IHP+ Executive Team Meeting, 31 May 2012
Note for the Record

Participants
EC, UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, GAVI, WB, WHO, Sierra Leone, Sudan, CSO South, CSO North, ReAction.
Apologies from Global Fund

ACTIONS:

- **Harmonizing financial management assessment**: Core team to provide the link to the guidance document; a short note on Sierra Leone will be shared once it is cleared; briefing note on FMA to be prepared by the Core Team once the Sierra Leone work is complete.

- **IHP+Results light touch quality assurance process** was agreed by the ET. IHP+Results to now take forward. ET members to encourage review of draft scorecards at country level, through their own agency channels.

- **VC connection problems**: Core Team to solve.

- **Country Health Teams Meeting**: heads up email to SURG to be sent as soon as date and venue confirmed.

- **Next ET meeting**: June 28th 2012, 16:30 CET.

Agenda

1. **Harmonizing financial management assessment: background, status and way forward**
   **Iraj Talai, World Bank**
   - Efforts to harmonize financial management assessments are being undertaken in order to improve sector efficiency and reduce transaction costs of separate assessments. In 2010, GAVI, Global Fund and WB compared agency policies and procedures, and produced a draft report with recommendations on how to harmonize financial management assessment in Nov 2011.
   - Joint approaches to FMA have been used before, but systematic approaches and institutionalization of a common method are still lacking. Joint FMAs are important to improve financial management and thereby mitigate fiduciary risks, and they can be an important input to the design of Joint Financing Arrangements, that will improve sector budgeting and reporting besides reduce transaction cost.
   - Joint financial assessments have been done in 2011/12 in Benin (report almost finalized) and Sierra Leone (currently in final phase of FMA). In Sierra Leone, after the FMA is completed, there will be a national workshop and an action plan will be prepared. Both MoF and MOH are involved. One proposed action is the merging of PIUs, which is expected to help strengthen the fiduciary function and the use of the national computerized PFM system.

   **Key points discussed:**
   - There were a set of questions around whether there is a simple briefing note on FMA; on available guidance; on country experience; and on what it means in practice for an agency to have been part of a joint FMA.
   - GAVI observed that joint FMAs have been useful, and it believes they can help mitigate fiduciary risk. There are 3-4 countries in which joint FMAs would be useful for GAVI in 2012: Malawi, Burundi, Burkina Faso and Rwanda. It confirmed its intention to support pooled funding arrangements where possible.

2. **IHP+ Results quality assurance process - proposal for “light-touch” peer review of scorecards**
   - Self-reported data are the basis for the IHP+Results scorecards, with inevitable biases. IHP+Results have been considering how to enhance scorecard credibility without major transaction costs. They presented the ET with the idea of a “light-touch” process to peer review the scorecards (see attached note). Their existing Independent Advisory Group (IAG) will do this, together with a few additional independent “key informant reviewers identified by the IAG if needed. The Scorecards will be shared with the reviewers beginning of June. Finalization of Scorecards is planned for end of July.

   **Key points discussed:**
   - The proposal was accepted by the ET as a modest step in the right direction, with some notes of caution: the need to recognize that this is not true ‘triangulation’ which would involve in-country stakeholders
(MoH, NGOs), the need to be transparent. It was recommended to include peer reviewers from country level to have a good balance of global and country-based experiences in review team.

- Other important issues regarding what is known about the added value/use of scorecards, and future IHP monitoring arrangements, were raised which will be discussed over the coming months. One idea is to reconvene the interagency working group on mutual accountability in September 2012 for a one day face to face consultation. These discussions and others will then feed into the Country Teams meeting in December. The Core Team will present a proposal on how to proceed to the ET in July.
- Continuing concerns include: the high transaction costs of IHP+ Results survey; how to institutionalize at country level; links with other related monitoring processes.

3. Feedback from World Health Assembly

- **Signing Ceremony on Wednesday, 23rd May:** 4 Countries signed the Global Compact: Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, The Gambia and Guinea.
- **Technical Side Event, Wednesday, 23rd May,** on recent progress in strengthening accountability for results in IHP+ countries: The event was well attended by 17 partner countries; 14 development agencies and 6 CSOs. One key message was that the environment in which IHP+ operates has changed.

4. AOB

- IHP+ has launched the new web page (same domain name: [www.internationalhealthpartnership.net](http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net)). Comments welcome
- Carissa Etienne, ADG HSS, WHO will not attend ET meetings for the next 3 months but will return in September
- The Country Matrix will continue to be sent around regularly – comments are welcome
- The 4th IHP+ Country Health Teams meeting will take place in the week of 10 December, most probably in Nairobi. To be confirmed asap.