

High-Level Forum on the Health MDGs, 8-9 January 2004

Summary of Recommendations for Action

Resources for Health and PRSPs

1. Countries should have a *single* process leading to one "MDG-responsive" PRSP.
2. In order to facilitate this process, countries should be encouraged to prepare health sector strategies with investment plans based on well-documented needs and costing scenarios.
3. Members of the HLF will ask the next Development Committee to request that the World Bank and IMF incorporate into their joint assessments of PRSPs explicit reference to and review of progress toward MDGs. The UN Secretary-General will be asked by the Millennium Project to endorse this recommendation to the DC.

Aid Effectiveness and Harmonization

4. The Secretariat of the HLF will establish a small working group on Aid Effectiveness and Harmonization to:
 - Link with the OECD/DAC work on harmonization and, with the participation of developing countries, draw out lessons on common methods and instruments for the health sector and review achievements to date.
 - Follow up on country pilots on budget support for the health sector.
5. A paper on *Aid effectiveness, poor performers and countries in crisis* will be presented to the next HLF. It will draw on existing work by the World Bank, WHO, UNDP and OECD/DAC, and provide recommendations on how to work with these countries to achieve the health MDGs.

Human Resources in Health

6. A working group will be established by the HLF Secretariat to:
 - Assess spending on human resources in health by development partners.
 - Develop a series of in-depth HR studies with selected developing countries addressing: the current stock of health personnel; requirements to meet the MDGs; the deployment of health personnel. This work should link with related work in the World Bank, WHO and the ILO/Joint Learning Initiative.
 - Establish a link with the Global Commission on International Migration, and ask it to look at the impact of migration on health. The Commission will be asked to report to the next meeting.

Monitoring Performance

7. The HLF welcomed the Health Metrics Network and encouraged its rapid launch, possibly at or around the World Health Assembly in May 2004.
 - The secretariat of the HMN, which will be located for the first 18 months in WHO, was encouraged to disseminate the draft business plan to HLF members.Among priority tasks that were given particular emphasis are:
 - The agreement on a set of intermediate indicators, and definition of process indicators, including measures of policy and institutional performance, to regularly gauge short-term progress towards the health MDGs.
 - The development of a "report card" to illustrate progress to be presented to the next HLF.It was also noted that the HMN will take forward work on disaggregation of data, the improvement of its quality, and the coherence of data collection platforms.

The HMN will report on these issues to the next HLF.
8. The World Bank and WHO, in collaboration with OECD, are to look at the feasibility of improving the tracking of financial investment in the health sector at national level, from domestic and external sources, using NHA and other financial flows data.

The Work of the HLF

General
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The HLF must maintain a “light touch” and an informal format allowing for open discussions; No prepared statements should be given.▪ A life-span of four meetings is envisaged. The need for further meetings will then be reviewed.▪ Ensuring high-level attendance is important.▪ The HLF must remain action-oriented.
Format
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ In drawing up the participant list, the Secretariat must maintain a balance between inclusiveness of membership and the need to remain informal, action-oriented and regionally balanced.▪ The HLF should retain a focus on specific issues or themes, while allowing open and flexible discussions.▪ The next meeting should include more breakout group discussions, as well as a greater focus on the lessons learned from specific countries.▪ It was suggested to assign lead responsibilities for agreed actions.▪ The role of the HLF in public relations/public education on MDGs will be reviewed.
Next Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Nigeria has offered to host the next meeting, in the last quarter of 2004, provided that formal endorsement by the Government is given and that requisite support is provided. The Secretariat will coordinate with Nigeria to set a date.▪ Greater participation of finance ministers in the next meeting will be sought.▪ An agenda will be developed by the Secretariat, according to discussions in Geneva. It will include a focus on poor performers and countries in crisis, and a report on progress towards each of the agreed action items above
Immediate Follow-up to January 2004 Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ The Secretariat will disseminate a summary of agreed conclusions and recommendations for specific actions.