

Business Scaling-up Reference Group (SuRG)
10 November 2009

Draft Note for the Record

Participants

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

ACTIONS:

Future Business SuRG agenda items should include:

- feedback on the recent inter-agency Nigeria mission to support the national planning process
- a debriefing on the GAVI and Global Fund Board meetings

1) IHP+ Core Team joint assessment preparatory mission to Rwanda

Feedback from Phyllida Travis and Finn Schleimann, IHP+ Core Team

The Rwanda Minister of Health expressed interest in a joint assessment of Rwanda's new national health strategy, and proposed a mission at short notice to coincide with their annual review of the national health plan. Mission objectives were: to understand current planning and review processes in Rwanda; to orient the MOH and partners on the joint assessment tool and possible application; to clarify the main purpose of a joint assessment in Rwanda, and agree whether and how to proceed. By the end of the mission it was clear that the Ministry of Health remained keen to organise a joint assessment, and the practicalities of roll-out were discussed. However the most appropriate timing has yet to be determined, as an extensive planning process has only recently been completed. A decision is expected from the Minister soon.

Other points and lessons

- The MoH sees several uses for the JANS exercise, including but not only being ready should new funding become available.
- Ways to manage the process so it is country-led, but with a strong independent element already exist in Rwanda. All partners should be involved early on through existing coordination channels.
- The assessment is likely to involve 1-2 weeks' preparation and document review, followed by 1-2 weeks field work.
- Civil society engagement is not automatic, and will have to be actively encouraged.
- Good preparation is essential. Similar visits should be a key step for other countries embarking on JANS.

2) Clarifying the relationship between HHA and IHP+

A SuRG discussion on the relationship between IHP+ and HHA has long been planned, and was raised again in the BCG review of IHP+ global management arrangements, because of continuing confusion. Chris Mwikisa and Agnes Soucat started with their perspectives on the distinctions and linkages, followed by a more general discussion.

Key points were:

- IHP+ and HHA are distinct. IHP+ is a global partnership, largely focused on enhancing aid effectiveness - persuading development partners to support common country health plans, systems and processes. HHA is an Africa-specific effort by UN agencies, WB and AfDB to improve their health system strengthening work

in-country by improving harmonization efforts. HHA members are all IHP+ Global Compact signatories, but HHA positions itself to provide support in any country in the African region, not just IHP+ countries.

- Despite this, because most IHP+ countries are in Africa, the confusion is likely to be hard to resolve.
- HHA has a 'virtual' secretariat in Brazzaville, with team members in each agency and monthly teleconferences to agree - for example - on support to a country, who should go on a mission, etc. Responses are thought to be maturing, in that they are becoming more inclusive and more responsive to requests rather than supply driven.
- There will be an HHA meeting of the Regional Directors for the involved agencies December 1-5, 2009 in Tunis. The proposed HHA work plan and budget, which are separate from the IHP+ work plan and budget, will be discussed there. This is also an opportunity to again share the IHP+ Phase II Workplan with HHA partners.

Looking ahead:

- HHA is developing a FAQ sheet to communicate its role more clearly
- HHA members will continue to share Technical Support requests through regular teleconferences. Partners that are not members of HHA but have expressed interest, have been invited to the Tunis meeting.
- An independent evaluation of HHA will be recommended to the Regional Directors meeting in Tunis.