

# Uniting for a Healthier Future

## Highlights

IHP+ Ministerial Review, News from the High Level Taskforce, Update from the Working Group on National Health Plans and Strategies, Inception meeting of North-South Consortium, HMN role within IHP+

### 1. IHP+ Ministerial Review Meeting

On 4th and 5th February 2009, the WHO and the World Bank hosted the first [ministerial review](#) of the International Health Partnership (IHP+) in Geneva that provided an opportunity to all signatories for an open exchange of views on progress so far and challenges to overcome. The outcome document, [Communiqué](#), identified six areas where more efforts are required: improving in-country collaboration; development of a common approach to in-country assessment of national health strategies; changing behaviours to deliver on commitments described in Country Compacts; stronger mechanisms for mutual accountability; increased civil society engagement and harmonization of procurement policies.



### 2. IHP+ News

#### 2.1. Uganda and Rwanda sign up to the IHP+ and letter of support from OECD/DAC

The Ministerial review provided an opportunity for Rwanda and Uganda to sign up to the IHP+ and to become the newest members of the Partnership. "In Uganda we fully appreciate the benefits of quality partnerships. The IHP provides the vehicle for us to collectively budget, implement and monitor our progress in delivering our shared outputs and outcomes. Together we share the challenge". Said the Ugandan Minister of Health dr. Stephen Malinga. A [letter](#) of support from the Director of the [OECD/DAC](#) sent to WHO Director General and to WB Vice-President was also a welcome addition to the momentum of the IHP+ in the run up to the Ministerial Review.

#### 2.2. High Level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for health systems

The second meeting of the [High-Level Taskforce](#) was held on 13th March at No. 10 Downing Street, London. The First Reports from [Working Group 1](#) and [Working Group 2](#) were presented. Progress towards the health-related MDGs is impeded by insufficient funding, poor use of resources, unbalanced funding of different services, and fragmented funding flows. A review of the various innovative financing options for mobilizing more resources had narrowed down over 100 mechanisms to a short list including: Tax and levies, including the existing Air Ticket Levy and a new proposal for a DETAX which was presented to the Taskforce; Frontloading, including expanding the existing International Finance Facility for Immunisation to broader health systems; Approaches to increase voluntary contributions; Leveraging in resources and expertise from non-state actors, including the private sector; and Mechanisms to enhance markets, such as Advanced Market Commitments. Final draft reports would be ready for consultation by mid-April, and France offered to host the next meeting of the Taskforce on 28 & 29 May. A [note of the discussions](#) is available on the [web-site](#), together with more communications received by co-chairs regarding the work of the Taskforce. In particular the Global Fund and Gavi Alliance in their [letter](#) to the Taskforce Chairs expressed their intention to begin jointly programming resources towards health system strengthening. This process will be facilitated by the WHO Director general.

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### 2.3. Civil Society Consultation for High Level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems

The Taskforce is holding a series of stakeholder events to seek views. The first event took place on Thursday 5 March 2009 in London where more than 50 civil society representatives from Europe, Africa and the US attended. Speakers included Professor Anne Mills, co-chair of one of the Taskforce's Working Groups, and members of the other members of the Taskforce. A [final report](#) of the consultation has been prepared and various civil society groups are sending their own comments to Taskforce members and to the secretariat, which has prepared a place on the [web-site to receive comments](#). A further consultation is planned for May prior to the next Taskforce meeting.

### 2.4. Inter-agency work on National Health Plans, Strategies and Budget

In response to feedback from the IHP+ Ministerial Review the Working Group on National Health Plans, Strategies and Budget has clarified concrete steps to improve the communication flow and to re-brand the process. The term Joint Assessment is now being used instead of "Validation" and the new user-friendly [briefing document](#) is now available to better explain key elements of the Joint Assessment process.

### 2.5. Independent review of progress: Inception meeting of North-South Consortium

The recently appointed North-South Consortium has launched its '[IHP+ Results](#)' to implement the Global Compact commitment to 'an independent, evidence-based assessment of results at country level and the performance of each of us individually as well as collectively'. A three-day inception meeting brought together 40 participants representing consortium partners: London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, Oxfam International and Country Researchers from the IHP+ countries; an Advisory Group of international experts, Civil Society and partner agencies, to discuss how the IHP+ Results Framework will be put into action.

### 2.6. Health Metrics Network (HMN) role within IHP+

[HMN](#) is working together with WHO, World Bank and other agencies to coordinate and strengthen national health information systems. Richard Manning, Chair of the HMN Board, who attended one of the sessions in London said: 'HMN is committed to the Paris Declaration principles of country ownership, harmonization and alignment. HMN shares the IHP+ vision to help countries be accountable to their citizens and advocates for investment in national information systems to improve the health of all people.' The IHP+ interagency working group working on monitoring and evaluation has also recently provided an [update](#) to the SuRG on its plans for Phase II of the IHP+.

### 2.7. 'Global Action for Health Systems Strengthening' - final report now available

The [final report](#) on 'Global Action for Health Systems Strengthening' has been recently released at the Tokyo meeting in November 2008.

## 3. Upcoming Events

3.1. **The 4th Expert Consultation** on Maximizing Positive Synergies between health systems and Global Health Initiatives will be held 26-27 March at WHO, Geneva in preparation for High Level meeting in June

3.2. **Third Meeting** of the [High Level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems](#) will take place in Paris at the end of May hosted by the French Minister of Foreign Affairs Bernard Kouchner.

Useful links: | [WHO](#) | [UNICEF](#) | [UNAIDS](#) | [World Bank](#) | [UNFPA](#) | [GAVI](#) | [Gates Foundation](#) | [Global Fund](#) |