

**International Health Partnership and Related Initiatives (the 'IHP+')  
Scaling-up Reference Group (SuRG)-Business SuRG  
Videoconference (VC) Note for the Record  
July 8, 2008, 10:30-12:00 EST**

Participants included representatives of:

Treatment Action Group	UNFPA
International AIDS Alliance	UNICEF
Global Fund	WHO (Chair)
GAVI	World Bank

Apologies: The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and UNAIDS.

**1. Civil Society Engagement in Country Health Sector Teams**

Sue Perez (Treatment Action Group) gave a summary of responses to a draft paper on Civil Society (CS) engagement in country health sector teams. Feedback was received from the Global Fund, the World Bank, UNICEF, and WHO. Suggestions included changes to the tone, as well as some word and phrase changes. Overall feedback received will help to make the guidelines more widely accepted and welcome at country level.

Sue noted that the next draft will be written as a SuRG document to IHP+ countries, rather than as a document from CS to the SuRG.

The biggest challenge foreseen will be trying to ensure adequate CS representation at the country level. The guidelines will make clear that CS representation needs to cover the wide spectrum and diversity of CS in-countries and the paper will try to ensure a fine balance between being both broad and manageable.

**Discussion:**

The CS representative from Ethiopia mentioned CS has recently been invited to be part of a taskforce composed of government and development partners to review the Compact. While the incorporation of CS as part of the taskforce represents good progress made, many CSOs in Ethiopia are still unclear on the IHP+ process or developments.

Sue Perez (Treatment Action Group) noted that continued communication and the institution of having checks and balances in place are key to ensuring successful implementation of the IHP+ in-country; everyone should have the same level of understanding and knowledge of where all parties are.

### **Next Steps:**

- Sue and Elaine to incorporate UNFPA's as well additional comments received for the next draft.
- The next draft will be sent to the Business SuRG before being further distributed to the Steering SuRG and outside parties.

## **2. Selection of North-South Consortium to Monitor and Evaluate Progress of the IHP+**

Bob Fryatt (IHP+ Core Team) provided an update on the selection of the North-South Consortium. A request for proposals will be sent out shortly. The consortium will be selected end of August/early September. In order to oversee bids as they come in, a selection panel needs to be formed. After discussion, the following representation for the selection panel was proposed:

- 1 representative from the World Bank
- 1 representative from WHO
- 1 representative from UNAIDS, UNICEF, or UNFPA
- 1 representative from the Global Fund or GAVI
- 2 CSO representatives (on north and one southern academic institution)
- 2 development partners (CIDA and UK or Norway)

### **Discussion**

It was decided that Daniel Low Beer (Global Fund) will be representing the Global Fund/GAVI. UNICEF/UNFPA/UNAIDS noted that they would get back to the IHP+ Core Team on their representative. Peter Salama (UNICEF) suggested considering a representative from Canada's CIDA, to better ensure that the evaluation is in-line with the IHP+ framework. Sue Perez noted that they would appreciate knowing who the southern academic institution is before they can comment.

### **Next Steps**

- UNICEF/UNFPA/UNAIDS to get back to the IHP+ Core Team on representative.
- IHP+ Core Team to get back to the Business SuRG on the composition of the final panel of representatives.

## **3. Convergence of HSS initiatives**

Bob Fryatt (IHP+ Core Team) reported on outcomes from the June 17, Steering SuRG on the possibility of moving towards a common communication strategy for all HSS related initiatives.

Bob noted the possibility of separating out responsibility for, communication on the multiple global initiatives (to develop common messages/language) from the merging of different initiatives, which is the responsibility of the Development Partners

concerned. The former the IHP+ Core Team can address, the latter may be better for donors to coordinate amongst themselves in another forum/mechanism.

Bob recommended the need for a group to be set up to work on this and a note should later go out to partners on IHP+ communications. The note will look at key messages, frequency of communications, and best methodology to ensure two-way communications, etc. IHP+ communications should center on making sense of the initiatives at the country level as well help standardized program guidance to stakeholders in country.

### Discussion

The Business SuRG agreed that the merging of initiatives should be left for donors to coordinate. The Business SuRG agreed that common communications would be more powerful if done jointly and concurrently. It was recommended that the initial note needs to reach a broader audience and that all stakeholders need to be involved at country level. Peter Salama (UNICEF) suggested that this work also be extended to develop common program guidance for country teams.

### Next Steps

- The IHP+ Core Team will produce Terms of Reference for IHP+ common communications, including how the IHP+ Core Team wishes to involve other partners.
- UNICEF volunteered (a) Ruldolf Knippenberg (for programmatic areas) and (b) a Communications contact-person.
- Nicole Klingen (IHP+ Core Team) volunteered Phil Hay (World Bank).

## 4. Country Compact Guidance

Nicole Klingen (IHP+ Core Team) gave an update on the Country Compact Guidance Note that was sent to the SuRG on June 13, 2008 for comments. Comments were received from the Global Fund and CS. This time, the comments received noted that the draft guidance note was too vague. The next version will try to ensure a better middle ground.

### Discussion

Discussion centered on next steps for the Compact guidance note. It was agreed that it would be important to send the draft out to country health sector teams and get feedback on their thinking relatively soon rather than sending it back to the Business SuRG for comment.

### Next Steps

- The draft version of the Compact guidance note will be revised to incorporate comments received and will be sent to a wider audience.

## 5. Expanding International Investment in Health Systems Strengthening

Bob Fryatt (IHP+ Core Team) opened discussion on a recently circulated draft paper on expanding international investment in health systems strengthening, prepared by the IHP+ Core Team after discussions with the World Bank, WHO, and GAVI. Bob recognized that the paper focuses on two financial mechanisms, while in actuality there may be many other ways health systems can be strengthened. Bob made clear that this paper is not an attempt to link funds raised to any particular institution; the paper has been circulated for information given the importance of the discussion. It is not intended to be a SuRG policy paper. Bob noted that some of the analysis still needs to be worked on; and more work will need to be done on clarifying the different funding mechanisms, and their relative merits.

### Discussion

During discussion of the draft paper it was made clear that if it were the basis there were areas where it would need to be strengthened, in particular: the objectives of the document; whether it was a “final draft” or could be amended; insufficient focus on the resources required and health system components (as against just the two financing mechanisms); need to clarify why only two funding mechanisms were highlighted. It was noted that the two financing mechanisms chosen tend to focus on external instruments with little or no mention of domestic resources, technical assistance, or mutual accountability.

On the proposed expansion of IFFIm, questions were raised on whether or not a funding mechanism for immunization would even be the best way to promote more investments on health system strengthening. A suggestion was made to examine the Debt2Health agreement of the Global Fund (using the example of Germany and Indonesia).

Sue Perez (Treatment Action Group) suggested the possibility of (a) drafting a paper on resource mobilization that can be linked to G8/Global commitments and/or (b) drafting a chart that maps the different financing mechanisms available (including synergies, conditions, requirements) in countries, so countries can get a better sense of where they can go for money. She also questioned whether the World Bank is the best organization to take on expanding health systems investments given the previous problems of not being able to track investments.

The Business SuRG then discussed the mounting political pressure, which lead to the drafting of this paper and the subsequent need to examine different instruments in a more objective manner, to make the best case for raising new funds. As different agencies are being approached by donors and new funds are constantly being proposed and created, there is a real need for some work that can discuss funding mechanisms that are linked to results and not necessarily mechanisms linked to any one particular donor/agency.

It was suggested that it may be a good idea to prepare a two-pager for the upcoming H8 meeting in July that can bring together these issues for the H8 members to discuss. Peter Salama (UNICEF) noted that the H8 already plans to talk about post-G8 followup in July, this allotted time, could be a good opportunity to discuss some ideas, direction and guidance for subsequent discussion.

## Next Steps

- A final version of the paper will be done by the IHP+ Core Team, taking into consideration comments received and others that are sent.
- These discussions will be used to prepare a programme of work to look at the broader questions raised.
- The IHP+ Core Team will prepare a two-pager/ briefing note for the H8 meeting on expanding mechanisms to invest in health systems strengthening

## 6. For Information:

### 1. H8 Meeting-July 22, 2008-Washington, DC, USA

Nicole Klingen (IHP+ Core Team) gave a brief update on the upcoming H8 informal meeting on July 22, 2008 at the World Bank in Washington, DC. The World Bank is hosting this event. Draft agenda items include:

- A short update on the IHP+ given by Julian Schweitzer, focusing on H8 progress, validation/appraisal and Country Compacts. *A short briefing will be prepared for the H8 on IHP+ progress, timelines, and on progress made with IHP+ working groups.*
- A discussion on what the H8 is doing in India, the challenges they face, and where and how they can better improve collaboration towards the MDGs.
- A discussion on metrics and measurement. *A draft paper will be prepared for the H8 on how the H8 can better align metrics and measurement and how this work can be link to the IHP+ at the global and country level.*
- A free-flowing discussion on the follow-up to the G8. H8 leaders will discuss what the post G8 agenda will be and where they would like to take it.

### 2. Short-Term External Review of the IHP+: Presentation of Initial Findings on July 25, 2008

Bob Fryatt (IHP+ Core Team) gave a brief update on the short-term external review, undertaken by *Responsible Action*. Initial findings will be presented to the Business SuRG on July 25, 2008. This represents an opportune time to flag up any important issues and receive feedback on the IHP+.