Special Scaling-up Reference Group (SuRG) - July 2, 2010

Chair: Carissa Etienne, WHO

Note for the Record

Participants:
- Burkina Faso*
- Burundi
- Democratic Republic of Congo*
- Ethiopia
- Mauritania*
- Mozambique*
- Niger*
- Nigeria
- Togo*
- World Bank
- WHO
- GAVI
- Global Fund
- ILO*
- UNAIDS
- UNICEF
- WHO
- IHP+Results consortium
- UNFPA
- USAID
- UNICEF

* first time participant at the SuRG

Actions
- The Core Team to send contact details for IHP+Results on 5 July 2010; to send this Note for the Record by 9th July
- IHP+ signatories to signal their participation in the 2nd round of monitoring by IHP+Results, as soon as possible; latest by 16th July
- The Core Team to set up calls to discuss specific questions having come up in the SuRG
- IHP+ signatories to contact IHP+Results and/or the core team directly on any outstanding questions

Agenda
1. Mutual accountability: second round of monitoring of progress on compact commitments
2. Updates on Joint Assessment of National Strategies (JANS) and the health system funding platform

Welcome
The chair welcomed the many signatories participating in the SuRG for the 1st time; as well as Cristian Baeza, who is succeeding Julian Schweitzer as Director HNP at the World Bank.
The meeting was conducted with simultaneous translation into French for the first time, and did suffer some technical difficulties due to the number of connections.

Agenda item 1: Mutual Accountability: second round of monitoring
This was the 2nd SuRG discussion on this topic. At the SuRG on 25 February 2010, the approach used to monitor progress against commitments by the IHP+Results consortium in 2009 was reviewed. It was decided that a Mutual Accountability working group would be convened to work with IHP+Results and jointly agree a revised tool and lighter process aligned with existing global and country processes. As
agreed at that first SuRG, recommendations from the working group, chaired by Tim Martineau of UNAIDS, were presented to, and accepted by, the Executive Team on 27 May and 24 June. This SuRG discussed the group’s recommendations and clarified questions of process and participation for the next round of monitoring.

Agreements
• The tools, including standard performance indicators, will be used in this 2nd round of monitoring
• Developing country partners that participate in the 2nd round of monitoring will discuss their existing processes for mutual accountability in-country with IHP+Results, and agree how IHP+Results can collect the necessary data to feed into the 2nd round of global monitoring
• For development agency partners, the preferred channel for providing data to IHP+Results is from an agency's headquarters, but country level collection by IHP+Results is an option. Individual agencies should discuss directly with the consortium
• IHP+ focal points who serve on the SuRG will be the first contact point for IHP+Results
• SuRG members should communicate their country / agency participation as soon as possible, and at latest by 16 July, and send any additional comments as soon as possible by email to IHP+Results and the Core Team.

Countries/agencies that have already confirmed their participation in the 2nd round of monitoring:
• Burundi
• Djibouti
• Democratic Republic of Congo
• Ethiopia
• EU
• GAVI
• ILO
• Kenya
• Mali
• Mozambique
• Netherlands
• Niger
• Nigeria
• Norway
• UK
• UNAIDS
• UNFPA
• WHO
• World Bank

Discussions
The discussion was organized around 3 questions:
1. Are there major comments on the revised tools for the 2nd round in 2010?
2. Are there any major comments on the way the monitoring is planned in the 2nd round, in 2010?
3. Will your country or agency participate in this 2nd round of monitoring?

Comments
• The chair underlined that commitment to mutual accountability was a central aspect of the global compact that all SuRG members signed. The recent working group process with IHP+Results has developed the new tools and agreed the principles of how data collection should be done. It is now up to the IHP+ signatories to make this process work by engaging with IHP+Results, defining their individual process, and providing the necessary data as best they can.
• Many speakers voiced appreciation for the process through which the new tools were developed; for the working group and its chair. The need for pragmatism and action was noted: to start the next round and use that experience to further refine the tools and processes.
• There was broad support for the revised tools and standard performance measures as the basis for the next round of monitoring. Multiple partner countries mentioned wanting to use these to strengthen country processes for mutual accountability. Several observed that many development partners are still bringing in their own monitoring tools. More specific comments on the tools were also noted.
The need to use existing country processes, especially national joint review processes and to avoid parallel processes was underlined, as was the need to continue to link this work to the OECD/DAC monitoring of the Paris indicators at global level.

Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Togo indicated that they were currently developing national plans and country compacts and wondered whether it would therefore be useful to join this round of monitoring, or wait for the next. The Core Team will follow-up with individual countries.

The proposed timetable for round 2 was discussed, as signatories have different reporting cycles. Pragmatic ways to address this were suggested, e.g. by Nigeria, which can be discussed on a case by case basis. The chair noted that the 2nd report of IHP+Results must be ready for the next ministerial review.

Development agency SuRG members were urged to communicate developments to country staff.

**Agenda item 2: Updates on Joint Assessment of National Strategies (JANS) and the health system funding platform**

*Update by core team on Joint Assessment of National Strategies (JANS):*

Discussion was based on the one page update sent to the SuRG. 9 countries are currently organizing a JANS or are considering doing so, and the tool is increasingly considered a public good. Another point noted was that the multi-agency endorsement of the tool gives it significant legitimacy in countries.

*Comments:*

- Ethiopia reported it will have a final JANS workshop in July, and has seen strong buy-in from partners and civil society, as well as MoH leadership. Lessons from their experience include the need for independence, but not as a stand alone activity; the need for support to civil society to strengthen their effective engagement. The need for tangible results from the JANS was underlined - 'results' would be a strong strategy and commitment of partners to support it.
- Mozambique requested Ethiopia to share its lessons learned.

*Update by core team on the Health Systems Funding Platform:*

Discussion was based on the one page update sent to the SuRG. The introduction noted the major objective of the platform is to reduce transaction costs for countries by having one framework for financial management and procurement; not to create a new process. The focus is at country level, and is explicitly not 'one size fits all'. The agencies (World Bank, GAVI, Global Fund, with facilitation of WHO) are trying to harmonize for instance audit and monitoring arrangements. In country, other agencies are involved: in Nepal a new Joint Financing Arrangement will be signed by multiple partners (pooling and non-pooling partners). It was also highlighted that the platform was not about pooling but rather an attempt to bring transparency in funding flows aligned to country owned national health strategies.

*Comments:*

- The main comments from developing country signatories were that IHP+ countries should benefit from the Platform but that new concepts can create confusion; there is a need for greater clarity on what the Platform is, and to avoid a disconnect with other instruments - including country compacts, which address many of the same questions.

**Closing by the chair - announcements:**

- Following on the meetings in Lusaka, 2008 and Bamako, 2009, a next Country Health Teams Meeting is scheduled for 6 / 7 December 2010 in Brussels.
- The next ministerial review, expanded as suggested by the Taskforce for Innovative Financing into a Health and Development Forum, is planned for the 1st quarter of 2011.