Since the 2001 Report of the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health, a number of countries have set up multisectoral national commissions or similar bodies to review options, formulate a plan, and make detailed estimates of the costs of scaling up health investments and expanding access to essential health services.

This report presents country experiences in developing and shaping work to address long-term planning for the health sector. It identifies areas of action to which the national commissions have contributed, from mobilizing political will and building much-needed evidence, to strengthening national planning processes. These lay the groundwork for sustainable improvements in health for the world’s poor people.

The report clarifies the most intractable challenges that have impeded faster health progress, and gives concrete examples of how countries have started to address them through an integrated approach to health sector development and financing. This experience will be integrated into the core work of WHO, across the organization. It will contribute to global health and development discussions and help to guide the way forward for national policy-makers and development partners.
WHAT’S INSIDE THIS PUBLICATION?

Boxes, Figures and tables
Contents of attached CD-ROM
Foreword/Acknowledgements/Executive summary
Introduction

Chapter 1. Overview of National CMH work
Building on Country ownership and specificity
Ensuring a focus on the poor and other vulnerable groups
Adapting the MDGs to country health priorities
Coordinating among a crowded field of health and development initiatives
Planning the best possible use of resources
Allocating available resources more efficiently
Building evidence for advocacy, planning and harmonization

Chapter 2. Sharing experiences from countries
Areas of action by national commissions on macroeconomics and health
Enhance political support for increased health investments and positioning of health in development
Create comprehensive strategies and systems that better address the health of the poor
Increase the effectiveness of development assistance for health

Chapter 3. Guiding health investment choices: the policy implications

Annexes:
- Macroeconomic and health profiles for selected countries
- Chronic disease: the call for action

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