

## **P4H Update 2 - August 2009**

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### **1. Upcoming P4H meetings**

The next **P4H Focal Point meeting** will be on **30 September 2009** in Eschborn. We will mainly focus on operational issues relating to the P4H SHP framework, draft communications strategy, ongoing and future country work, links with IHP and other partners, and preparations for the upcoming **P4H Steering Group meeting on 14 October 2009** in Geneva.

### **2. P4H Focal Points [OP 0.1]**

France has announced two new focal points, Bénédicte Brusset (Agence Française de Développement, AFD) and Emmanuelle Jouy (French Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs). The coordination unit at WHO Geneva will be strengthened by Sophie Wanert (WHO) joining P4H in September 2009.

### **3. P4H Network [OP 2.1]**

Several organisations have expressed their interest in the topic of Social Health Protection as well as in collaborating with P4H. So far P4H had meetings and information exchange with the Gates Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Results for Development (R4D), Swiss DEZA and the African Health Economics Association (*see also paragraph below on India*).

### **4. Upcoming events [OP 5]**

There will be a health insurance workshop in Accra, Ghana on 19-23 October 2009 organised by Abt Assoc and Worldbank. Elodie Montetagaud has been representing P4H in the planning committee.

ILO and EC are planning a joint conference on Social Protection including Social Health Protection early 2010. There will be a meeting with EC at the end of August to discuss possible involvement and contributions from P4H.

### **5. P4H Framework for assessing and improving SHP [OP 0.3]**

The kick-off meeting in April and two rounds of comments have so far resulted in a 3<sup>rd</sup> draft of the framework, which has been circulated among P4H members this month. It is suggested to first get some practical experience with the application of the concept and core module before engaging in further revision and development of the framework. Its first application in the Uganda mission (3-14 Aug 09), possible peer review and the next steps will be discussed in the upcoming Focal Point meeting.

### **6. Communications Strategy [OP 0.4]**

A first draft concept has been submitted by Mondofragilis in July 2009. The document has been circulated for comments. The implications and next steps need to be discussed during the Focal Point meeting in September.

## 7. P4H country work

**Cambodia.** A P4H Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 15 June 2009. WHO, ILO, Germany and France have committed themselves to jointly support the Cambodian Social Health Protection Master Plan. [OP 2.2]

**Uganda.** A P4H team comprising WHO, Germany and France attended a national health policy workshop on 15-18 June 2009. The concept of SHP and the role of the Ministry of Health as steward in the transition towards universal health coverage have been included in the national health policy 2010-2020. The next steps are the development of a health sector strategy including a health financing strategy. P4H has offered its support in this process [OP 1.1].

From 3-14 August 2009, P4H conducted its first mission to Uganda with a team of 10 experts from WHO, Worldbank, ILO and Germany as well as external consultants. The mission focused on the proposed National Health Insurance Scheme, in particular its role towards achieving universal coverage and SHP, its links to health reform and the broader Social Protection Framework as well as operational design issues of the proposed scheme. A report including possible options on the way forward will be circulated for internal comments by end of August [OP 1.2; 1.3; 2.2; 5.1].

**Rwanda.** In its transition towards universal coverage, the Rwandan Ministry of Health has decided to introduce a capitation payment system. This forms part of the recommendations of a health financing review carried out by WHO. P4H is supporting a 6-month consultancy providing technical support to the MoH during the implementation process.

**Kenya.** P4H carried out a brief scoping visit to Kenya on 11-12 August. P4H has been invited to give a brief presentation during a health reform workshop conducted by the Ministry of Health. Kenya has made substantial progress in developing a comprehensive health financing strategy. Some of the next steps involving P4H include a 3-month consultancy providing technical support in preparation for the implementation of the health financing strategy, including a planned institutional audit of the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF).

**Tanzania.** The request from the Health Sector Reform Secretariat to P4H for establishing a national association/hub for the existing 113 Community Health Insurance Funds may require modifications after the announcement of the Tanzanian Government that the 113 CBHIs would soon be merged with the National Health Insurance Fund. Further consultations are needed to clarify the possible contribution of P4H in this new and welcome development.

**Nepal.** P4H had been invited to participate in a workshop on access to health care in Kathmandu from 11-12 Aug 09. However, the workshop was cancelled due to a Cholera outbreak. The new tentative date for the workshop is 29-30 October 2009.

**Philippines.** 50+% out-of-pocket spending, poor progress on MDG 1 and 5, growing inequity despite reasonable economic growth are issues to be addressed in a new proposed health financing strategy. However, with

elections coming up in 2010, some development partners doubt the possibility of the strategic shift needed to move towards better SHP. Thus P4H engagement requires further dialogue on suitable entry points and sensible timing of P4H support.

**Senegal.** France and WHO have started the dialogue with the government in Senegal about possible P4H support. A mission, coordinated by France, is expected to take place in early October. [OP 1.2]

**Mongolia.** P4H is supporting consensus-building and social dialogue in Mongolia. Social consensus-building is becoming an increasingly important issue for the reform process of the social health insurance in Mongolia. Since the ADB-ILO-WHO-GTZ workshop on consensus building in May 2007 a social dialogue process has been initiated. This led to the development of a social dialogue and consensus-building framework for guiding the reform process of the Mongolian social health insurance scheme. It is anticipated that the 'bigger picture' perspective of the P4H framework will contribute to this process and vice versa (e.g. that experience gained from the application of the framework will inform the further development of the P4H framework). Furthermore, Mongolia has requested P4H to facilitate a study tour to the Philippines.

**India [OP 5].** The Worldbank is planning to organize a series of seminars in India to help government officials and others at the Union and State levels to develop a hands-on understanding of the core public and private actions, frameworks, institutions, and policies that need to be in place for health insurance initiatives to succeed. The trainings are expected to start towards the end of 2009. The Rockefeller Foundation and Results For Development (R4D) have informed P4H about a planned Joint Learning Technical Workshop – Universal Health Coverage in Hyderabad, India – 3-5 February 2010. The organisers of both workshops/trainings and P4H are in the process of discussing possible synergies as well as possible P4H contribution to both training initiatives.