

Third Country Health Sector Teams Meeting 9-10 December 2010 – Crowne Plaza - Le Palace Hotel, Brussels

The International Health Partnership (IHP+) is now 3 years old. It was created in 2007 to help accelerate progress towards the health Millennium Development Goals. There are now 50 signatories to the IHP+ Global Compact, including 24 developing countries and a wide range of development agencies. Civil society is also actively engaged at global and country levels.¹ All partners share a common interest in improving health services and health outcomes by putting the principles of aid effectiveness agenda into practice in the health sector.

IHP+ has had two previous country health sector team meetings to share experience on making health aid more effective. The 2009 country teams meeting in Bamako agreed that moving this agenda is difficult but worth the effort; and that progress is being made, albeit quite slowly. There was a call from country partners to 'close the gap' between global and country activities, to focus more on what is happening on the ground, and to become more specific on addressing the causes of slow change.

Since May 2009, there are 12 new signatories to the IHP+ Global Compact. There is increasing focus on supporting national health strategies and plans - both their design and, critically, their implementation. There is an increasing body of experience in building partner confidence through the Joint Assessment of National strategies; with introducing a common framework for monitoring implementation; with clearly committing support to strategy implementation through country compacts or other partnership agreements, and in the monitoring of progress against commitments made.

The big questions are:

- So what progress has actually been made in aligning with national processes and systems and what difference have these efforts made in countries?
- What challenges and barriers to change have been encountered?
- How have these challenges been overcome?
- Do we need to consider "doing things differently"?

This meeting will address these difficult questions through a combination of formal plenary debates, informal networking and small group discussions.

The meeting will specifically:

- Review achievements and challenges with:
 - The joint assessment of national strategies and how development partners align around strategy development, financing, implementation and monitoring.
 - Harmonizing fiduciary frameworks.
 - Adhering to commitments made in Global and Country Compacts
- Define ways to overcome challenges and adapt directions as needed.

Participants will include global and country level government, development partner, and civil society representatives from all IHP+ signatories. The meeting will be in English and French.

¹ Developing Countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, DR Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, Pakistan, Vietnam, Zambia; Multilaterals: African Development Bank, European Commission, ILO, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, World Bank, WHO; Bilaterals: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom; Other: Gates Foundation, GAVI Alliance, Global Fund; Letters of Support: PEPFAR, USAID, OECD