

International Health Partnership: “first wave countries”

Subject: IHP resources for in-country teams

In the global IHP+ implementation plan, approximately \$7 million of the total has been allocated to in-country work under Action Area 1 of the IHP+ work-plan. Some of the funds have now been secured, and the purpose of this note is to clarify how the funds will be allocated:

A) First, US\$50,000 to be provided each to WHO and WB offices to cover the costs of (i) in-country meetings and events related to the IHP dialogue, (ii) preparing a short 'stock take' report on progress, for presentation at the country teams meeting taking place in Lusaka on 29th February and 1st March 2008. (Terms of reference for these stock-taking reports are attached), and (iii) supporting the costs of government and partner engagement in the Lusaka meeting.

B) Second, funds will also be available for country-teams based on a proposal for strengthening health coordination in each country, agreed with all the agencies that take part in the **existing** country team¹ (or health partners group). This proposal may cover activities under five broad headings:

1. Strengthening ways of working between government, national and international stakeholders working in health;
2. Strengthening health sector coordination capacity in agencies & governments;
3. Joint analytical studies to assess health system and agency constraints to scaling up health services;
4. National events to disseminate new knowledge, promote learning & build national consensus on health sector policy options for scaling up health services;
5. Contribution to inter-regional guidance on 'good practice' for engaging national and international stakeholders in country health sector planning, monitoring, review & coordination².

In developing the proposal the following points should be taken into consideration:

- The proposal should be short (maximum two pages or 1500 words) with the following sections:
 - Background information;
 - Objectives;
 - Deliverables/products with timetable;
 - In-country responsibilities for carrying out the work;
 - An Annex providing a summary budget.
- The development of the proposal should be facilitated in-country by WHO and the World Bank;

¹ This is term used to describe the existing arrangement (as of November 2007) of international and national development agencies working in a coordinated support to the health sector.

² This refers to a piece of work that will be facilitated by the IHP+ core team; details will be circulated at a later date.

- All members of the existing health partners group/health sector team, including government representatives, should be engaged in the development of the proposal, utilizing existing forums and coordination mechanisms wherever possible;
- The proposal should cover an 18 month period covered by the IHP+ work-plan (up to March 2009).
- Existing guidance (available in WHO) on joint programming with UN and World Bank should be used for more detailed business rules (audit etc).
- The maximum amount available from the IHP+ core team for this 18 month period will be *on average US\$ 800,000 per country*.

Any queries about the process for completing the proposal should come to either Chris Mwikisa in WHO Brazzaville, Bob Fryatt in WHO, Geneva and Nicole Klingen in World Bank, Washington.

The proposal can be submitted in French or English and a first draft should be submitted by January 31st or before. The proposal will be assessed by the IHP+ core teams in Geneva, Brazzaville and Washington using the above guidance as criteria for assessment. Decisions will be made within 5 working days of receiving the proposal.

Out of the maximum of USD 800,000 per country, an average of US\$400,000 per country is available in January 08 for allocation and spending by December 2008; future tranches will be released up to the agreed amount in each proposal as more funds become available.

Funds for proposals will be routed via WHO country offices and use of the funds will be reported on using standard WHO reporting procedures, with short reports provided globally when reporting on progress in implementing the IHP+ work-plan.

Annex: Terms of reference for 'Taking stock' reports, as defined in the IHP+ work-plan

It is suggested that all 8 “first wave countries” of the IHP, will undertake a stocktaking exercise on national health plans and strategies and report on the status of support to this, so that the global and regional audience all have a common understanding of country status. This is very contextual and will depend on the level of progress in the countries. This analytical exercise will, if possible, provide summary information on the following areas outlined below. If this information is not available for the country, then the reports should make this clear.

Current status of National Health Plans and strategies, focusing on:

- Current composition and structure of existing national sector coordination groups for health (including HIV/AIDs), under a government lead.
- Existing National Health Policies and Strategies, and the broader development context (PRSP, MTEF, etc.) as well as outputs identified in the national plan and level of achievement;
- Health sector reforms /investment plans, with financial requirements for national health plan implementation, and identification of funds available and financing gap by source;
- Summary of current national domestic health sector financing strategies and structures;
- Health system and agency bottlenecks and constraints that have already been recognized as needing to be removed by inclusion in national plans and review mechanisms;
- Identification of required changes in process/relationship with development partners and civil society in order to implement the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness;
- Identification of technical assistance needs for preparing the compact and other sector instruments (e.g. plans, costings, MTEF, and implementation strategies); and
- Timetable of key events for 2008-9 (sector reviews, major evaluations, etc).

Suggestion for IHP+ countries: Summary of other discussions related to development of a country 'compact':

- Road map for development of a country compact;
- Current views on 'value-added' of developing a compact; and
- Timetable for completion and signing of a country compact signing.

Suggested format of report

A simple format will be supplied by the IHP+ core team; the expectation is that the report will short (less than 10 pages), with attached national documentation as thought necessary (National Plans, Codes of Conducts, compact road-maps etc). A poster presentation of the main points of the report will also need to be prepared for the Lusaka meeting; details on this will be supplied nearer the time.