

Scaling Up for Better Health

Highlights

Widening support for the IHP+ • Impact of the global financial and economic crisis on health • New documents on Positive Synergies • Interagency Working Group on Results-Based Financing Update • IHP+ at Meeting of Ministers of Health of South East Asia • Update on validation of national health strategies and plans • Global action for health systems discussed in Tokyo • High-Level Taskforce on Innovative International Finance for Health Systems

1. Widening Support for the IHP+

1.1. The US Government voices its support to the IHP

'The United States welcomes the contribution of the International Health Partnership and supports the principles on which it is based, which derive from the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. We share a strong interest in supporting efforts to build health systems and prevent and treat diseases' states the letter cosigned by USAID's Director Henrieta H. Fore and US Global Aids Coordinator, Ambassador Mark Dybul. [Read the letter in full.](#)

1.2 GAVI Board agrees to pilot a new business model in IHP+ first wave countries

GAVI's engagement in the IHP+ was a topic of discussion at the recent GAVI Board meeting. GAVI agreed that it would use the IHP+ process to explore new and more effective ways of developing sustainable immunization coverage at the country level. [Read the GAVI Board report on the IHP+.](#)

1.3. EU Ministers briefed on the IHP+

As part of a conference on 'The Future of Parliamentary involvement in Global Health and Development' hosted by the Belgian All Party Parliamentarian Group on the MDGs, European Parliamentarian Group on Population and Development and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, European Union Ministers were briefed on the IHP+. The European Commission has subsequently briefed its Head of Country delegations with the intention of strengthening its engagement in the IHP+. [Read the brief for EC Heads of Delegation.](#)

2. IHP+ News

2.1. Impact of the global financial and economic crisis on health

On 12 November 2008, Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General, issued a statement on the possible implications of the current financial crisis on health. "We face a severe financial crisis of unprecedented dimensions in a world that has never before been so closely connected and interdependent. The consequences are global. The situation is volatile. The current financial crisis is rapidly becoming an economic crisis and threatens to become a social crisis in many countries." [Read the statement in full.](#)

2.2 Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Results-Based Financing Update

Briefly stated, results-based financing (RBF) for health is cash or goods provided when measurable actions are taken or a defined performance target is achieved. It is an innovative financing strategy that can increase the impact of investments in health by providing a financial or in-kind reward conditional upon achievement of agreed performance goals.

The RBF IWG recently released the first Update on its work. [Read the first edition of RBF update.](#) In addition, an interim results-based financing web site was launched by the World Bank in August 2008. www.worldbank.org/hnp/rbf

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2.3 IHP+ at the Meeting of Ministers of Health of South East Asia

At the twenty-sixth Meeting of Ministers of Health of South East Asia held in New Delhi, India, 8–9 September 2008, the participants were briefed on the IHP+. Dr Margaret Chan, WHO Director-General pointed out that the MDGs cannot be achieved unless there is a radical change in the way the UN system, donor agencies and national governments function. She stressed the need to adopt a results-based approach and strengthen transparency and accountability. 'In this way IHP+ can deliver on the Paris Declaration and become one of the most important tools for scaling up health services delivery' she said. [Read the report](#)

2.4 Update on validation of national health strategies and plans

During the last 6 months, an interagency working group with members from WHO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, World Bank, Civil Society¹, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, GAVI Alliance and the Global Fund has focused on defining the key attributes of national health strategies or plans and on outlining a process through which financing agencies can use the assessment/validation of national health strategies or plans to make more predictable and substantive funding decisions. Based on the defined attributes, an assessment tool has been developed. Mechanisms for including an independent element to national planning and review cycles are being considered in this context. It is envisaged that the consultation on and piloting of the assessment tool will take place in three phases (country consultations, testing and piloting) leading to a broad consensus on the overall assessment/validation process in 2009.

2.5 Global action for health systems discussed in Tokyo

As a follow-up to discussions around the last G8, a conference on global action for health systems strengthening was held in Tokyo on 3-4 November, involving leaders from agencies involved in the global effort to strengthen health systems, [see the summary of the conference](#). Draft papers were discussed, on [health information](#), [health workforce](#) and [health financing](#), which will now be amended for publication and are attached here for information.

2.6 New Documents on Maximizing Positive Synergies

The Report of the 3rd expert consultation on maximizing positive synergies between health systems and Global Health Initiatives has been issued. [Read report in full](#). In addition, a new booklet has been written to support the advocacy work around maximizing positive synergies between health systems and Global Health Initiatives. [Read advocacy document](#).

High-Level Task Force on Innovative International Finance for Health Systems

The work of the High-Level Taskforce on Innovative International Finance for Health Systems recently began - the first meeting of Focal Points representing Taskforce principals agreed on the general [workplan](#) and agreed a final draft of [Terms of Reference and Management Arrangements](#).

The first Taskforce meeting will take place in December as a side event at the Doha Conference on Financing for Development. A final set of recommendations will be ready ahead of the G8 Summit in July 2008. A series of regional consultations will follow shortly thereafter and a report will be prepared for the UN General Assembly in September 2009.

Australia has also now joined the Taskforce naming its Minister for Foreign Affairs Stephen Smith as its Taskforce principal. [Read the background documents on the Taskforce](#).

¹ HIV/AIDS Alliance, Treatment Action Group, and Health GAP