

June 28 CSWG conference call

Attendees:

Nicky Grange-IPA, Theresa Shaver-WRA, Rebecca Monks-WVUK, Al Bartlett-USAID, Anne Tinker-SNL, Leslie Payne -CIDA, Nancy Terreri-UNICEF, Sadia Chowdhury-WB, André Lalonde-SOGC, Mamadou Diallo-PMNCH, **Vincent Fauveau-UNFPA**

Unable to attend:

Samira Aboubaker-WHO, Ayele Debede, Ethiopia MoH

Time: 17:00-18:30 Geneva time

Agenda

1. 2007 Plans: what activities are going on in Tanzania, Nigeria and DRC?
2. 2008 Plans: what do we see ourselves doing?
3. How are we going to do what we do (Modus operandi)
4. Planning for a face to face meeting of the CSWG

Follow up call: Late July

Reminders

- Decisions regarding CSWG decisions must be made taking into consideration the scope of the guide documents
 - Operationalizing Country Support
 - CSWG ToR
- **Action**
 - Al to resend Operationalizing Country Support document to team

Points to be raised during subsequent discussion

- The Steering committee has accepted the recommendations made by the ad hoc working group on the Gates funded Partnership Grant. The grant funds have been released and work is going to start incessantly. Planning has not yet started, which provides some leeway before activities begin
 - CSWG however is to discuss its interaction with the ad hoc working group and with countries in the implementation of the Partnership Grant.
 - One suggestion is that the CSWG will work alongside the Ad hoc working group and the implementation team to provide support that is outside of the scope of the grant. What type of support falls in that category and how that support will be administered are not yet defined and will be discussed during the next CSWG conference call.

- Concern about specificity and depth of the recommendations was raised, as they stand the recommendations do not provide the countries with enough guidance for them to take action
 - It was suggested that either the Grant management Committee draft a more comprehensive guide outlining different options that the countries could work from
- **Actions**
 - The Secretariat to send recommendations made in regards to the grant implementation to the team
 - Discussion in CSWG role in grant implementation to be held with management Committee and the Co-Chairs

Nigeria

- Nigeria has an MNCH strategy which was launched in April 2007 and which benefits from a high level of government commitment (which was passed from the old government to the new one) and strong partner support namely UNICEF and WHO
- To date the MoH has drafted a Proposal for the roll out of IMNCH in 6 states selected on a zone basis. The request is for a little under 1.5 million USD over a two year period
 - The country and partners want to establish a small secretariat that will be responsible for
 - Mobilizing support
 - Mapping resources
 - Providing some technical assistance
 - Centralizing some aspects of the implementation
 - The proposal takes into account a mechanism for implementation tracking at early stages. Among its outputs figure: goodwill ambassadors and technical teams (of which the Advocacy team is already established and in need of support)
 - Proposal was shared with Secretariat and co-chairs who are to send preliminary feedback. Issues include:
 - Proposal is focused on state and zone and does not address central level coordination. This issue is related to the country situation; a bill allowing for the federal government to impose demands on state governments was supposed to be passed but was not. The current strategy of state level advocacy is therefore still the modus operandi
 - Nigeria has a number of very implicated actors in the form of multilaterals and bilaterals. There is an issue of lack of coordination between these different bodies, yet coordination is not brought up in the proposal. However separate lines of actions of different multilaterals is not necessarily a setback if all of the work done is in line with the national strategy, it is therefore important to get the in country team's views on the issue of coordination.

- Regarding the issue of funding the PMNCH has allocated approximately 1 million USD per country out of the 10 million from Gates. It is still, however, important to look at the internal resources of the country and see what can be done by country and in country partners.
 - Team expressed a difficulty in contextualizing this proposal with the little interaction that the CSWG has with the country, and could not come to a decision.
 - It was suggested to send a small team of partners on the ground to reconcile CSWG and in country actors' perceptions of what needs to happen, and to determine what in country actors can contribute and what value added the PMNCH can bring forth.
 - It was suggested that the visiting team consist of The Partnership Secretariat, one or both of the CSWG co-chairs and potentially members of the advocacy group.
 - A mapping of in country partners and resources is to be done by CSWG members before the small mission is sent to Nigeria
- **Actions**
 - Mamadou to create a template for mapping and submit to CSWG
 - CSWG members to map resources in Nigeria for their institution and constituencies
 - PMNCH secretariat and co-chairs to contact Nigeria MoH for further clarifications on proposal and current issues and manage visit details
 - Anne Tinker to take the lead on civil society participation in Nigeria visit

DRC

- A request has been made by the MoH for the PMNCH to perform a country visit in DRC during the week of the 24 of July (date confirmed verbally, not yet by correspondence). MoH also needs to send ToRs for the visit. The trip will provide the PMNCH with the opportunity to reopen relations and an understanding of how it can help things move forward
 - Since the last PMNCH visit, government has changed but partners have remained the same
 - CSWG needs to think about how to involve regional offices
 - Mission team needs to be constructed carefully and country offices need to be provided with enough lead time (the date of the 24th may be short notice) and some preliminary research needs to be done especially in regards to the WB program (which has not been disbursing well) and partner mapping
- **Actions**
 - Sadia to provide Vincent with the names and contacts of parties involved in the WB program
 - Vincent to work with the Secretariat in organizing the trip
 - CSWG members to fill out partner mapping template for DRC

Tanzania

- During the Partners Forum it was recommended that NGOs have a forum in which to decide their members to be appointed to the PMNCH. There was a government apprehension about NGOs having too much latitude in their choice of members.
 - The international consultant when she arrives in Tanzania should liaise with the NGOs to be implicated in their activities and should contact the government to reassure them that there is no threat due to excessive independence of NGOs in the decision making process
 - WHO has also just hired an expert to be sent to Tanzania for two years to work on CH. She can be an interface for the PMNCH. Some concern was raised about the child focus resulting in a disregard for MH; this is not however, an issue as the expert will be working with Theopista, who is maternal and RH focused. Another concern raised was the creation of parallel relations that compromise the structure in place.
 - Dr. Sanga will be in Geneva during the week of July 2nd. Issues can be raised while she is there if need be.
- **Actions**
 - Theresa to follow up with Rose on organization of said NGO forum
 - Nancy to conference Diana and Theresa so that Diana can be briefed on the issue
 - Mamadou to send to team the name of the WHO sent expert

CSWG technical resources provision

- CSWG needs to find a system through which it will allocate its resources as opposed to doing it on an ad hoc basis, which has been the case in the past. The group needs to map what its members can bring in terms of expertise, what the member organisations are doing in the different countries that the PMNCH is involved in and what kind of support can be provided under what conditions.
 - In regards to the smaller institutions which do not always have the financial flexibility but have some expertise that is needed for a project, the Secretariat can cover travel and per diem costs. The Secretariat can also hire consultants, but the procedure in this case is drawn out.
- **Actions**
 - Secretariat to send CSWG members a template incorporating the abovementioned information fields for completion

Miscellaneous

- Face to face CSWG to take place after DRC and Nigeria visits, tentatively September
- CSWG needs to establish a link with the other WGs
- There should be a CSWG conference call follow up in late July
- **Actions**
 - Secretariat to fix date for follow up call