

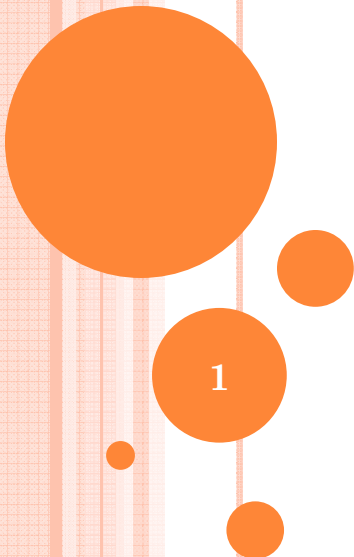
**CHALLENGES OF ADAPTING THE STANDARD  
NATIONAL AIDS SPENDING ASSESSMENT  
METHODOLOGY IN SOME AFRICAN COUNTRIES:**

**A CASE STUDY OF UGANDA**

**International AIDS and Economics Network**

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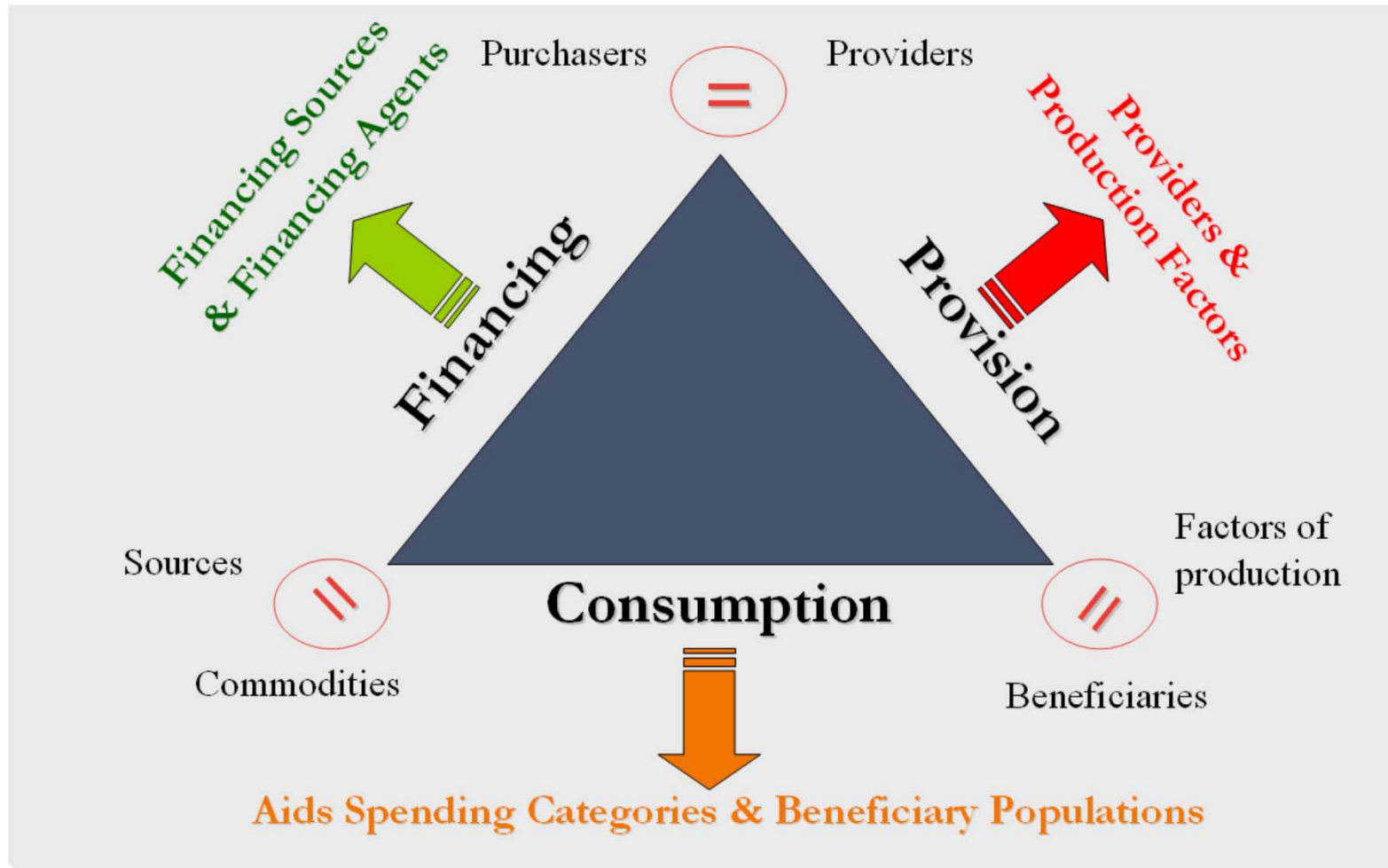
# Background

- Comprehensive HIV/AIDS resource tracking and review of financing and expenditure is done by conducting a National AIDS Spending Assessment (NASA) exercise, using a standardized methodology developed by UNAIDS (UNAIDS 2009).
- Using a standard NASA methodology is critical in order to permit intra- and inter-country comparisons.
- In this paper challenges of adapting and applying this standardised NASA methodology in the Ugandan context are presented.

# Methodology

- **Information presented for this paper are based on:**
  - The experiences of the authors that are part of the Uganda NASA team

# Key NASA Methods and Principles



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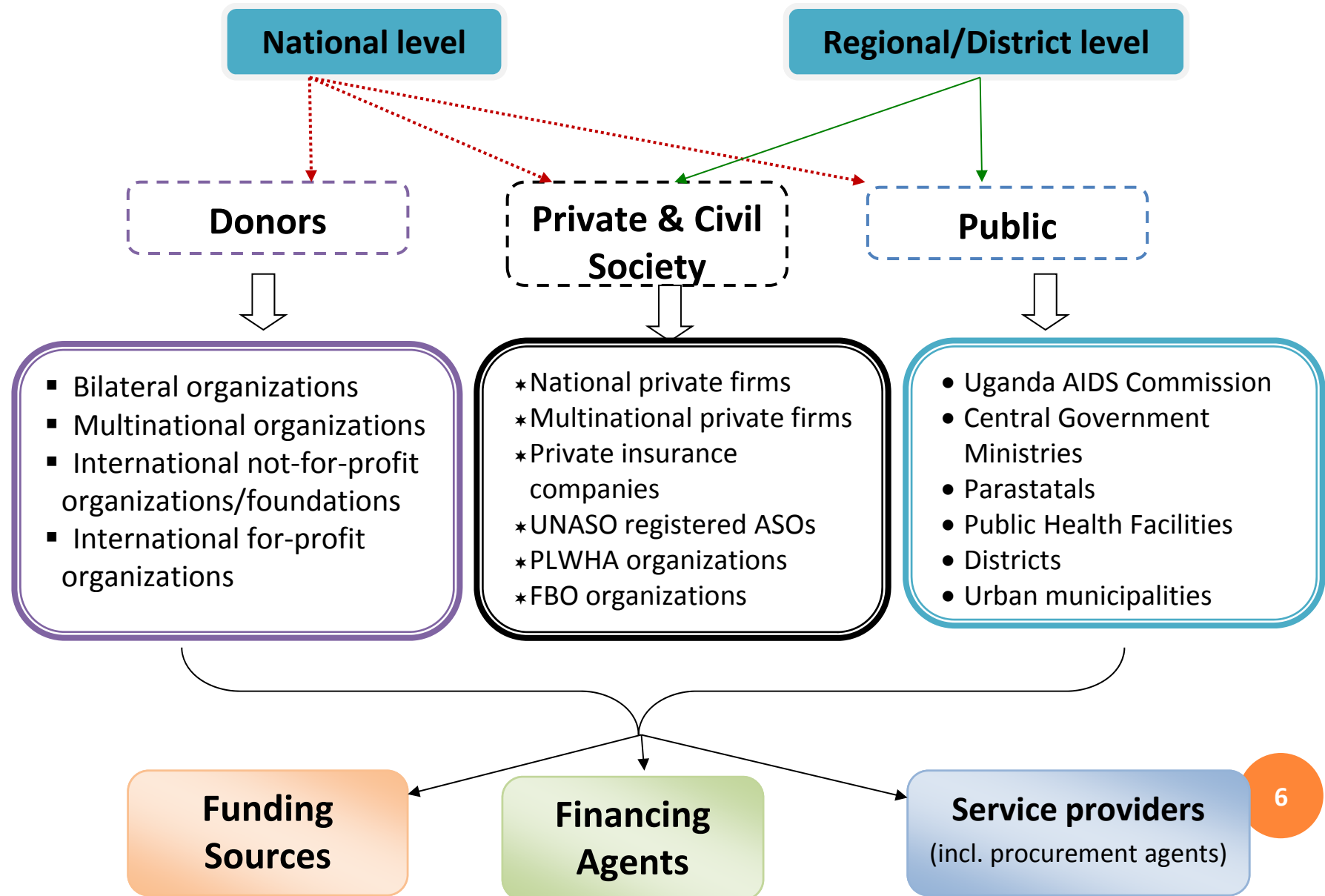
## Multi-sectoral response



## NASA Data management and analysis tools

- DP Sheet- for first level data entry and processing
- RTS – for data synthesis and analysis
- MS Excel – for final tables and graphs

# CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK FOR UGANDA NASAS



# Findings of Uganda's experiences in adapting NASA methodology

The Uganda NASA Team grappled with various issues including:

## **1. Selection and Sampling of entities to be studied:**

- Multiplicity and heterogeneity of HIV/AIDS players in Uganda, and the lack of an exhaustive directory where they are registered, made sampling a drawn-out complex process.

- Size of population of actors in HIV response unknown:

This challenge made it difficult for the team to establish a denominator at the stage when the team wanted to extrapolate findings from the studied entities to national totals.

# Findings - Continued

## 2. NASA data capturing & analysis tools not applicable in some situations

- The fact that entities unique to Uganda had to be included meant that new templates for data entry and analysis had to be developed.
  - ❖ These entities included: Health Facilities at district level to capture indirect govt spending and donor organization. Data picked from these organizations could not directly be fed in to the DP sheets.



# Findings - Continued

## 3. Defining a financing agent in the Ugandan context

- In the Ugandan context the existence of multiple agencies that channel funds and make decisions at multiple levels, required consensus on who the 'financing agent' was for each transaction.

## 4. Reporting formats not compatible with NASA classifications

- Different reporting formats on HIV / AIDS expenditure against the NASA format in all the studied organizations.
- Inability to collect key data like information regarding production factors and beneficiary population.
- Aggregation of data: Institutions could not disaggregate data to the level required by the National AIDS Spending Assessment standard format.

# Findings - Continued

## 5. Different ASC in the NSP compared to the NASA ASC

- The AIDS Sending Categorizes stipulated by the UNAIDS guide to produce country NASA exercise differ from the ASC defined in the NSP. Hence difficulties in comparing NASA and NSP cost figures.

## 6. Large currency / Uganda shillings figures

- The RTS software is not designed to capture large figures. Currencies like the Ugandan shilling cannot be entered directly.

## 7. Incomplete information that can not complete a NASA transaction

- Poor documentation and storage of data especially at the lower levels of health care service provision made it difficult to complete a transaction, yet an incomplete transaction cannot be entered in the DP sheet.

# How did the team overcome the challenges?

CHALLENGE	WAYS TO OVERCOME IT
1. Selection & sampling of entities to be studied	20% of existing organizations found in each district were studied
2. Size of population of actors in HIV response unknown	Census of donors funding the HIV/AIDS response was done
3. NASA data capturing & analysis tools not applicable in some situations	New data entry and analysis screens were developed
4. Defining a financing agent in the Ugandan context	Expert opinion and consensus on who to consider as major FA was used
5. Reporting formats not compatible with NASA classification	Consensus by senior researchers and supervisors to appropriately classify collected data into the NASA format
6. Different ASC in the NSP compared to the NASA ASC	Only made comparisons where it was possible and appropriate
8. Large currency	Entered figures in 000s in RTS, but reported findings in millions
9. Incomplete data	Unfortunately nothing much could be done to salvage this challenge. Incomplete data was left out.

# Conclusions

- The existing standard NASA guidelines, methodology and tools are not fully applicable in many contexts in Africa.
- However, countries can come up with innovative ways of maintaining methodological rigor and sticking within the internationally acceptable standards, while at the same time ensuring that results are fully reflective of the country context.
- We recommend that a move towards reviewing and revising the NASA methodology be undertaken at global/international level, taking into consideration the developments in similar exercises such as the National Health Accounts and the System of Health Accounts.

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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**