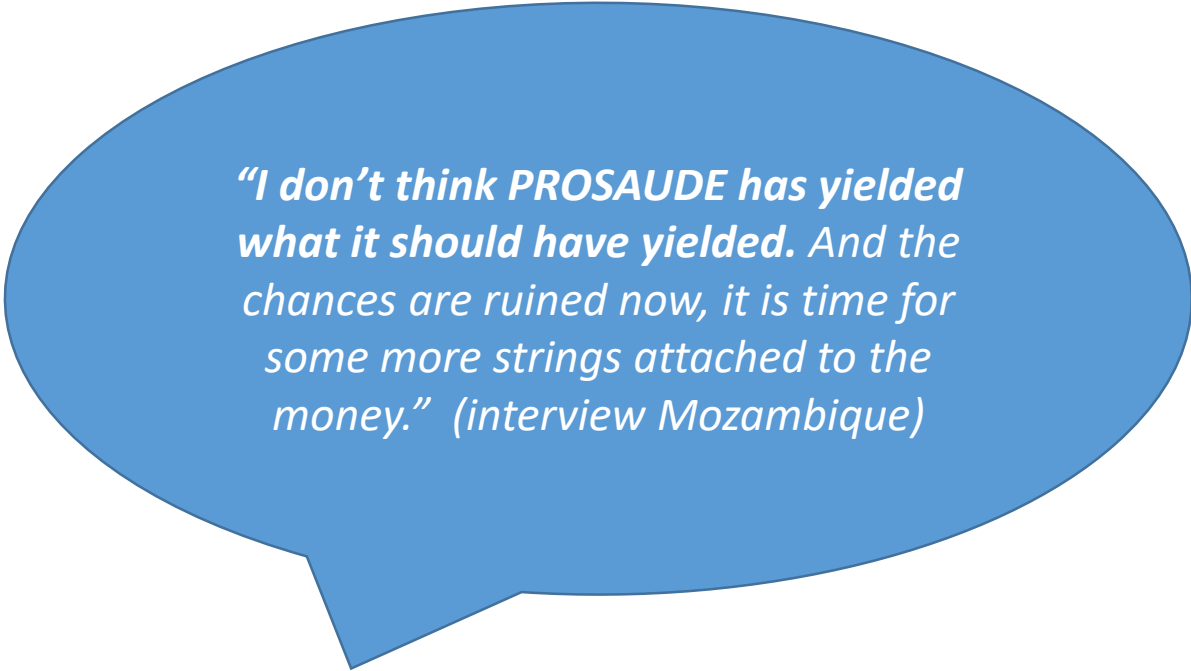
Maputo - Donor nations and institutions that contribute to Mozambique's state budget have suspended their support over revelations of \$1.4 billion in hidden debt, officials said on Wednesday.

Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, representing the donors, announced the move at a press conference in Maputo alongside Mozambican President Filipe Nyusi.


De Sousa said it was a "temporary suspension" and not a "final judgement" on the direct contribution to the state budget, estimated at \$265m this year.



(2) At the same time: increasing pressures for value for money.



“I don’t think PROSAUDE has yielded what it should have yielded. And the chances are ruined now, it is time for some more strings attached to the money.” (interview Mozambique)



“We left the common fund, just because, the context in the UK had changed, so there was **less tolerance for approaches that weren't very transparent about how the money was going to be used, and the common fund wasn't very transparent.** So we couldn't really link the results that we were seeing to our funding. It was difficult to attribute. Eum, and it was really difficult to see if our funding was having any additional benefits, the value-for-money of our approach”
(interview Mozambique)

Conclusion

