

# 2004 PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE SECRETARIAT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON THE HEALTH MDGs

## Introduction

The purpose and scope of this programme of work are to:

- Highlight ongoing work in WHO/WB which is relevant to HLF recommendations;
- Identify specific *activities and products* that will be undertaken by the Secretariat;
- Clarify responsibilities and involvement of partners, including who within the HLF secretariat will take on the lead in following up on the deliverables.

The Secretariat does not have a major programme of technical or country-based work in its own right. Rather, its prime function is to draw on work that WHO and the World Bank are doing - as part of their own work programmes - in order to prepare for meetings of the Forum.

## 1 Health Sector Strategies and PRSPs in the context of MDGs

*"Countries should be encouraged to prepare health sector strategies with investment plans based on well-documented needs and costing scenarios."* (HLF recommendation 2)

WHO and the World Bank are already active in supporting countries to prepare appropriate, costed health sector strategies and health components for their PRSPs. This support includes *costing* the scaling-up of interventions that will accelerate progress towards the health MDGs, reviewing issues of *absorptive capacity* and institutional development, and engaging with Ministries of Finance in discussion of macroeconomic constraints and budget ceilings affecting the health sector. Several strands of work are in progress using different costing methods and financing and budgeting instruments, including *marginal budgeting for bottlenecks* and work by the MacroHealth Initiative.

### Products and tasks for the next HLF:

- Review of tools and approaches (including costing tools) for supporting pro-poor health strategies and MDG-responsive PRSPs, and a set of recommendations on their use.
- 5 country case studies on process and outcomes.
- Background paper synthesizing lessons and setting out critical issues

*Lead agency for these deliverables:*

World Bank in close collaboration with WHO, the Millennium Project and other partners.

## 2 Aid Effectiveness and Harmonization

The Secretariat ....*"will establish a small working group on Aid Effectiveness and Harmonization to: a) 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; and b) follow-up on country pilots on budget support for the health sector."* (Recommendation 4)

Ongoing work in WHO and World Bank on this issue includes working with **countries** to addressing issues around *harmonization of health partners*, through identifying institutional mechanisms to advance co-ordination, joint policy work and pooling of funds. At a **global level**, both WHO and the Bank are working with and tracking the activities of other institutions working to increase harmonization and aid effectiveness, including recent developments in relation to harmonization of international AIDS funding led by UNAIDS.

#### **Products and tasks for the next HLF:**

- Development of a broad-based analytic framework for synthesizing findings from case studies (carried out by other institutions and groups) on budget support / harmonization processes.
- Commissioning of a further 4 case studies on these issues. These will be carried out in countries with very different contexts: highly aid-dependent; countries with low aid:GNI ratios; and countries classified as poor performers (see also section 3).
- Preparation of a review / synthesis paper which maps existing work on harmonisation in health and contains key lessons / findings from the work outlined above.
- Convening of a small working group of donors and developing countries which looks at the harmonisation agenda from a health perspective. The HLF working group will review preliminary findings from the case studies and guide the development of issues papers for discussion at HLFII.

*Lead agency for these deliverables:* WHIO in close collaboration with the World Bank, OECD/DAC Working Group on Harmonization, and other partners.

### **3 Countries under Stress and Underperformers**

HLF members stressed the need to examine issues of aid effectiveness, harmonization and PRSPs (outlined in more detail in sections 1 and 2 above) in "poorly performing" countries. These include countries recently emerged from conflict, and those with extremely weak institutional capacity.

#### **Products and tasks for the next HLF:**

- 3 country case studies on aid effectiveness / harmonization issues in "poor performers"
- A synthesis paper setting out key issues

This component is intimately related to sections 1 and 2, and the required work will be carried out jointly by WHO and the World Bank. The Working Group on harmonization in the health sector will also consider the situation and issues in countries under stress.

### **4 Human Resources for Health**

HLF Secretariat is to "(i) Assess spending on human resources in health by development partners; (ii) 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; (iii) establish a link with the Global Commission on International Migration." (Recommendation 6)

WHO and the World Bank both have initiated programmes of work to monitor and strengthen health workforces in developing countries. In addition, an informal group initially convened by UNAIDS and DFID has focused attention on the human capacity crisis in Southern Africa. Progress in five countries, where different agencies will take a convening role, will be reported through the HLF. Additional work that will be carried out on behalf of the HLF (in liaison with departments in WHO and the World Bank concerned with HRH) is outlined below.

#### **Products and tasks for the next HLF:**

- 3 in-depth case studies on countries which have successfully improved HRH in resource-constrained environments, and a synthesis paper which proposes policy options for improving HRH in poor countries
- A consultation which brings together all interested parties to review ongoing initiatives related to human resources for health (HRH), and to create a small working group that

- will prepare a report to the HLF which maps different initiatives, reports on experience in implementing innovative HR strategies and sets out unresolved issues.
- A representative of Global Commission on International Migration reports on the Commission's activities to the next HLF.

*Lead agency for these deliverables:* World Bank will take the lead, with DFID and in close collaboration with WHO and other partners.

## 5 Monitoring Performance

*The HLF encouraged the Health Metrics Network to prioritise certain tasks: (i) reaching agreement on a set of intermediate indicators to regularly gauge short-term progress towards the health MDGs; (ii) developing a 'report card' to illustrate country progress towards the health MDGs, (iii) taking forward work on disaggregating data, the improvement of its quality, and the coherence of data collection platforms.*  
(Recommendation 7)

The Health Metrics Network (HMN) is in the process of carrying out the work outlined in Recommendation 7. For the next HLF, the HMN will produce a progress report on these issues.

HLF participants have also asked to be regularly updated progress toward the health MDGs in general, and to learn in more detail of the experiences of a few selected countries.

### **Products and tasks for the next HLF:**

- A consultation to develop an indicative framework for measuring short-term progress towards the health MDGs (including selecting a set of intermediate indicators). This will be organized in consultation with the HMN.
- An overview report and 3 specific case studies which will provide an update on progress towards the health MDGs
- Progress report from the HMN on issues around monitoring performance raised by the last HLF

*Lead agency for these deliverables:* WHO in close collaboration with the World Bank, HMN and other partners.

## 6 Resource Flows for Health

*"The World Bank and WHO, in collaboration with the 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."*  
(Recommendation 8)

Ongoing work in WHO and the World Bank includes National Health Accounts; tracking resource flows to health as part of CMH-follow up, and close collaboration with OECD/DAC work on monitoring aid flows.

### **Products and tasks for the next HLF**

- Task that are needed in this area include work to (i) map existing processes to monitor development assistance, including development assistance for health (e.g., OECD, WHO National Health Accounts), (ii) identify the limitations of current tracking systems and subsequent knowledge gaps, and (iii) make recommendations on how to strengthen monitoring of Development Assistance for Health. Decisions on what needs to be done by the HLF secretariat will await the completion of a series of meetings convened by the Centre for Global Development who have commissioned work addressing these issues by the Rand Corporation, with financing from the Gates Foundation.

- A single report summarizing the current situation with the development of a global resource tracking system will be prepared as an information paper for the next Forum.

*Lead agency for these deliverables:* World Bank in close collaboration with WHO and the partners listed above.

## **7 Organization of High Level Forum II**

The World Bank and WHO will continue to serve as the Secretariat for the HLF. For the second HLF meeting, in Nigeria in November 2004, the World Bank will take on the main administrative responsibilities. WHO and the Bank will together handle communications. As for the last meeting, it is envisaged that the HLF Secretariat will meet the costs of the participation of 1 delegate per developing country.

The Bank and WHO expects that their technical and managerial staff, as well as administrative and personnel will contribute substantial time and resources to the organization of the next meeting. However, additional administrative staff will need to be hired by the World Bank.

### **Products and tasks for the High Level Forum**

- Logistical arrangements for the next HLF proceed smoothly (*see budget for details*)
- Sponsorship of high-level participation from 25 developing countries

*Lead agency for these deliverables:* World Bank in close collaboration with WHO, co-hosting governments and other partners on logistics; WHO will take the lead on the development of a communications strategy.

## **8 Communications Strategy**

In the run up to the next HLF, WHO and the World Bank will keep participants informed of activities carried out by the Secretariat and ensure that information on the aims and activities of the HLF are widely disseminated by a range of appropriate methods for communication and information sharing.

### **Products and tasks for the High Level Forum**

- Communications strategy developed and core messages delivered
- Website developed and maintained