

Business Scaling-up Reference Group (SuRG)

8 December 2009

Draft Note for the Record

Participants:

Australia	Civil Society	GAVI Alliance	Global Fund	UNAIDS
UNICEF	EC	WHO	World Bank	UNFPA

ACTIONS:

1. The Global Fund will share a more detailed report on the lessons of NSA.
2. UNAIDS will circulate the full review of the NSA.
3. IHP+ Core Team will circulate two page update on Joint Assessment of National Strategies (JANS) prior to Steering SuRG of December 10th.

AGENDA:

1. Experience with National Strategy Applications (NSA)

David Salinas presented the Global Fund learning experience of NSA, with a special focus on its importance for the JANS process. Based on the first learning wave the NSA will be adapted. Additionally, the importance of preparation through desk reviews and the role of civil society were also noted. A more detailed report of NSA lessons is forthcoming.

Anja Nitzsche-Bell also made a presentation of the preliminary finding of the UNAIDS review of NSA. This review found that there was an inadequate response regarding provision of technical assistance and lack of appropriate tools for costing and budgeting health strategies. A full report is also forthcoming from UNAIDS.

Discussion:

- The World Bank asked whether or not the NSA was perceived as 'innovative' funding modality by countries. UNAIDS noted that recipient countries perceived the NSA as an innovative approach from the Global Fund, as the approach goes beyond the scope of disease-specific grants.
- Civil Society requested clarification regarding the 'meaningful participation' of CS in the NSA process. The Global Fund noted that CS participation took place in preparation, review, and implementation stages.
- CS also asked about the level of CS involvement of TB teams. It was noted that TB teams were included in disease specific area of the process.
- WHO raised the issue as to whether this process impacted transaction costs at the country level. UNAIDS noted that the process is cost intense. The GF clarified that the aim of NSA is to shift the funding and planning efforts towards National Strategies, so that initial 'costs' may increase, but overall costs should decrease over time.
- UNICEF underlined that the JANS process should be aligned with the CHES process.
- The EC noted the concern of some partners regarding links of JANS, NSA and Health Systems Funding Platform. The EC also asked how the GF and UNAIDS reviews link to JANS preparations in countries like Rwanda. Given the number of strategies being developed next year, additional clarification was also requested regarding how to move forward. WHO highlighted the numerous forthcoming strategies (35) as a potential opportunity for the JANS process and suggested dissemination of the 'JANS attributes' in order to provide guidance to countries in preparing national plans. The upcoming meeting in New Delhi will also focus on this.

2. Joint Assessment of National Strategies

Veronica Walford introduced an approach to documenting the lessons learned from JANS.

Discussion:

UNFPA noted the need for additional country perspectives in this process. Additionally, it was noted that sub-national organization has not been sufficiently addressed and linkages to macro level are not adequately articulated. The Joint Assessment has some potential for additional transaction costs, and the documentation effort should look at how the process is being dovetailed on existing processes. The World Bank noted that there is often a difference between perceived and real transaction costs and that it will be difficult to consider transaction costs without first setting a baseline.

UNFPA also voiced the preference that this work should be done by an external individual.

3. Any Other Business

- **HHA/IHP+ Nigeria Mission (October 24- Nov 6):** UNFPA gave an update on the recent mission to Nigeria. This mission was based on country demand and included a policy and technical aspect. The technical mission was supported by UNICEF, WB and UNFPA with UNAIDS, USAID and DFID also being involved. It reviewed 25 state plans and provided training to states in planning and budgeting. The policy mission focused on developing a common understanding of IHP+ for all federal officials. State health strategies are currently being developed by all 36 states. Costing of state strategies will be discussed in January 11-15; costing of the national strategy will be discussed January 25-29. A draft Federal National Health Plan may be ready as soon as the end of January 2010.

- CS asked about CS involvement in Nigeria's country compact preparation. UNFPA replied that CS was involved in this process.

- **GAVI/ Global Fund Board Meetings:** GAVI noted that the decision of its Board was to move forward with development of the Joint Health Systems Funding Platform in 3-4 countries based on a demand-led process. Discussions are ongoing regarding what this might practically involve at the country level. Currently, two proposals are on the table: Option 1: Single HSS Funding Application; Option 2: Fully harmonised and aligned, based on jointly assessed National Health Plans. The GF noted that its board had requested additional work to be taken forward to assess the implications of the Joint Health Systems Funding Platform and to see how it might possibly be implemented and funded. GAVI, GF and WB, facilitated by WHO, are working on a joint work-plan moving forward.

- **IHP+ in Asia:** There is increasing interest in the IHP+ from a number of Asian countries. Vietnam has just sent a letter expressing interest in the IHP+ and the JANS process. A scoping mission will be taken forward in Nepal to discuss JANS. Additionally, Core Team members will also travel to Manila in January to discuss the possibility of other Asian countries signing up to the IHP+ Global Compact. The upcoming meeting in New Delhi also presents an opportunity to discuss demand in Asia.

- **Other New Signatories:** Spain has sent a letter of interest to become an IHP+ partner.

- **SWAp Paper:** AUSAID commissioned analytical paper on experience with implementation of sector-wide approaches, and lessons for IHP+. Australia said that lessons from SWAPs would be useful for JANS. AUSAid is considering to request the IHP+ core team to commission this work.