

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE  
INTERNATIONAL HEALTH PARTNERSHIP AND  
RELATED INITIATIVES (IHP+) FOR MADAGASCAR

Madagascar signed the « International Health Partnership +» in May 2008. IHP+ is intended to help developing countries to speed up progress towards the health-related MDG.

The first step in the process is the development of a country Compact, which is an agreement negotiated between the Government of Madagascar and its technical and financial partners to harmonize and align the support provided, on the basis of a costed and results-based national strategic plan, on which external support is aligned, and which serves to mobilize the resources required to attain more ambitious objectives in the field of health, especially with regard to the MDG. Moreover, the Compact should ensure better use of assistance and provide increased, reliable and sustainable funding by reinforcing coordination and mobilizing technical and financial resources within the framework for implementation of the Rome and Paris Declarations. Lastly, the agreement will ensure greater transparency between the authorities, development partners and civil society. Madagascar is committed to producing its Country Compact by the second quarter of 2009 at the latest, with signature being scheduled for mid-2009.

Strategic national plans :

Thanks to the Government's effort, Madagascar now has a satisfactory mechanism for strategic planning in health. The Madagascar Action Plan (MAP) was launched in November 2006, on the basis of the vision 'Madagascar Naturally' and of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG); since September 2007, the joint biannual reviews of the health sector have been conducted with the Government and all its partners; the Ministry of Health and Family Planning has drawn up a medium-term expenditure framework (MTEF) 2009-2011 for the health sector and will update the Health Sector and Welfare Development Plan (HSWDP) for 2007-2011 in conjunction with its partners.

The preliminary results for the MTEF show that in the period 2009-2015, additional expenditure required to achieve reductions of 46% in child and infant mortality, 29% in neonatal mortality and 44% in maternal mortality are estimated to be at least US\$ 7.02 per person from 2010. In 2009, the Ministry's programmes also require at least 11% of the State budget, while the 2009 budget act proposes 9.2%.

The HSWDP 2007-2011 has been recognized as the sectoral document guaranteeing implementation of the strategies for health, as defined in the MAP aligned on the MDG and on the other international commitments. When it was drawn up, HSWDP was designed as a tool to permit optimization of interventions/programmes for health development and as a consolidated planning paper for the sector which would reinforce partnership between the Ministry and its technical and financial partners. The plan will be updated at the beginning of 2009 to identify priorities covered by the budget.

In order to enhance the efficacy of assistance and strengthen overall coordination, the Government and its partners have launched the sector-wide approach as a suitable method of work for the development of the health sector.

Framework for coordination:

Thanks to the framework for coordination to improve coordination of interventions in the health sector, it has been possible to hold the following:

- The partners' Round Table in May 2008, to mobilize resources for the implementation of the Madagascar Action Plan.
- The follow-up meetings to the presidential dialogue in November 2008.
- Periodic meetings of the Country Coordination Mechanism.
- Periodic meetings of the health sector, chaired by the Minister of Health
- Joint biannual reviews, including the nutrition and HIV/AIDS components (in May and December 2008).

The next steps in preparing the Compact :

The first step towards the Country Compact, the *Guiding principles of the harmonized sectoral approach* (Annex 1), were signed after the third joint health-sector review at the beginning of December 2008. The signing by all the health sector's technical and financial partners, including the National AIDS Control Council and the National Nutrition Office governs the implementation of the sector-wide approach in the health sector. These guiding principles will steer the Ministry of Health and Family Planning (MSPF) and for the technical and financial partners (TFP) towards the adoption and implementation of a harmonized sector-wide approach. This approach is designed to develop a single framework to permit dialogue between MSPF and the TFP, to strengthen the consistency of financial policy thanks to better targeting and enhanced predictability of the assistance provided for the sector and significantly to harmonize the interventions of TFP in the sphere and improve their efficacy, in conformity with the principles set out in the Rome (2003) and Paris (2005) Declarations.

Against this background, and with a view to producing a first draft of the Compact by the end of March 2009, a workshop on IHP+ for Madagascar is to be held from 27 to 29 January 2009, under the joint leadership of the World Health Organization and the World Bank, at the Headquarters of the World Bank in Washington D.C. The purpose of the workshop will be to bring together the Government and its partners to draw up the framework of the Compact and its broad outline, together with the indicators to be used to closely measure progress towards the commitments of the MAP and the MDG. The results of the workshop will be annexed to the next report.

However, further efforts are needed in order to produce a consolidated document that would simultaneously encompass AIDS, the Global Fund and GAVI. Although the figures for the MTEF 2009-2011 have already been calculated and the size of the overall funding gap determined by comparing scenarios, it has become necessary to come up with a rational and realistic framework in terms of priorities that have been jointly determined and for which the relevant work plans are available.

In respect of the sector-wide approach, partners need to reinforce their support to the Ministry for effective coordination of the SWAp, by providing technical assistance and helping the Ministry to establish/strengthen its leadership. Implementation of the strategy for harmonization is still in its infancy.

Specifically, in future it will be necessary to:

- specify the results-based strategies for the common priorities, including, inter alia, HIV/AIDS and to remove the main bottlenecks in the health system by concentrating

on equity. This component calls for regular consultation with the main stakeholders in the sector, including civil society and the private sector.

- establish, using a single budget drawn from the MTEF, the single framework for the strategy's results, setting out priorities on which a consensus has been reached, to fund the gap detected;
- set up a system for joint monitoring, by enhancing transparent methods of reporting results and regularly consulting the sector's main stakeholders (including civil society and the private sector);