

# DISTRICT HEALTH PLANS

IS THIS AN APPROPRIATE TOOL TO  
ADDRESS PRIORITIES & FOR  
ASSESSING SERVICE DELIVERY?

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**PUBLIC HEALTH 2006 CONFERENCE:  
MAKING HEALTH SYSTEMS WORK  
15-16<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2006, Johannesburg**

# OVERVIEW

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- **Context & Background**
- **DHP&R 2005 for 2006/07**
- **Tools to support DHP Process**
- **Experience 2006/07**
- **DHP 2006 for 2007/08**
- **Challenges**

# CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

## ■ **National Health Act, # 61 of 2003**

- Key provisions:
- S3(2): **Provision of services** equitably within limits of available resources
- S12: Duty to **disseminate information**
- S21(3): Prepare **annual strategic**, medium term health & HR **plans**
- S21(5): Integrated Nat & Prov plans must be submitted **annually** to NHC
- S25(3) + (4): HOD to prepare strategic, medium term health & HR plans & submit plans to DG within timeframes & guidelines determined by NHC
- S25(4): Prov health plans must conform with national health policy
- *S33: District Health Plans*

## ■ **Public Finance Management Act, 1999**

- **Note: LG & Systems Act (IDPs), PS Act, etc.**

# CONTEXT & BACKGROUND

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- **Strengthening Strategic Planning within DOH**
  - Province & Districts
    - accountability & delegation & authority & responsibility
    - *bottoms-up versus top-down*
  - Strategic Health Programmes focus noting:
    - TB, HIV-AIDS, STIs, IMCI, EPI, etc.
- **Improving alignment between systems & data**
  - DHIS, Financial systems (BAS, cost centres – DHERs), HR systems (PERSAL) & other
- **Improved M&E & data on Service Delivery**
  - M&E systems: Annual Operational & Quarterly Reporting

# DHP & REPORTING TO MEET DISTRICT USERS NEEDS

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## 3 PILLARS & RATIONALE

To provide financial information useful for economic, political & social decisions (& fiscal compliance)

To demonstrate accountability & stewardship

To provide information useful to evaluate managerial & organisational performance



# DHP&R 2005 (2006/07)

## KEY PILLARS, HIGHLIGHTS & REQUIREMENTS

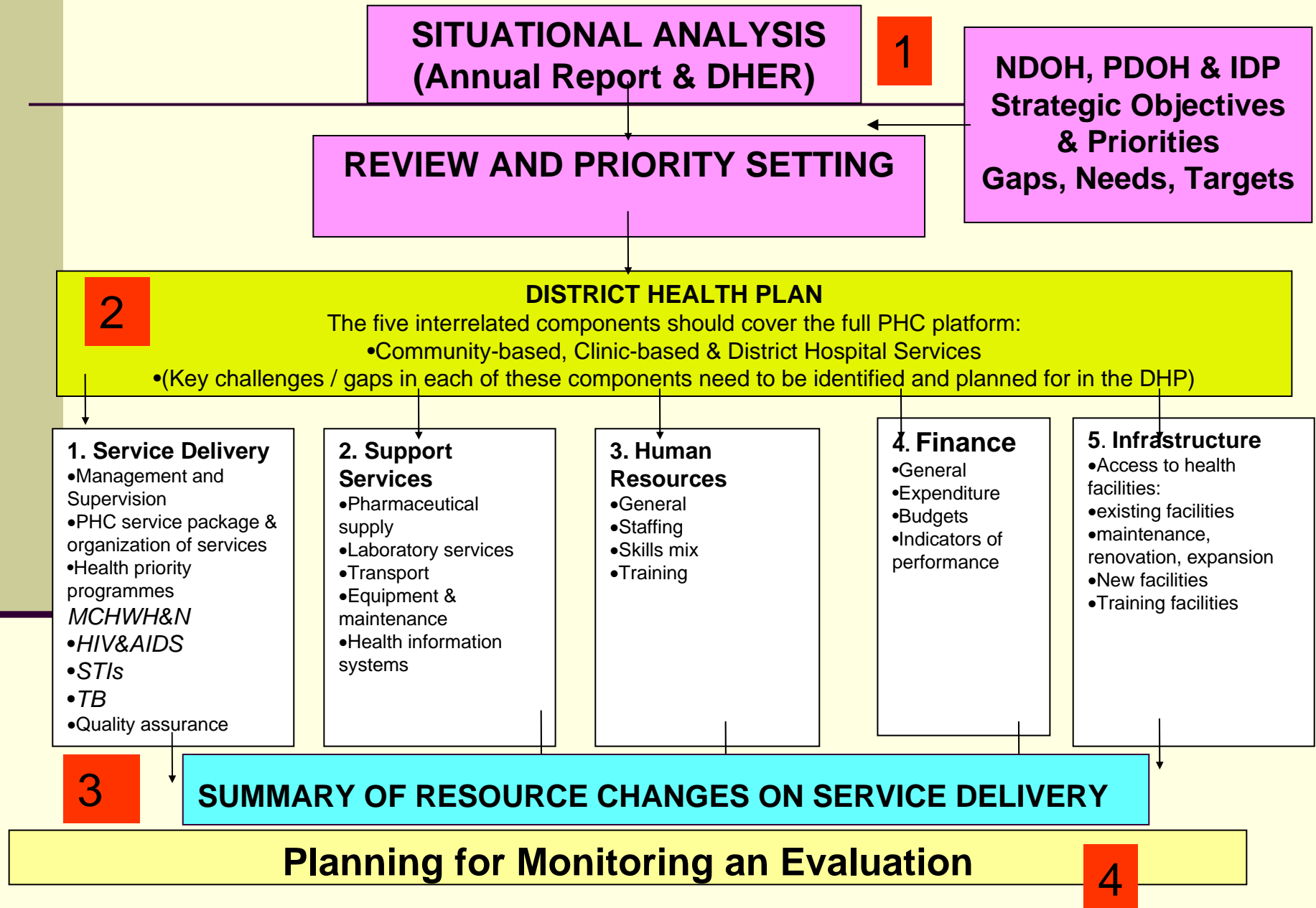
- Three sections, namely:
  - District Health Plan (DHP) template
  - Step by step guide to completing DHP
  - Contextualising the DHP Process

# DHP TEMPLATE: 5 SUB-PLAN AREAS

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- **1. Health Service Delivery**
  - 1.1 Priority Health Programmes, 1.2 Quality Assurance, 1.3 DHS Service Management (incl. Management & Supervision), 1.4 PHC Services & Package
- **2. Support Services**
  - 2.1 Pharmaceutical services, 2.2 Laboratory services, 2.3 Equipment and Maintenance, 2.4 Transport, 2.5 Health Information Services
- **3. Human Resources**
- **4. Finances**
- **5. Infrastructure**

# DISTRICT HEALTH PLANNING ARCHITECTURE



# PRIORITY PROGRAMMES

- ***Maternal, Child, Women's Health and Nutrition MCWH&N***
  - **Nutrition**
    - Nutrition Indicators - Trends and Targets
  - **Vaccine Preventable Diseases**
    - Immunisation Coverage - Trends and Targets
    - Child Health Services: DTP-Hib Coverage, Immunisation Drop-out Rates, and Service Provision - Trends and Targets
  - **Maternal and Women's Health**
    - **Reproductive Health**
      - Maternal and Women's Health: Cancer Screening and Family planning - Trends and Targets
      - Maternal and Women's Health: ANC and TOP Services - Trends and Targets
      - Maternal and Women's Health: Deliveries, Caesarean, Live Birth and Delivery Rates -Trends and Targets

# NUTRITION

INDICATOR	Trends	Target	Strategies & Activities to achieve target
	<b>2004 &amp; 2005</b>	<b>2006/07</b>	<b>Linked to Op Plan</b>
Nutrition Indicators	From DHIS Report		

# TIMING & ACTIVITIES: FOUR SEASONS OF PLANNING

**APRIL - MAY - JUNE:**  
Review Audit of  
Previous Year (Annual  
Report & DHER)

**JUNE -  
SEPTEMBER:**  
Service Delivery  
Plan

**JAN - MARCH:**  
Operational Plan (365 days)  
Quarterly Plans (4 x 100)

**AUGUST - DECEMBER:**  
Budget / Strategic Plan  
(Finance Section)



# PSP & DHP MONTHS & ACTIVITIES

<p><b>April to May - June</b></p>	<p><b>Review Audit of previous year's activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ situational analysis &amp; quarterly reports &amp; exp reports</li> <li>■ Review Tools: I Annual Report &amp; ii. DHER finalisation</li> </ul>
<p><b>June- August</b></p>	<p><b>Service Delivery Plan:</b> To be based upon Annual Report and other National/ Provincial and Departmental prerogatives. The District Health Plan Year 1 becomes the Annual Performance plan for forthcoming Financial Year Strategic Planning start</p>
<p><b>August to December</b></p>	<p>1st draft of the Departmental Strategic Plan (Inputs from DHP's form the Basis for the Programme 2 Inputs) Process of Compiling the <b>Budget</b> Commences : Finalization of the draft MTEF and MTBPS</p>
<p><b>January to March</b></p>	<p>Finalization of the Budget (Officially Approved) Development of the <b>Operational Plan</b> for 365 days (forthcoming Financial Year) Preparation of the Quarterly (100) day plans (forthcoming Financial Year)</p>

# DHP TOOLS

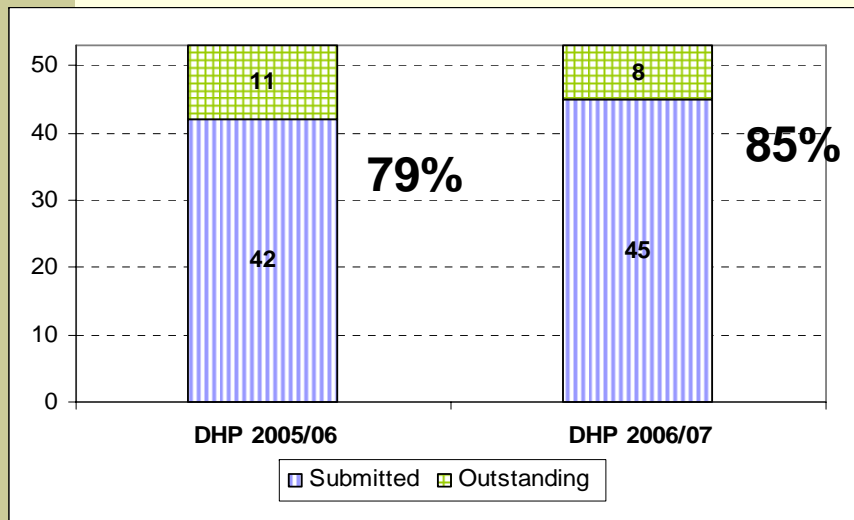
## (TO AUGMENT DMT CAPACITY)

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- (a) **Checklist** to assess districts capacity to implement activities towards developing DHP
- (b) Updated **DHIS Report** containing data for all provinces, districts & sub-districts according to priority health programme & service utilisation etc.
- (c) **Guide notes** on translating DHP to an operational-implementation plan
- (d) Useful lessons from **best practice**, including how to cost a DHP

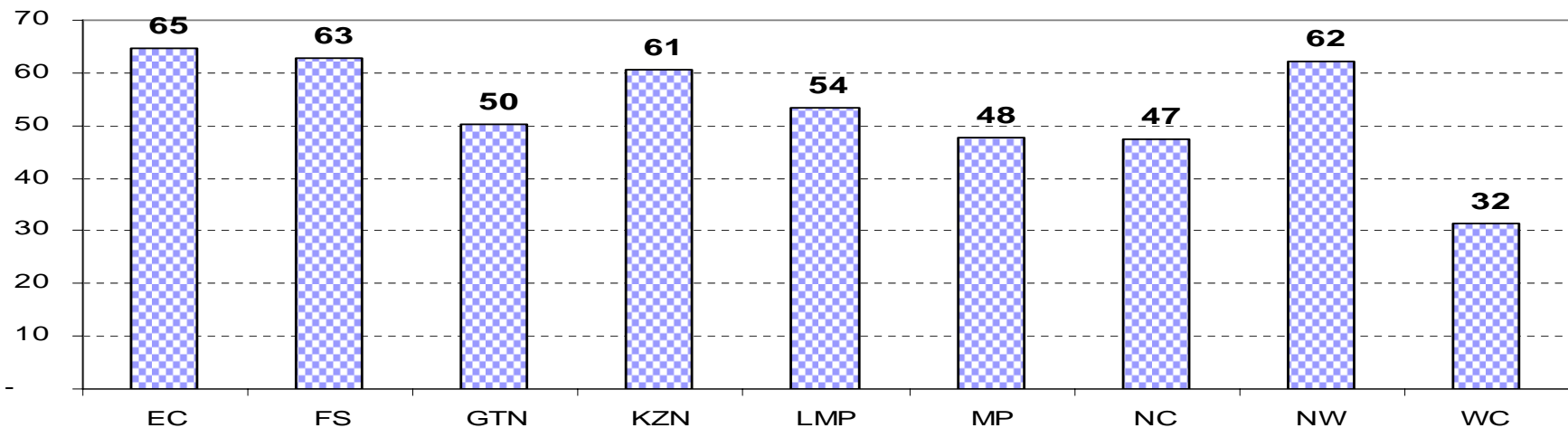
# DHP 2006/07 EXPERIENCE

85% of 53 districts submitted



Assessment Score Average **57%**  
(range – 32% to 74%)

Provincial DHP 2006/07 Assessment Score Averages



# HIGHLIGHTS OF ASSESSMENT

## DHP 2006/07

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- **Comprehensiveness & Completeness:**
  - From 5 core areas: of Service Delivery, Support Services, Human Resources, Finances and Infrastructure – **HR & Finance (DHER) were weakest areas**
- **Prioritisation:**
  - Whether individual Districts & Sub-districts have specific priority areas of focus; and how these were arrived at (**local needs assessments**)
- **Programme Details:**
  - More specification required on details of strategies to achieve targets
- **Target setting:**
  - How baseline data used to set SMART targets (noting indicators of efficiency and equity (e.g. resource allocation; cost per patient visit; workload, expenditure per capita; status of infrastructure)) – **NB**
- **Experiences:**
  - Lessons – problems & pitfalls need to feed into measures to strengthen DHP process (**Prov Support – Technical & Info**)

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DHP 2006 FOR 2007/08

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- **Improving DHP Guidelines & focal areas**
  - Align to capacity & standards of district
  - Integrate current experiences & suggestions to make DHP relevant
- **Addressing Prov-level support to Districts**
  - Dedicated & ongoing support – technical & provincial
- **Systems inter-relationship & culture of using & improving data**
  - DHIS report, BAS & Financial Reports, HR reports – PERSAL
- **Institutionalising Planning & Budgeting Processes**
  - Need to improve & impact on budgeting process (Planning to inform budgeting)
- **District Development & Systems Development**
  - Developing “appropriate district information systems” aimed at enhancing culture of using information for service delivery improvements (Operational Plans & Quarterly Reviews)

# CHALLENGES

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- *Assessing impact of DHP in terms of Districts “absorptive capacity” & service delivery improvements*
- *Will decentralised planning lead to appropriate Provincial – District budgeting towards the goals of improved service delivery, improved efficiency & equity in resource allocation?*