

...Background

In response to these significant changes, nations committed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which grew out of the agreements and resolutions of world conferences organized by the United Nations in the past decade. These goals have been commonly accepted as a framework for measuring development progress and encompass several pressing health needs. These health needs are: reducing childhood mortality, improving maternal health and reducing the number of unintended pregnancies, and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, and other infectious diseases, as well as the crucial importance of gender equality in achieving these goals.

Achieving the MDGs related to reproductive health and gender in the context of health sector reforms and the PRSP process require an understanding of the linkages among them and how they influence each other, as well as new tools and strategies for applying this understanding. Understandably, managers, decision-makers, and others from the international development community have expressed an increased demand for more skills in designing health services in light of this changing policy environment. To meet this growing demand for assistance, the World Bank Institute (WBI) has a mandate to complement WB lending programs with effective *learning programs*. WBI has selected *Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Poverty Reduction, Reproductive Health and Health Sector Reform* as a priority area and has developed an innovative, intensive learning program as a service to client countries and Development Agencies.



THE WORLD BANK
INSTITUTE

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals:

*Poverty Reduction, Reproductive
Health and Health Sector Reform*

15-26 September, 2008
Bangkok, Thailand



Background...

Changes in the policy and lending environment have altered substantially the design of health services and programs.

At the country level, in the face of severe financial and organizational constraints in all the social sectors, governments and donors are making difficult choices about how and where to allocate human and financial resources. Except for AIDS funding, they have moved away from the implementation of narrowly directed health programs to a broader approach of health system development and reform. This includes instituting new organizational and financing arrangements for health care; implementing sector-based rather than project-based donor funding; changing public and private roles and responsibilities; and promoting accountability in health systems.

At the same time, in partnership with the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), countries are also centering their development agenda not on single social or health targets, but on the broader goal of poverty reduction as exemplified by the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) process.





Learning Objectives



This course will provide state-of-the-art knowledge and skills to participants for designing and delivering more efficient, equitable, and financially sustainable reproductive health interventions in the context of health sector reforms and evolving international policies. It is targeted towards staff from governments, international organizations, NGOs, training institutions, and academics involved in health.

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- ◆ Identify technical, economic and political issues that countries face in achieving MDGs related to reproductive health and gender;
- ◆ Recognize the influence of health sector reform on reproductive health services and program design and delivery;
- ◆ Identify and prioritize reproductive health needs within their own country or client country in the context of health sector reforms;
- ◆ Apply tools for planning, costing, financing, and efficiently mobilizing public and private resources for health in their own country or client country; and
- ◆ Design an action plan for improved reproductive health services in their own country or client country.



Course Content and Design



The course integrates three thematic clusters through a combination of presentations, readings, case examples and group work. Each cluster offers participants the following:

I. New Policy Directions: MDGs Related to Reproductive Health and Gender, and Poverty Reduction Strategies

- ◆ awareness of the interplay of gender and reproductive rights on health outcomes and poverty;
- ◆ frameworks for assessing the roles of key actors who influence health outcomes;
- ◆ analysis of health systems and how their performance affects progress toward the MDGs.

II. Design and Delivery of Reproductive Health Services and Programs

- ◆ a framework for understanding the impacts of diverse sectors and factors that influence reproductive health outcomes and cross-sectoral strategies to address them;
- ◆ tools for designing benefits packages;
- ◆ tools for setting program priorities and implementing services.

III. Reproductive Health Services and Health Sector Reform

- ◆ a framework for analyzing health sector reforms;
- ◆ case studies and lessons learned on how selected reforms are being implemented in different countries and their impact on health outcomes;
- ◆ strategies for encouraging the participation of key stakeholders and initiating change in health care.



Financial Information



Participants will pay a course fee of \$2000, payable to WBI. The total cost of the training is heavily subsidized by WBI as are all costs of training materials, supplies, and social events.

Participants are expected to stay at the Asia Hotel during the course. Lodging, including breakfast, is estimated at approximately \$63 per night, payable to the Asia Hotel on arrival by participants. Participants are expected to purchase their own round-trip ticket to Bangkok, Thailand, and are advised to bring an extra \$300 for dinner and miscellaneous expenses.

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer scholarships for our courses or training activities. If funds are not available to sponsor your participation, consider donor agencies and other organizations in your country that may be willing to sponsor the training:

- ◆ Organizations: African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, Pan American Health Organization, Population Council, Rotary International, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Development Program, United Nations Population Fund, World Bank, World Health Organization;
- ◆ Embassies: Britain (DFID), Canada (CIDA), Denmark (DANIDA), Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden (Sida), United States (USAID);
- ◆ National Governments;
- ◆ Private foundations: Ford, Hewlett, MacArthur, Rockefeller.



Applications



More detailed information and an application form are available on our website at <http://www.worldbank.org/wbi/healthandaids/bangkok>

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The application deadline is **July 31, 2008**.

