IHP+ Executive Team Meeting  
17 November 2011  
Note for the Record

Participants: European Commission, DFID, Civil Society Southern, Global Fund, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO, World Bank

ACTION POINTS

- **JANS tool and guidelines**: Core Team to post the two documents on the IHP+ web site.
- **JANS meeting**: The meeting organising group to convene soon to start the preparatory work; Core team to address the meeting logistics and compile relevant documents.
- **Financial management assessment pilots**: WHO and the World Bank to follow up with WRs and TTLs to establish interest in the six possible countries. UNICEF to share Egypt FM assessment.
- **Busan High Level Forum on Aid effectiveness**: Core Team to circulate the updated concept note on the health side event; agencies wishing to speak from the floor to inform the Core Team by email.
- **3rd round of IHP+Results monitoring**: Core Team to talk with IHP+Results about deferring the deadline for agencies and countries to confirm their participation to 3rd monitoring round to 15 December.

Date of next Executive Team meeting: 15 December 2011, 16:30 CET; 10:30 EST.

AGENDA: KEY ITEMS

1) **JANS update**
   - **JANS Tool and Guidelines version 2.** The Core team informed that the amendment process of the JANS tool and guidelines has been completed; the tool has been translated into French, Spanish and Russian, with the Portuguese translation under way. These will be posted on the IHP+ web site. **Main comments:** participants agreed that the amended tool is improved; the text could benefit from light editing eg removing or explaining acronyms; the need for CS engagement in JANS processes should be retained.
   - **JANS meeting - summary of feedback and next steps.** The Core Team provided a summary of feedback, areas of agreement; organising group volunteers and proposed next steps. **Main comments:** DFID volunteered to be part of the organizing group; sector and disease JANS are reported to have been conducted also in Gambia and Togo - to be followed up by the core team; it was suggested that the meeting could be organised in a country where JANS was carried out; the meeting should take into account countries in which new sector strategies are being prepared in 2012; an additional background paper could look at options for future handling of JANS. **Core Team wrap up:** the organizing group will meet soon - and focus on the technical agenda for the meeting including possible background papers; the Core Team will take care of logistics.

2) **Harmonization and Simplification of Financial Management (FM)**
   - Iraj Talai provided an update on work by the World Bank/GAVI/Global Fund Financial Management (FM) focal points. Overall, the goal is to reduce the transaction costs of multiple assessments and strengthen FM systems. A paper on harmonization and simplification of financial management has been produced by the focal points, and is being posted on the IHP+ web site. The next proposed step is to pilot joint FM assessments in a few interested countries. The most likely are those where there has already been a Platform mission with an agreed set of follow up FM activities: Benin, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Vietnam, Senegal and Kyrgyzstan. In general there is a need to create demand for FM harmonisation as a step towards alignment. Country involvement will help ensure any harmonized technical tools (ToR for external audits, model financial statements, etc.) are ‘fit for purpose’. After the pilots are completed a guidance note will be produced on how to harmonise and conduct FM assessments. **Main comments:** the FM group should
make use of existing examples (e.g. Nepal, Malawi and Mozambique) and build up a stock of successful experiences. A brief written background note with objectives, timeline and roadmap of activities is needed once next steps are agreed. The FM framework should be flexible enough to adapt to existing country arrangements. **Clarifications**: there is a difference between a JFA (joint financing arrangement), and a joint financial management assessment - which precedes any type of JFA; if the FM system in a country is adequate, the assessment will advocate for alignment with it, rather than harmonization between agencies; the first step before any mission would be to review existing procedures and assessments; any new FM reports will be made available to all donors financing the health sector. The team will review past experiences from other countries and new versions of the paper on harmonizing financial management will reflect that. Lastly, the Global Fund confirmed that the recommendations of the GF OIG review are consistent with the planned work.

3) **Any other business.**

- **Busan High Level Forum on Aid effectiveness.** A side event on health - *Strengthening accountability for results at country level: what can be learned from health?* - will be held on 30 November 2011, 17:30-19:00, with a moderated panel session. The updated Side Event note will be circulated; agencies interested to speak from the floor are encouraged to inform the Core Team by email; IHP+Results will present a poster in the Knowledge and Information Space session.
- **Meeting of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Health of Women and Children, Ottawa, 21-22 November.** This was tabled as there is a need to look at linkages with IHP+’s accountability agenda and avoid parallel tracks. It was stressed that it is important to exploit the momentum created by the commission for streamlining and coordinating M&E streams of work.
- **IHP CSO Consultative Group meeting in Kampala.** The Southern CS representative briefed on main outcomes of the meeting and agreed follow-up actions. The meeting was successful, with good examples of work done by CSO at country level supported by the OXFAM-managed CSHPAF grants.
- **3rd round of IHP+Results monitoring.** The Core Team informed that more countries and agencies have shown tentative interest in participating than in the previous round. The request to postpone the deadline for confirming participation by 4 weeks until after Busan HLF4 –i.e. to 15 December - to assess possible implications from the meeting’s outcomes on the monitoring process will be discussed with IHP+Results.