

Civil Society key messages for IHP+ Country Health Sector Teams Meeting

11-14 December 2012, Nairobi, Kenya

These agreed messages were developed at the IHP+ Civil Society Consultative Group Meeting held from 10-11 December and also discussed at the meeting with other civil society representatives at IHP+ CHTM on 12 December. They are not meant to be presented during the IHP+ CHTM but to serve as talking points for civil society representatives during the meeting.

1. The ongoing value of the IHP+

- Civil society recognises the value of the IHP+ in improving aid effectiveness in the health sector. It has helped to improve civil society engagement; helped to strengthen country ownership; and created a framework for accountability, transparency and measuring results.
- The IHP+ has contributed to improving coordination and harmonisation in the health sector; however, there is still more work to be done to fully implement aid effectiveness principles.
- Country governments are continuing to sign up to the IHP+ and some new development partners are showing interest in joining which is evidence of the continued value and relevance of the IHP+.
- Whilst we believe in the potential of the IHP+, civil society is concerned that not all development partners are living up to the commitments made in the global compact and urge them to take the necessary actions to accelerate progress.
- We welcome the recent commitment from heads of health agencies to use the IHP+ to further improve coordination and health development effectiveness.

2. Measuring Results

- Civil Society believes there is a need to strengthen and reinforce commitments to mutual accountability. This is the area that has seen less progress as shown in the IHP+ Results, yet is crucial for increasing accountability among country governments and development partners
- The IHP+ should support the development of a country-led process to improve accountability.
- There is great potential for the IHP+ Results scorecards to play a key role in holding IHP+ signatories to account. However, these tools have been underused to date and the findings inadequately disseminated outside of country health sector teams, including to national civil society.
- Civil society would like greater use to be made of the IHP+ Results report and scorecards and calls upon IHP+ partners to act upon the recommendations of the report.
- Civil Society would like improvement in indicators for measuring the engagement of CSOs in policy and planning processes including the IHP+

3. Mutual Accountability

- Civil society believes that mutual accountability still needs to be given more attention by the IHP+ partners. In order to make more progress in this area, we recommend that more support should be given to countries to lead national mutual accountability processes, and also enhance the use of other tools that have been developed by the IHP+ (e.g. JANS, IHP+ Results).
- We also believe that there is a need for a global accountability mechanism that would ensure transparency, participation, proper evaluation and a mechanism for addressing shortfalls within national and global mutual accountability mechanisms.

4. Civil Society Engagement

- When the IHP+ was first launched, there was a lack of civil society engagement and low acceptance of the value of civil society. Now, five years on, this situation has dramatically changed. The IHP+ is now helping to strengthen civil society involvement in health policy processes and civil society is accepted as an equal partner in the governance structures of the IHP+.
- We welcome the support that the IHP+ and few development partners are providing to improve civil society engagement in policy and planning processes within the health sector. We encourage IHP+ and other partners to provide more support to civil society in this regard. Despite progress, there are further ways that the IHP+ could strengthen meaningful civil society engagement, particularly at the national level. For example, the IHP+ should continue to encourage civil society to sign country compacts and a mechanism should be put in place to ensure that the CSOs invited to participate in national processes are truly representative of national health CSOs in the country and are engaging their wider constituency.
- We would like to see that IHP+ continues and increases its support for the development of regional and national health CSO platforms, including helping to mobilise financial resources. We also would like the IHP+ to do more to encourage country health sector teams to more meaningfully engage civil society.
- Civil society commits to improve coordination at the national, regional and global level in order to improve the effectiveness of our engagement in global, regional and national health policy processes.

5. Post-2015

- Civil society believes the process to develop a post-2015 development framework provides an opportunity to gain more support for the IHP+ and its principles.
- Civil society calls upon all IHP+ partners engaging in this process to ensure that health continues to be prioritised and that principles of development effectiveness are integrated into the new framework.

For more information on IHP+ Civil Society Consultative Group, please contact any of the following:

- Mayowa Joel – mayowa@africadevelopment.org
- Elaine Ireland – eireland@sightsavers.org
- Louise Holly – L.Holly@savethechildren.org.uk
- Innocent Laison – ilaison@africaso.net