

NINTH IHP+ FM TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

MEETING MINUTES, NOVEMBER 19, 2016

Attendance: Mekdim Enkossa, Ethiopia; Sorie Kamara, Sierra Leone; Mona Khurdok, UNFPA Adda Faye, GF; Patrick Rudolph; KfW; Renaud Seligmann, WB; Max Dapaah, WB/IHP+ Core Team

The meeting started at 10:35am. After introducing the Agenda, the Chair opened the meeting.

Update on new UHC Alliance formation as a successor to IHP+

The meeting was briefed on efforts to form a new UHC Alliance. In the confluence of the Germany "healthy systems, health lives" roadmap, the Japan G7 Health Agenda, and the Civil Society calls for a global movement for UHC and discussions about the future of IHP+, there is a proposal to bring this together under a broad umbrella called the "UHC Alliance". The initial thinking for this Alliance was presented in the last the IHP+ Steering Committee meeting in November.

The overall aim of the UHC 2030 Alliance would be a movement for accelerated, equitable and sustainable progress towards UHC as well as the other health targets in the SDGs including global security and equity.

The main objectives of a UHC 2030 Alliance would be to:

- Consolidate political momentum and convey a shared global vision of UHC
- Advocate for sufficient, appropriate and well-coordinated resource allocation to HSS
- Strengthen accountability for progress towards UHC
- Promote coordination in countries receiving external assistance by promoting adherence to IHP+ principles and behaviors

Rather than set up a separate organization, the Alliance would aim to build on the IHP+ membership that includes global development partners as well as signatory countries that have signed on. The Alliance would also look to draw in or make explicit linkages with health systems strengthening platforms, including but not limited to P4H, the Data Collaborative, the Joint Learning Network for UHC, The success to the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA), an Essential Drugs/Medicines effort, and the health systems research community (AHPSR, HSG).

A draft concept note on the Alliance is expected to be discussed at the G-7 health experts meeting to be held in Tokyo in Mid- February. Also, an extra-ordinary meeting of the IHP+ Steering Committee will be held in late March to deliberate on the Alliance and approve its formation. Thereafter, the new Alliance will be announced in June 2016 at the G-7 meeting in Tokyo.

The implications of the new Alliance on the work of the FMTWG was discussed. Members agreed that the FMTWG's work will still be relevant under the new Alliance because building strong FM systems is critical to improving the efficiency of health service delivery, reducing out of pocket expenditure and ensuring access the health services, all of which are tied to achieving UHC. In addition, it was underscored that there is room for innovation in terms of the FMWTG's focus; to look into other areas such as social health insurance, benefits fraud, information systems, verification of service provision by third parties, etc. etc.

Country update

An update was provided on harmonization work in various countries where initiatives are currently on-going. The attached spreadsheet has the update provided.

It was discussed that, for Ethiopia, now that the new JFA has been signed by all major DPs, the IHP+ core team should liaise with Mekdim and country authorities to determine what possible areas of support will be needed on FM harmonization/alignment agenda.

It also noted that, most of countries where FM harmonization collaboration is on-going are not on KfW's list of priority countries. Therefore, KfW was requested to share its priority list with the IHP+ core team to help explore opportunities for collaboration in those countries. UNFPA, will also share list of countries where FM collaboration is on-going with UNFPA country offices to help solicit country office participation in such initiatives.

Update on Study of PFM in health – Development Challenges and Solutions

An update was provided on the PFM in health study that is being conducted by the World Bank, in collaboration with WHO. Following the brainstorming session on developing a conceptual framework where a bare-bones framework was developed, the John Hopkins University School of Public Health has been hired to assist with fully developing the framework and the assessment tool for testing the framework. This consultancy will focus on the health financing aspects of the framework. After a long delay in finding a suitable candidate, a PFM consultant will soon be hired to support the PFM aspects of the framework and tool. The plan to test the framework in at least two countries by June 2016.

Data collection on the costs and benefits of unharmonized and unaligned implementation arrangements study has started. KfW, and Global Fund have submitted data for the countries they provide health support. World Bank has started sending data by country. The data inputs from DPs has been slow, and DPs who are yet to provide data were urged by the Chair to send in their data as soon as possible. Moreover, a consultant has been hired to assist with country-level data collection and analysis. The study is expected to be completed by the end of June 2016

Any other business

Mona Khurdok made a presentation on the UN harmonized cash transfer project (HACT). Involving UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF, the project seeks to streamline and harmonize operational procedures including financial management and funds flows. The goal is to help ensure efficiency and effectiveness of UN operations at the country level, and throughout the UN system. The exercise has similarities with the ESW on the cost of unharmonized and unaligned implementation arrangements, therefore lesson could be drawn from it.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held by audio in April at a date to be proposed by the IHP+ Core team.