

Business SuRG
September 15, 2009

Note for the Record

Participants

Civil Society	The Global Fund	WHO
The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation	UNAIDS	World Bank
GAVI Alliance	UNICEF	

ACTIONS:

- CS will revise the Action Plan by the end of October and re-circulate.
- The Core Team will circulate an FAQ sheet on joint assessment by mid-October.

1. Civil Society Action Agenda –

Sue Perez (Civil Society) introduced the revised action plan, which outlines the vision for CS engagement in the IHP+, including the guiding principles, functions, objectives, and governance structure. It was noted that the Phase II Budget of the IHP+ allocated for CS activities would make up a portion of the funding needed for implementation of the full Action Agenda, but that additional funds would be needed. Therefore, Civil Society may seek support from SuRG members to contribute additional resources as needed.

Discussion:

- UNAIDS noted the value in engaging CS organizations with a focus on provision of services.
- Geoff Adlide (GAVI) voiced concerns that the Action Agenda looks like it is setting up a new structure. He suggested that CS consider ways to use existing consultation mechanisms. He also asked how the Action Agenda links with the North-South Consortium (IHP+ Results) to hold partners accountable.
 - o CS acknowledged the concern about creating a new structure and shared that a recent meeting in Amsterdam among the CS delegations to various institutions helped to map out existing consultation and communication mechanisms that can be used for the IHP+ CS work.
 - o CS pointed out that the activities of the N-S Consortium (IHP+ Results) and activities related to accountability that are outlined in the Action Agenda are complementary and not duplicative. In preparing the Action Agenda, the CS reps were mindful of not wanting to duplicate activities already being carried out by the N-S Consortium. CS noted that activities may change and evolve as the work of the N-S Consortium unfolds.
- The Gates Foundation suggested that CS support may be more effective if CS support was more demand driven.
 - o CS responded that we need to balance being proactive with demand. There are many organizations that will not know there are resources available if they are not reached out to.
 - o The World Bank shared concern with GAVI about not creating a new structure and something that is permanent. The Bank noted that there is a flurry of CS activities and we need to ensure there is not a duplication of efforts. CS acknowledged that we need to avoid duplication, but also raised that CS also needs to have space to do its independent analysis and work.
- Partners requested further clarification of Figure 2, a more focused set of actions that fit with the IHP+ work plan and a revised budget for the pool of available funds.

- CS will revise the Action Plan by the end of October.

2. IHP+ Results

The Core Team gave an update on the work of the N-S Consortium (IHP+ Results). Eleven out of thirty-one surveys have been completed. A strategy for how to handle “silent” signatories of the IHP+ Global Compact is needed. There have been some misunderstandings regarding IHP+ results and concern has been voiced by partners at a number of different levels regarding the transaction costs of the IHP+ Results survey and process. It was emphasized that the review of the IHP+ is very much a learning experience and that work will continue to be simplified as much as possible throughout this process.

Discussion:

- UNAIDS noted that the surveys were poorly timed, as they were received at the beginning of the summer.
- Partners reiterated concerns about duplication of effort and the increased burden on the country level.
- The Gates Foundation noted the sensitivity of the exercise, but committed to providing a response by early October - as did several other agencies.
- Partners suggested the need to ensure that Civil Society’s behaviour is also assessed (perhaps in the form of a scorecard).
- The Core Team noted that the IHP+ Results work is in its first year and there are still many things to be worked out. It reiterated that the review of progress is based on ‘learning by doing’ and that the Core Team will ensure that the future process will be more synergistic with existing processes.

3. Joint Assessment

The Core Team presented the revised roadmap for joint assessment. Only minor formatting changes have been made to the Joint Assessment tool. All comments on the tool and guidelines are being kept to inform future revisions. It was noted that the tool is purposefully generic so as to allow for increased flexibility in its application and to learn from country application of the tool/joint assessment process. Lessons learned will be well documented, and linked to those from related exercises such as the national strategy application process of the Global Fund. Discussions regarding which countries might undertake the joint assessment process have been ongoing since August. Whilst Ethiopia begins this process in April/May 2010, it is likely that Rwanda will pursue joint assessment in October 2009. Nepal may also consider taking this forward.

Discussion

- GAVI requested clarification regarding how fast/when this process would be rolled out.
- The World Bank noted the importance of linking this work with the ongoing work on the joint Health Systems Strengthening platform.
- UNICEF noted there was interest beyond IHP+ countries- for example in India, and that there is a need for more public information.
- Civil Society suggested that the messaging behind joint assessment needed to be clearer, as it currently raises expectations for funding after joint assessment is carried out. CS also suggested that the core team develop a list of questions that will be used across the pilot countries so that responses can be compared across countries.
 - The Core Team noted that it is in the process of developing a joint assessment FAQ sheet which will be ready by mid- October.
- The World Bank noted the need to be pragmatic about the roll-out of this process in the first countries.