

International Donors commit to work with Mali in improving health results

Bamako, April 20th, 2009 - The Government of Mali needs an additional US300 millions over the period 2009-2011 to implement the National Health Programme. The aim is to achieve health related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

Today, twelve development partners¹, donor countries and international health agencies, signed the International Health Partnership (IHP+) Compact, pledging to increase and streamline their efforts in assisting Mali to improve health results.

Reducing the financial gap, providing predictable funding and greater alignment to national planning, budgeting and aid management procedures are some of key donors' commitments laid out in the Compact..

'The compact will strengthen the dialogue and cooperation among partners. It will also help to increase the funding predictability and the mutual accountability' said Mali's Minister of Health Dr. Oumar Ibrahima Toure,

In the past ten years the sub-Saharan country has made significant progress in health. Most notably, child and maternal mortality has decreased by 20-25%. However, Mali still lags behind other African nations on almost all health indicators. For example, compared to the African average, the country only has a quarter of the health workers, unequally distributed between urban and rural areas.

'Despite recent progress, eight women giving birth and 312 children under five die every day in Mali. Most of these deaths can be prevented' said Jacob Waslander acting ambassador of the Netherlands, the leading development partner in the preparation of the Compact, *'by making our strategies more efficient, together we can make a difference'*.

Mali is the fourth country to sign a IHP+ Country Compact. The Compact is an understanding between the Government of a developing country and its Development Partners, and provides a framework for increased and effective aid.

The IHP+ seeks to achieve better health results by mobilizing donor countries, other development partners and international health agencies around a single country-led national health strategy, guided by the principles of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness to reach the health MDGs. As of April 2009 the IHP+ has thirty-five signatories.

**For more information on the IHP+ please visit
www.internationalhealthpartnership.net
or contact Tarik Jasarevic, on jasarevict@who.int or call +41797472756**

¹ Belgium, Canada, European Commission, France, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank