

Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems
Working Group I
Conference Call December 18, 2008

Note for the Record

Participants: Julio Frenk (Harvard School of Public Health) co-chair, Anne Mills (LSHTM) co-chair, Edward Addai (Global Fund), Flavia Bustreo (PMNCH), Helga Fogstad (Norad), Elliot Harris (IMF), Brenda Killen (OECD), Chris Murray (IHME), Jacqueline Mahon (UNFPA), Srinath Reddy (All India Institute of Medical Science), Keizo Takemi (Harvard School of Public Health), Christine Kirunga Tashobya (Ministry of Health Uganda/DANIDA), Rajeev Venkayya (B&M Gates Foundation), Anders Nordstrom (SIDA) and chair of WG II.

Apologies: Martina Metz (BMZ), Peter Ndumbe (Faculty of Health Sciences, Cameroon)

Taskforce Secretariat: Nicole Klingen (WB) and Bob Fryatt (WHO)

Background to Taskforce: A short background briefing and update was provided. Points requiring action:

- WG1 and WG2 will collaborate very closely. This will be reflected in time table and frequent interaction between chair and co-chairs of the WGs.
- WG1 and 2 ToRs will be made available to all members of both WGs once finalized.

Working Group 1 ToRs: The discussion highlighted that given the tight timeline for the work there is need for the work to take into account existing information and materials. Suggested amendments:

- Section 9a of the ToRs needs to clearly spell out that building health systems is essential to deliver on all health related MDGs (1c, 4, 5 and 6) and that the focus of this work will be on the MDGs that are most lagging behind (MDG 1c, 4 and 5).
- Text in section 9b to include constraints regarding productivity, fiscal space, and patterns and volumes of domestic funding.
- Section 9d to include considerations such as scope for productivity gains, potential for crowding out or stimulating domestic financing, and the need to fund adequately higher level system functions above the service delivery level.

Timelines: Current timeline to be adjusted to reflect the need for a draft report to be available for the discussion in the first face-to-face meeting at the end of January scheduled for January 29 and 30, 2009 in Boston. The WG 1 report will directly feed into WG2 work and needs to be available to WG2 by mid February. It was decided that Anne Mills will provide the draft WG 1 paper prior to the January face-to-face meeting.

Next Steps:

- Working Group 1 members were asked to:
 - Share any piece of work or evidence related to the ToRs that can be referenced or used in the development of the draft paper with Anne Mills;
 - Contribute ideas to be reflected in the background paper such as those already discussed during the conference call.
- The Secretariat will:
 - Circulate revised ToRs for WG1
 - Revise timeline and communicate final dates for first face-to-face meeting
 - Circulate final ToRs for WG2