

Uniting for a Healthier Future

Highlights: *Second annual IHP+ Country Teams Meeting, the High Level Taskforce on Innovative Financing issues its final Report, Niger joins the IHP+, IHP+ Results Update, New IHP+ Website*

1. Second annual Inter-Agency Country Teams' meeting held in Bamako

The Second IHP+ Country Teams' Meeting took place on June 15 - 16 in Bamako, Mali. The objectives were to review progress and share experience since the first meeting in Lusaka and to get feedback from partner countries in four key areas: the development and added value of country compacts, joint assessment of national strategies; ways to track results and reduce the transaction costs of reporting, and the financing of national strategies. In the debate on joint assessment the need to support existing country processes was stressed. The discussion on financing was set in the context of the global economic environment and the work by the Taskforce for Innovative Financing for Health Systems was discussed. The session concluded that urgent evidence of progress in terms of improved results is needed in order to make the case for "more money for health" and "better health for the money". In the final session, country teams identified priorities for their own action over the coming year and priorities on which they would like to see action by the global development community. The Harmonizing for Health in Africa initiative (HHA) continued the meeting for two more days to discuss the way forward to improve coordination and quality of technical support to countries related to their national health strategies. [Read related documents](#)



2. The Taskforce on International Innovative Financing for Health Systems completes Final report

The Report of the [Taskforce on International Innovative Financing for Health Systems](#) was completed on 29th May at the third Taskforce meeting held in Paris. The recommendations of the High Level Taskforce cover the funding gap for delivery of the health Millennium Development Goals; a menu of options to fill this gap, enabling donors to choose which they elect to back; and, proposals for improving delivery channels, ensuring effective monitoring and accountability.

Recommendation 1: The Taskforce highlights the critical need to raise up to an additional US\$10 billion per year to spend on health in poor countries.

Recommendation 2: Expand the mandatory solidarity levy on airline tickets and explore the technical viability of other solidarity levies on tobacco and currency transactions.

Recommendation 3: Expand the use of the International Financing Facility for Immunization and other approaches to ensure predictability.

Recommendation 4: Provide public catalytic funding for large-scale private giving initiatives such as voluntary solidarity contributions and a proposed "De-Tax".

Recommendation 5: Establish or expand existing funds for results-based "buy-down" funding.

Recommendation 6: Strengthen the capacity of governments to secure better performance and investment from private, faith-based, community, NGO and other non-state actors in the health sector.

Recommendation 7: Make the allocation of existing and additional funds in countries more efficient, by filling gaps in costed and agreed national health strategies

Useful links: | [WHO](#) | [UNICEF](#) | [UNAIDS](#) | [World Bank](#) | [UNFPA](#) | [GAVI](#) | [Gates Foundation](#) | [Global Fund](#) |

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Recommendation 8: The Taskforce requests OECD/DAC with partners to undertake a review of all current technical assistance, with a view to focusing it on strengthening national and local institutional capacity in priority areas such as public administration and accountability, financing, service delivery arrangements and the non-state sectors.

Recommendation 9: Establish a health systems funding platform for the Global Fund, GAVI Alliance, the World Bank and others to coordinate, mobilize, streamline and channel the flow of existing and new international resources to support national health strategies.

Recommendation 10: To monitor how well we are doing, a regular forum will be held for countries and partners, building on the IHP+ Ministerial Review.

This report is the start of a process. The Taskforce will report to the G8 in July 2009. Prior to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2009, the Taskforce will conduct further consultations and facilitate the preparation of implementation plans for the recommended innovative financing mechanisms with relevant stakeholders. A regular forum will be facilitated by WHO and the World Bank to allow countries and partners, including civil society, to monitor progress. [Read the press release](#)

3. Niger Joins the IHP+

By signing the IHP+ Global Compact, on May 21st Niger became the 36th member of the International Health Partnership and related initiatives. Signing on behalf of the Minister of Health, Mr. Adani Illo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Niger to the United Nations in Geneva declared that **'signing the Global Compact represents an important step in creating a coherent and inclusive framework for health development in Niger. We hope that this will lead to more predictable, more efficient and increased aid'**. The signing event took place on the margins of the 62nd World Health Assembly in the presence of many other IHP+ signatories.



4. Ensuring accountability: IHP+ Results Update

In November 2008, the partnership commissioned an independent consortium called 'IHP+ Results' to annually monitor progress of all signatories in adhering to their commitments made in global and country compacts. IHP+ Results will monitor progress on an annual basis, drawing as far as possible on existing data and country processes. At the recent Bamako meeting, [IHP+ Results](#) presented their work on partner '[Scorecards](#)' which will be central to communicating their findings and invited groups and individuals to look at their website which offers easy online access to the information collected, as well as linking the IHP+ Results community. The site has a section where information, comments and suggestions can be entered. The first report from the consortium is due in December

5. The new IHP+ website

The [IHP+ website](#) has been redesigned as to allow better navigation and easier access to documents. With any change, some things will have slipped through our checking processes. If you notice any broken links, or would like to comment on the new look and new features, please send a message to info@internationalhealthpartnership.net

Useful links: | [WHO](#) | [UNICEF](#) | [UNAIDS](#) | [World Bank](#) | [UNFPA](#) | [GAVI](#) | [Gates Foundation](#) | [Global Fund](#) |

Launched in September 2007, the International Health Partnership (IHP) is a coalition of health agencies, governments and donors committed to improving health and development outcomes in developing countries. <http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net>