

**International Health Partnership and Related Initiatives (the 'IHP+')  
Scaling-up Reference Group (SuRG)  
Videoconference Note for the Record  
May 5, 2008, 10:00-11:30 EST**

Participants included representatives of:

GAVI	UNFPA
Global Fund	UNICEF
UNAIDS	WHO
	World Bank (Chair)

Apologies: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Julian Schweitzer (World Bank) opened the SuRG Video Conference by outlining the two items on the agenda: (1) Discussion of Zero Draft Compact Guidance Note and Comments Received and (2) The first Draft Country Compact: Ethiopia.

**1. Discussion of Zero Draft Compact Guidance Note and Comments Received (Andrew Cassels (WHO) and Bob Fryatt (IHP+ Core Team)):**

Andrew Cassels (WHO) and Bob Fryatt (IHP+ Core Team) asked SuRG members to provide feedback and additional comments on the Zero Draft Compact Guidance Note as well as on any of the other suggestions received.

The SuRG noted that the comments received were broad and discussions should be more focused. It was agreed that the draft Compact Guidance Note **SHOULD:**

- **Be country-driven.** The distinction needs to be made between a) country-driven and government-driven, and b) “country teams” and “SWAp teams.”
- **Be process-oriented.**
- **Seek inspiration from the Draft Ethiopian Compact.**
- **Be as simple as possible.** There were several comments were raised on whether it should be six, three, or four ones (the latter taking the financial framework into account).
- **Be a guidance note and avoid language that suggests that the Compact is a “legal document” or a “Contract.”**
- **Focus on mutual accountability and act as a framework.**
- **Acknowledge the current health and development landscape as well as existing sector coordinating processes in country and wider processes** (i.e. MoU, SWAp, etc), as well as note how the Compact “fits” into the overall development context.

- **Have a discussion on the value-added and incentives for countries to undertake the IHP+ process.**
- **Acknowledge the political factors that would drive the success of the Compact.**
- **Factor the importance of Health MDGs and outcomes in a stronger way (results agenda).**
- **Mention alternate financing for health rather than “abolishment of user fees” (i.e. community based health funds, voucher system, etc).**
- **Iron out issues around predictability of financing-i.e. how and when Donors would provide financing.**
- **Outline the division of labor within the country health sector teams.** Define the process and players and outline the roles and responsibilities of all involved.
- **Focus on getting broader input from CSOs/private sector as well as agencies not formally involved in the SWAp process.** It was noted that participation in Compact development by CSOs, particularly vulnerable groups, should be explicitly recommended. Inclusion of civil society cannot be assumed.
- **Reduce confusion between the key elements of a Compact.**

It was also agreed that the draft Compact Guidance Note **SHOULD NOT**:

- **Reinvent the wheel.**
- **Preempt the outcomes of the IHP+ Working Groups.**
- **Be a planning document.** The Compact Guidance Note must be flexible to country circumstance.
- **Be comprehensive.** The Compact Guidance Note should provide guidance (i.e. it should not explicitly reject/tell countries how to finance their national plan but should include something on financing and sustainability so that the country can have a discussion on this.)

**The IHP+ Core Team and SuRG members will have to delicately balance the tension of being country-specific on the one hand while also having a list of key elements on the other.**

The SuRG agreed that there should be a distinction between the process of the National Health Sector Plan (which needs to be validated) versus the Compact (which is about process and mutual accountability). **The draft Compact Guidance Note would need to carefully explain the distinction between the National Health Plan, the validation process, and the Compact.** It would be important for results outcomes to be achieved in the National Health Plan process.

The discussion ended by noting that the Compact needs to be orchestrated with the IHP+ Working Groups and that we should use the opportunity to use IHP+ country Compact drafts, such as Ethiopia, as part of the feedback process.

**It was agreed that the Compact Guidance Note needs to be redrafted and the language needs to be refined by the SuRG before it gets disseminated to a wider audience.**

#### **Next Steps:**

**1) The IHP+ Core Team to send the second draft of the Draft Compact Guidance Note to SuRG members by cob Friday, May 16, 2008 (EST), for discussion at next SuRG on 3 June.**

**2) The Draft Compact Guidance Note will then be further discussed with countries and a wider audience. Final deadline for the draft Compact: End of June.**

## **2. The first Draft Country Compact: Ethiopia (Agnes Soucat (World Bank)):**

Agnes Soucat (World Bank) opened discussion on Ethiopia's First Draft of the Country Compact. The Government has circulated a revised version of the Compact that was prepared last November. All agencies have been involved in discussions and have provided comments locally. The Ministry of Health of Ethiopia asks the global community to comment on the first Draft Country Compact.

It will be good to have a discussion at the global level on how to move forward and help agencies on the ground by anticipating any issues/ risks that may arise in meeting the commitments and obligations agreed to in Ethiopia's draft Compact (i.e. procurement issues, etc). It was suggested that a joint high level mission to Ethiopia might be a good way to move the agenda. This meeting would ideally overlap with the appraisal mission of PBS II scheduled for July.

### **Discussion:**

The SuRG noted that there seems to be a disconnect between the Zero Draft Compact Guidance Note and Ethiopia's Draft Country Compact. In Ethiopia's Draft Country Compact, there is more emphasis on better Donor behavior, which is not necessarily the main focus of the Draft compact Guidance Note. Agnes Soucat (World Bank) clarified that there is no apparent conflict between the Zero Draft Compact Guidance Note and Ethiopia's Draft Country Compact.

It was noted that Ethiopia already has a National Plan, which includes costing scenarios. Ethiopia also has a validation plan and a results framework. As such, the added-value of IHP+ lies in the process itself that countries go through while developing a Compact - which may not necessarily be included in the Draft Country Compact document itself.

The added value of the IHP+ Country Compact, for Ethiopia is pooled financing, donor harmonization and meeting the finance gap, as per the national plan. The added value of the IHP+ may be different for other IHP+ countries, as other IHP+ countries may want to focus on other aspects. For this reason, the Draft Country Compact should be flexible and should provide guidance on the process and the role of international development partners-who include financiers, technical agencies, and CSOs, etc.

The SuRG also discussed how the Compact improves upon the SWAp process in-country and the incentives for IHP+ countries to engage in the IHP+ process.

- **One value-added of the IHP+ is that it could potentially allow for broader agreement** (i.e. allow non-SWAp partners to sign an agreement with the Government around one common approach).
- **The IHP+ also adds value during implementation and enforcement of the Compact** (i.e. for different agencies to have an agreed upon approach to support government framework with safeguards for fiduciary and procurement issues-why joint mission/appraisal of SuRG will be helpful for progress).
- **For the IHP+ country, the IHP+ adds value by allowing them to discuss issues that may not arise under the SWAp process alone** (i.e. fiduciary framework).

The SuRG noted that the IHP+ is a useful exercise as long as the objectives are clear and there are set timelines for negotiation and discussions; the IHP+ process should be used as a learning opportunity to help other countries undergo similar processes.

### **Next Steps:**

- 1) ***The SuRG should read Ethiopia's first Draft Country Compact as an example and send comments on how Ethiopia's draft Compact relates to the Draft Compact Guidance Note.***
- 2) ***IHP+ Core Team to start exploring possibilities of inter-agency high level mission to consider implications, possibly linked to PBS II appraisal in July 08.***

### **3. Other Items:**

#### **1. Update on Southern CSO Representation on the SuRG:**

As per the outcomes of the last SuRG meeting, the IHP+ Core Team plans to have a Southern CSO representative in time for the next SuRG (June 3, 2008).

#### **2. World Health Assembly (WHA) Events: *(All SuRG members are encouraged to attend and participate.)***

- **Signing ceremony with new countries to take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2008-** 08.30 am at the Palais des Nations, Office of the Director-General. New signatories include Australia, Finland, Spain and Sweden, and Madagascar and Nigeria.
- **Technical briefing on Thursday, May 22, 2008-** 13.00-14.30 at the Palais des Nations. This lunchtime briefing will be jointly chaired by the WHO Assistant Director-General, Health Systems and Services and the Executive Secretary, GAVI Alliance. Presentations will cover progress of the IHP+, country progress with focus on developing a country 'Compact' from Ethiopia and Zambia, and a Panel Discussion with a mixture of development partners, international health agencies and Ministers from developing countries on the added value of the recent global initiatives, benefits at country level, etc. *Bob/Jane to circulate concept note with agenda.*
- **Consultation with CSOs regarding their engagement in the IHP+ on Friday, May 23, 2008-** at the Movenpick. *Nicole/Kate to circulate latest agenda and participant list on Wednesday, May 7, 2008.*

#### **3. Short-Term External Review:**

A consultancy group has been selected to conduct the external, short-term review of the IHP+. *Bob/Justine to send around a short informational note and the winning proposal.*

***NEXT SuRG VIDEOCONFERENCE: JUNE 3, 2008 10:00-11:30AM EST.***