

## Use IHP+ monitoring results

This brief is for IHP+ signatories and other development and health partners who want to put development cooperation principles into practice in the health sector. A round of monitoring in 2014 has produced results that governments, development partners and civil society organizations can use to generate discussion about accountability and progress.

### Development cooperation

Making development cooperation in health more effective matters because it means that money, technical assistance and interventions in the health sector will have a greater impact. The International Health Partnership (IHP+) is a group of country governments, development partners and civil society organizations who work to put principles for effective development cooperation into practice in the health sector. In practice, it means that all partners must work together in support of a strong national health strategy, to improve and use financial management systems, use a single monitoring and evaluation platform and hold each other accountable.

### IHP+ monitoring in 2014

Development cooperation is complex, with many different stakeholders and a mixture of country and global-level processes. So how do you measure whether development cooperation in health is more effective than before?

IHP+ set up a monitoring process that asks countries and development partners to report on their performance in development cooperation in health. Participation is voluntary. In 2014, 24 of the 36 IHP+ countries and thirty-seven development partners took part. For the first time, Ministries of Health were responsible for collecting and reporting country-based data, and four international NGOs provided data. This is currently the largest global database on development cooperation in health.



© 2012 Akintunde Akinleye/NURHI, Courtesy of Photoshare

### What did the monitoring find?

- 1 The longer a country has been a member of IHP+, the more effective their development cooperation in health.
- 2 Governments and development partners' performance in development cooperation are linked.
- 3 Governments are continuing to establish national health strategies, measure results and strengthen accountability.
- 4 Development partners are increasingly aligning and continue to participate in accountability processes at country level.
- 5 Governments are improving financing and to some extent financial management of the health sector.
- 6 There is stagnation or decline in use by development partners of national financial management systems and in predictability of their funding.

## Using the monitoring results

The [Global report](#) and [Country and development partner scorecards](#) provide more detail about the findings. The report gives an overview about the main findings of the monitoring process and some emerging themes. Country and development partner scorecards provide detailed information about country and organisational performance. They can be used to generate discussion about accountability and progress. Here are some possible ways to use the results.

### For Ministries of Health in developing countries

- Include in the agenda (or organize a special meeting) of the health sector coordination committee (or equivalent) to discuss the findings and agree how to follow them up
- Use existing analytic reviews (such as an upcoming Joint Annual Health Sector Review, compact review or mid-term health sector review) or work among partners to analyse the reasons why there has been limited progress in some areas
- Organise frank discussions on the findings and identify what actions are needed and by whom to improve performance, so they can be included in operational plans for the coming year
- Institutionalize this new country-based approach to monitoring development cooperation effectiveness in the country's information and accountability platform. For example, indicators form part of the country's results framework and joint annual review mechanisms include discussions of results and follow-up.

### For development agencies

- At Headquarters, hold internal discussions with senior management on the findings including the agency scorecard
- Disseminate the findings to the regional and country level offices
- Encourage country-level offices to engage in reviews and discussions organized by Ministries of Health in relevant countries, to identify how to improve performance.

“In the context of policy dialogue, there are many opportunities for us to be able to start using these results. For example, we organise annual sector-based reviews in nearly all the countries I know. We can also seize the opportunity offered by certain countries – currently in the process of updating their health policy or developing national health development plans – to ensure that data collected under the auspices of IHP+ can be part of routine data collection. This means including it in the monitoring and evaluation of national health plans.”

Hyppolite Kalambay Ntembwa, Health Systems Advisor, World Health Organization, Burkina Faso and Niger.

“The monitoring process is an important tool for tracking performance of IHP+ signatories, and is a good advocacy tool. The country-led process is a good development. In Sudan it enhanced country dialogue between the government, CSOs and development partners, and resulted in an increase of development partners involved in the process. We need to institutionalize this monitoring process in our national M&E frameworks. Some of the monitoring indicators are now part of our M&E framework.”

Dr Imad Ismail, Director General of Planning and International Health Department, Federal Ministry of Health, Sudan





## For Civil Society Organizations

- Identify your country's performance: find out how your government and development partners are performing by looking at the global report and scorecards
- Communicate findings: spread the word about the results of the monitoring process in your country
- Hold dialogue: use the report and scorecards to engage in dialogue in collaborative processes with your government and development partners
- Encourage the use of the indicators: advocate for effective cooperation indicators to be included in country monitoring systems.

“There is a growing consensus that involving CSOs in health policy is not only the right thing to do, but it also leads to more effective and more impactful health policies.”

Bruno Rivalan, Policy and Advocacy Manager, Global Health Advocates.

## Encouraging policy dialogue

In 2014 IHP+ Mali and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) took the monitoring process one step further. Different stakeholders including government ministries of health and finance, development partners and civil society organizations met to discuss mutual accountability in the health sector, and further explored the role of civil society in health policy processes.

### Mali

“The policy dialogue meeting, involving all the stakeholders in the socio-health sector in Mali, was very interesting. It was a very productive meeting, where the different stakeholders were able to talk and discuss honestly and openly with each other. They said what they thought about the process itself as well as the data that was collected during this monitoring round. I feel that a dialogue was established from this point. The government even wanted to organize more systematic meetings to discuss IHP+ monitoring with its different partners.”

Cheickna Toure, Mali, consultant for HERA during the IHP+ monitoring in Mali.



## Do you need support?

IHP+ can provide support for further analysing development cooperation and using the findings of monitoring. Please contact the Core Team if any of the following are of interest:

- Technical support on how to institutionalize the country-based approach to monitoring development cooperation effectiveness
- Technical support on how to make good use of the monitoring findings, for example to facilitate discussions and follow up at country level among stakeholders
- Help to analyse and document the reasons why there is limited progress and support the development of agreed steps to follow up at country level
- Inter-country (e.g. sub-regional) meetings or exchanges to review the findings and how they can be used to stimulate more efficient development cooperation
- For countries that did not participate in the 2014 monitoring round, support to carry out and integrate this type of monitoring and integrating in country processes.



© 2013 SC4CM/ISI, Courtesy of Photoshare

“The key thing now is to really ensure that the countries concerned take ‘ownership’ of the results.”

Hyppolite Kalambay Ntembwa,  
World Health Organization,  
Burkina Faso.

“We are going to use our scorecard to initiate discussions with development partners about some of their behaviours.”

Noah Elias Tegene, Director  
of Policy and Plan Directorate,  
Ministry of Health, Ethiopia



© 2013 Lina Kharn/University Research Co., LLC, Courtesy of Photoshare

**Photos** Page 1: Family planning advocacy in Nigeria; page 2: Maternal and child health in Nigeria; page 3: Health clinic in Mali; page 4, top: Health extension in Ethiopia; page 4, bottom: Malaria testing in Cambodia.

July 2015



IHP+ is a group of partners working to improve development cooperation in health.  
[www.internationalpartnership.net](http://www.internationalpartnership.net)