

International Health Partnership and Related Initiatives (IHP+)
Business Scaling-up Reference Group (SuRG) Meeting
 November 25, 17.00-18.30 Geneva time

Participants included representatives of:

GAVI	UNFPA
The Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria	UNICEF
Martin Taylor, Consultant	WHO
UNAIDS	World Bank
	Treatment Action Group

Action Points

- Development partners will use CHST documents as the basis for internal agency discussions; Martin Taylor will take SuRG comments into account, make amendments and circulate a draft before the end of the year
- Ministerial Review documents will be shared with the SuRG in December taking into account comments made by SuRG
- SuRG members will provide comments on the draft invitation to the Ministerial Review by November 28.
- The Core Team will distribute a draft IHP+ Phase 2 workplan at January business SuRG meeting (15 Jan) for input.
- The next Steering SuRG is on December 8; the next Business SuRG is on December 11.

1. Country Health Sector Teams – Martin Taylor

Martin Taylor presented the preliminary findings of an assessment of the IHP+ Country Health Sector Teams (CHSTs), which included two draft documents on good practices in CHST partnership and options for strengthening partnership in CHSTs. For more information, see Martin's presentation to the SuRG.

- Work is based on interviews with IHP+ partners (40 people). Feedback was generally positive, with the exception of various Governments and members of Civil Society.
- The ambitious agenda of CHSTs requires strong leadership and people to take forward the work. It will be important to consider ways to increase leadership of the government and what to be done in cases where national leadership is lacking.
- Civil Society engagement can be strengthened by improving engagement in CHSTs and also including CS more in inter-agency working group work.
- Investment in CS capacity building is needed.
- The Private Sector is interested, but not yet involved in the IHP+ at the country level.
- Transaction costs of different funding arrangements should be considered.
- The OECD has a document on the role of incentives on aid effectiveness in donor agencies, which includes a self-assessment tool. This may be valuable to IHP+ partners.
- UNAIDS also has a report on incentives, highlighting the need to also consider perverse incentives.

Comments/Discussion:

- Development partners will use these documents as the basis for internal discussions.
- UNAIDS noted the importance of contextualizing this work in the recent reform of the UN agencies.
- The Global Fund suggested that more analysis be done on the relationship the Country Cooperation Mechanisms (CCMs) and CHSTs and suggested a discussion of the barriers and opportunities of merging the responsibilities of the CCMs and CHSTs.
 - GAVI similarly suggested that the relationship between ICCs on immunization and CHSTs be considered.
 - Martin Taylor said that CCM issue is being discussed in indirect way and that he has planned a meeting with GF on CMM issues
 - UNAIDS also noted the the important relationship at country level between National AIDS Councils (NACs) and CCMs, Therefore any study of the relationship between CHSTs and CCMs should take the NACs/CCMs link into account. In countries where the CHST is in fact a health/AIDS group, the direct link between the group and the NAC is relevant as well.
- GAVI stressed the importance of understanding how sub-sectoral groups relate and report.

IHP+ Business/Steering SuRG DRAFT Note for the Record, DATE

- UNICEF commented on the varied levels of capacity and division of labour in country offices. It was also noted that documents do not address the role of partners who have not/can not signed the Country Compact.
- UNFPA noted the importance of exploring the macroeconomic linkages of this issue and highlighted the need for cross sectoral linkages and peer country learning, requesting that these issues be further addressed/considered.
 - Martin Taylor agreed that macroeconomic and intersectoral issues should be looked in to further.
- Civil Society noted that it is open to having Country Compacts include a section on civil society commitments to be held accountable for. Civil society even suggested this for the Ethiopia compact, but it was not taken up. Civil Society also suggested the possibility of including Civil Society in already scheduled trainings of other development partners so as to increase efficiency and minimize costs of parallel trainings for Civil Society capacity building.
- The World Bank noted that the report should be more frank, with clear recognition of successes and failures of implementation and ways of working at the country level. Key conditions of success should be clearly noted (strong country leadership, etc.).
 - This work should serve as an indicator of progress to be discussed in the upcoming Ministerial Review.
 - It was suggested that this work should provide recommendations on how to address the varying levels of representation/authority of development partners at the country level. Similarly, the distinction between state and country authority in implementation should be recognized (i.e. Nigeria).
 - It was noted that the role of virtual communication (VCs, etc.) should be considered; particularly as some development partners do not have a presence at the country level. Other development partners echoed this sentiment.
 - Martin Taylor acknowledged the possibility of virtual members to CHSTs, but noted the need for CHST members to be able to be contacted easily.
 - UNICEF noted that the more virtual the CHST, the greater the need would likely be for a stronger, secretariat-like management structure.
 - It was suggested that the experiences from SWAPs (good and bad) should be further explored in these documents.
 - It was strongly requested that the language of the documents be carefully reviewed so as not to inadvertently suggest that strong development partner quality standards are obtrusive, particularly in areas such as procurement and financial management.
 - Martin Taylor noted that the issue was not rigidity of individual partner systems, but rather the differences among partner processes. The language of the documents will be carefully reviewed.
- WHO noted the importance of considering the issue of continuity in the context of changing of actors.

2. IHP+ Ministerial Review February 4th and 5th – Rudolph Knippenberg, UNICEF

Rudolph Knippenberg clarified that the Ministerial Review will be a high-level meeting of all signatories, including Ministers and Heads of Agency. A draft letter of invitation has been circulated and partners were asked for comments by Friday, November 28.

The main objectives of the Ministerial Review are to:

- 1) To reinforce the commitment of all development partners to the goals and objectives of the IHP+ Global Compact.
 - 2) To collect feedback from all development partners on progress in delivering on commitments made under the IHP+ Global Compact.
 - 3) To provide an open forum for discussion of behavior change of all IHP+ development partners.
 - 4) To agree upon actionable plans for resolving bottlenecks to implementation of the IHP+ Global Compact, particularly at the country-level.
- The agenda of the Ministerial Review is currently being revised, but will be structured around the commitments made in the Global Compact. A draft agenda and background note will be circulated by the Core Team in December.
 - Day 1 events will focus on reviewing the commitments made in the Global Compact, signing up new partners, and reviewing the related High-level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems.
 - Day 2 events will focus on partner progress, behavior change, and accountability.
 - Discussions will be based on Chatham House rules, to foster frank and open discussions.

Comments/Discussion:

- Partners noted that the agenda seems quite full and requested that draft documents be shared for further comment.
- UNFPA stressed that all discussion should be put in context of financial crisis and noted that the external review should not be used as a basis for discussion rather as a background document as to avoid polarization.

3. High Level Taskforce – Nicole Klingen, World Bank

Nicole Klingen updated partners on the Taskforce progress.

- Taskforce focal points have met three times.
- The first Taskforce meeting will take place in Doha on December 1, 2008. The second meeting is tentatively scheduled for April; the third for July.
- Two Working Groups have been set up. Working Group Chairs have been named, but members have not yet been finalized. Working Group 1 Chair – Julio Frenk; Working Group 2 Chair – Anders Nordstrom.

4. Response to the IHP+ External Review – Justine Hsu, WHO

Justine Hsu reminded SuRG members that template of response to the External Review has been sent out to partners and that the feedback is requested by December 10.

5. IHP+ Phase 2 workplan – Bob Fryatt, WHO

Bob Fryatt explained that the workplan for Phase II of the IHP+ is under development by the Core Team and will be shared with the SuRG in December. The workplan will cover 2009-2011.

6. Other Business

- Sue Perez requested an update on dissemination of the Civil Society Guidance Note for engagement in CHSTs by development partners.
- UNFPA suggested that the Taskforce be an agenda item for the next SuRG and requested a more substantive update on objectives and ways of working of the Taskforce.
- UNICEF noted that the inter-agency Working Group on Service Delivery will soon be established and representatives from WHO, UNICEF and WB are meeting soon to agree a way forward.