

## Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems

### Working Group I Constraints to Scaling Up and Costs Face to face meeting, January 29 to 30, 2009, Boston Note for the Record

Present: Julio Frenk, Harvard School of Public Health, Anne Mills, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, co-chairs. Edward Addai (The Global Fund) Flavia Bustreo (WHO), Helga Fogstad (NORAD), Jacqueline Mahon (UNFPA), Kampeta Pitchette Sayinzoga (MoF, Rwanda) Christine Kirunga Tashobya (MoH, Uganda), Rajeev Venkayya (Gates Foundation), Nicole Klingen, Bob Fryatt, Laura Coronel (Taskforce Secretariat)

Virtual: Elliot Harris (IMF), Martina Metz (BMZ)

Regrets: Brenda Killen (OECD), Chris Murray (Inst of Health Metrics & Evaluation), Srinath Reddy (Public Health Foundation of India), Keizo Takemi (Harvard School of Public Health)

#### **Objectives of the Meeting**

1. Discussion of the draft and agreement on the content of the WG I technical report.
2. Agreement on the timeline and working arrangements with WG II. Important consideration for the timeline of WGs I and II is the Taskforce meeting on March 12 in London. TF co-chairs PM Gordon Brown and WB President Robert Zoellick are expected to attend.

#### **Discussion of the draft WG I technical report**

The discussions followed the key sections of the draft report prepared by Anne Mills. The attached presentation provides a summary of the report (Attachment). WG I members approved the draft with recommended changes. The focus of the report is health system strengthening to meet all the health related MDGs and include solutions to ensuring that increased funding to health systems will help achieve the health MDGs.

1. Structure of the Report. Some re-ordering of the presentation of topics will be made, some sections will be integrated and other topics will be clarified with additional information including country-specific examples. The report will conclude with specific actionable recommendations that politicians can present to their constituencies. Actions:
  - *The Taskforce communications / public relations consultant will be requested to develop key messages from the report for politicians, media and the general public. The writer-editor supporting WG II will be approached to present the WG I report in a form more accessible to non-health policy makers, general public and the media. In communicating the messages from the report, it will be emphasized that the recommendations aim at improving people's lives.*
2. Health systems platform, benefit package and costs of scaling up. Health systems costing estimates will be provided by Feb 11<sup>th</sup> by (a) World Bank/UNICEF based on Marginal Budgeting for Bottlenecks (MBB) country costings and (b) WHO based on normative global price tag work plus new costings on broader health system costs. It was proposed that the report look at sustainability from a fiscal space / macro level and propose financing a package of benefits over at least a five year medium term. Actions:
  - *Julio will provide Anne with a paragraph defining health systems.*
  - *The costing groups will be informed about the proposed guaranteed package of benefits and asked to ensure their costs include a 'clinical overhead'. They also need to determine the health gains from additional spending, and reflect costs for suggested measures for strengthening health systems.*
3. Constraints to Scaling up. The WG noted the need for more discussion in the paper on equity issues, links between domestic and external financing, cultural barriers and country-level constraints including mention of government bureaucracies and mobilizing other sectors. Report will also note the issue of knowledge generation and use of advanced communication tools.

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4. Governance. Discussion on section proposed adding global good governance and directly linking with the Paris principles / AAA. Report should be clear in discussing what the governance issues are and why they are important, using success stories to highlight and noting that non-health policy makers are a critical audience for the report. Actions:
  - *Secretariat will share IHP+ work on validation.*
5. Financial Arrangements. The section needs to provide recommendations for countries while noting that no one size fits all. Financial arrangements need to be linked with funding flows. Financing strategies develop around priority interventions and towards results.
6. Delivery Arrangements. Review order of topic presentation. Important to note it is private and (not versus) public. Importance of focusing on health outcomes as a goal for delivery functions. Varied inputs for the section include looking at role of private sector in delivery, identifying other sector involvement such as in infrastructure investments, potential of telecommunication in the training of health workers, move discussion from HR shortage to HR imbalance (mix of needed staffing), linking resource or HR discussions with package of guaranteed benefits.
7. Types of flows of funds. Report will look at needs at country level including specific requirements for fragile states. Define different levels of flows from central government / external sources to sector to local authority. Key messages for flows: strengthen country systems and no complex financial engineering. Question remains for relating with countries with weak or absent governments.

### Other Actions:

- *Anne noted comments on each section and will prepare the final draft based on the day and a half of discussions and on written comments from members.*
- *Members are invited to send paragraph contributions for sections of the report. Jacky, Flavia and Helga will send contributions on MCH delivery and human resource issues.*
- *Nicole will share Julian Schweitzer's presentation on Resource Mobilization.*

### **Next steps, timeline :**

- February 11: costing groups present financing gaps to co-chairs
- February 13: co-chairs discuss reports with costing groups
- February 16: WG1 virtual meeting to discuss re-draft of Technical Report. WGII chair to participate. Dial-in details to be confirmed. Time: 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon EST.
- February 18: WGII virtual meeting, WGI co-chairs invited
- March 3: (TBC) WG1 and 2 full day face to face meeting in London.
- March 5 (TBC), TF consultation with Civil Society in London (with representation from WGI & WGII)
- March 12, Taskforce Meeting (with three WG chairs): 2-4 pm (also will be an event probably a "technical" presentation at LSHTM in the morning, and an evening reception with various dignitaries - details to come later, but all WG members in London will be able to participate in both)
- Detailed timeline in separate document