

Are you a civil society organization working in health? Have you heard of the International Health Partnership (IHP+)?

IHP+ is a global initiative to improve development cooperation in health. It potentially really matters to your country and the way your country's health system is financed and functions. It ultimately affects the health of citizens. So if you work in health, here is what you need to know about IHP+.

The puzzle

Many organizations and countries around the world donate money and expertise to improve health in developing countries. This is good, really good! The problem is that all this support is not well coordinated. Donors have their own plans about what to offer a country. A country can have many donors, all with different ideas. Governments are over-burdened by different projects to implement, and lots of reports to write. It wastes precious resources.

A country has its own national plan for health services. But because of the lack of coordination, some types of health services receive too many funds, and others too little. A developing country could provide

better health services if all the donors supported the national health plan in a coordinated manner.

What does IHP+ do?

IHP+ is a global initiative to promote just this. Donors and governments sign a global compact and make commitments to support one agreed national health plan, with one common budget and one shared way to measure progress. IHP+ is not a project or an organization. It is an initiative, where a group of people and organizations from all over the world try to improve development cooperation to achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including universal health coverage (UHC).

Working according to development cooperation principles is good for many reasons. Alignment to national strategies and systems and coordinating efforts makes a

huge difference to the efficiency and effectiveness of the health sector. A stronger health system will ultimately improve the health service, and the health of citizens.

Aligning for better results – what CSOs can do

Find out:

- 1 If your government is a signatory to IHP+;
- 2 Which of your country's donor agencies are a signatory to IHP+; and
- 3 Whether these donors are working with each other and the government to support the national health plan.

You can also:

- 4 Mobilise a CSO platform for advocacy;
- 5 Advocate for effective development cooperation and coordination principles to be put into practice at both government and donor agency level; and
- 6 Support the government to choose the right priorities and develop a comprehensive and strong national health plan.

At the global level, international and national CSOs are a part of IHP+'s governing body, called the Steering

Committee. There is also a Civil Society Consultative Group, which discusses CSO engagement with IHP+ issues. IHP+ thematic working groups also include civil society representation.

IHP+, SDGs and UHC

IHP+ continues to be relevant in the new SDG framework.

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Adhering to the IHP+ principles is critical for efforts to strengthen health systems. It is a key step to achieve the SDGs, including universal health coverage and improved health security.

We are asking for a big change; but by working together, we can make a *big* difference. As CSOs, IHP+ needs you to be involved. Please find out more on our website.