

**IHP+ Reference Group**  
**13 February 2014**  
**Note for the Record**

**Participants:** Sierra Leone, Sudan, GAVI, UNFPA, UNAIDS, EC, Germany, Civil Society North and South, World Bank, WHO.

**1. Welcome:**

Phyllida Travis and Finn Schleimann welcomed new colleagues to the IHP+ Reference Group. According to the Terms of Reference (attached), the IHP+ Reference Group will support the Core Team in implementing the IHP+ Work Plan and serve as a forum for information sharing and collaboration.

**2. Update on IHP+ Steering Committee:**

The IHP+ Steering Committee (SC) met for the first time on 15 January 2014 in Geneva. The objectives of the meeting were to (1) review and agree on overall IHP+ strategic directions 2014-2015 and to (2) advise on ways to more effectively address selected priorities through IHP+.

The Core Team provided feedback on 4 key areas of discussion:

- (1) *Intensified action at the country level and among development partners:* the Steering Committee i) broadly endorsed the twin-track approach; (2) emphasized the need for improved communication and strengthened follow-up at country level; and (3) encouraged IHP+ to involve more countries in intensified action work. Thus far, Senegal, Myanmar, Sierra Leone have been the primary countries involved in this agenda, 2 more countries are expected to shortly confirm their interest in being involved.
- (2) *M&E – a recap of the joint IHP+ CoIA session during the IERG meeting in Geneva:* this joint session, which took place on Day 2 of the IERG meeting and was the opening session of the IHP+ Steering Committee meeting, addressed the implications of global monitoring demands on countries, and the need to streamline reporting requirements and strengthen national information & accountability platforms. The task force, headed by WHO Director-General, on rationalizing and streamlining indicators and reporting requirements will report back during the IMF-World Bank Spring Meetings.
- (3) *Financial management:* the SC agreed that financial management harmonization and alignment will be a priority for IHP+, conditional on some modifications to the suggested approach. To take this forward a Technical Working Group will be established. Its revised TOR will be circulated for approval by the Steering Committee.
- (4) *Additional areas of work:* the SC proposed to take forward 2 items not included in the work plan, including i) identifying how IHP+ can be more responsive to the changing health aid & development landscape and influence the post-2015 agenda, and ii) procurement – the added value of IHP+ in this field will be further discussed by a small inter-agency group.

Next Steering Committee meeting will be June 20, in Geneva.

**3. Myanmar Update:**

At the World Health Assembly in May 2013, the Myanmar's Minister of Health said the country was in the early stages of managing an increasingly diverse set of development partners now ready to support the health sector. At his request, IHP+ undertook a short mission in Myanmar (26-31 August) where the team (1) conducted a rapid review of current mechanisms to improve harmonization and alignment in the health sector and (2) identified key areas for short-term follow-up. In January 2014, during the visit of the World Bank President, the President of Myanmar agreed to create a high-level health strategy which will be presented with a view to gain broad support during the WB-IMF Spring Meetings.

**4. Any other business (AOB)**

- Following the Dalberg Report on the CSO Health Policy Action Fund, discussions are ongoing regarding the possible continuation of this funding.
- Cape Verde is expected to finalize its Country Compact end February.

- Louise Holly informed that the IHP+ CSCG is finalizing its work plan and will share it upon completion
- The Core Team has begun planning for the 5<sup>th</sup> Country Health Teams Meeting. The CT will keep the Reference Group abreast of progress.
- Next Reference Group call will take place on March 27.