

Health Systems Funding Platform: Tackling MDGs 4, 5 and 6

GAVI Alliance, Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, The World Bank, facilitated by the World Health Organization

With the five-year countdown to the 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) underway, weak health systems in developing countries continue to undermine efforts to achieve MDGs 4, 5 and 6.

Recognizing that MDG progress needs to be accelerated, notably for maternal and newborn health, the overall goal of the new Health Systems Funding Platform is to strengthen country health systems by better integrating the delivery of services.

The GAVI Alliance, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) and the World Bank (WB) will harmonize their existing and future support for health system strengthening (HSS) and align better with country timelines and processes. The World Health Organization (WHO), along with other partners, will play a critical technical role.

The platform is country-driven and results-focused and also involves civil society and private sector participants. Using existing mechanisms and instruments, the platform is open to all donors and agencies to finance either globally or at the national level.

The platform supports three vital elements at the country level:

- One national health plan, including the identification of necessary technical and managerial needs;
- One financial management and procurement arrangement, with shared audit; and,
- One performance assessment framework, one shared annual report linked to a joint annual review and aligned with national cycles, and one monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system.

The platform was established in 2009 at the recommendation of the [High Level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems](#). National resources and local resource allocation remain central to the effort. An additional US\$ 900 million (approx) has been pledged by the governments of Australia, Norway and the United Kingdom through an expanded International Finance Facility for Immunization (IFFIm) and \$450 million has been pledged by Norway and the UK for results based programs through the World Bank.

In preparing for new funding, work with three countries, **Ethiopia, Nepal and Vietnam**, has already started. Building on these and other experiences, the platform partners expect to achieve in 2010:

- *Greater effectiveness*: by reducing transaction costs and improving aid effectiveness in at least **four to six low-income countries**¹ where GAVI, Global Fund, WB, and WHO already work; by the end of 2010, altogether **six to eight countries** (including Ethiopia and Vietnam) will likely submit new funding proposals for appraisal and approval by some of the participating donor agencies. Nepal's request is already being processed.
- *Streamlining of processes*: especially in financial management and procurement to secure and channel additional funding.
- *Strengthening evidence*: by developing consolidated mechanisms for tracking resources for health that flow through the Platform and for validating, monitoring, and evaluating results.

¹ Discussions are ongoing in: Cambodia, Sierra Leone, DRC, Benin and other countries.