Health Systems Funding Platform - Summary of 2010 Work Plan

Establishing the Platform was key a recommendation of the High-level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems. The Platform is all about “More Health for the Money”.

Objective of the Platform
The overall goal of the Health Systems Funding Platform (the Platform) is to strengthen country health systems to enable better delivery of services to achieve the health MDGs. The objective is to mobilize and make better use of new and existing funds for Health System Strengthening (HSS). Based on the IHP+ principles, the GAVI Alliance, Global Fund and the World Bank intend to better align and harmonise their existing and future HSS support with the facilitation of WHO. This will be done together with other donors and technical partners. The Platform is not a new global fund or pool for HSS. The Platform will be country driven, results-focused and involve relevant stakeholders including civil society and the private sector. It is based on supporting three key elements at the country level:

i. One national health plan
ii. One financial management and procurement arrangement with shared audit
iii. 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

Main Outcomes for 2010
Specifically, during 2010 the four agencies expect to achieve:

- Greater Effectiveness: Reductions in country transaction costs and improvements in aid effectiveness through better harmonization and alignment in at least four low-income countries where WB, GAVI, Global Fund, and WHO all operate.
- Partnerships and communication: Expanded and improved communication with a wide range of stakeholders in countries and the global community in order to inform the design, improve engagement and deepen understanding about the Platform.
- Policies and systems: Development of administrative processes to secure and channel additional funding for HSS.
- Strengthening evidence: Development of jointly agreed mechanisms for tracking HSS resources that flow through the Platform and for monitoring and evaluating results of use of these resources in ways that add value while respecting agreed conditions on aid effectiveness and reducing the reporting burden on recipient countries.

Main Areas of Work for 2010
Development of the Platform will involve:

1. The GAVI Alliance, Global Fund and World Bank will work to harmonize and align existing investments and programming in up to four countries (Track 1).
2. The GAVI Alliance and the Global Fund will develop a joint proposal form and process for accessing HSS funding from these two agencies (Track 2, Option 1), for use as soon as possible, no later than 2011.
3. The four agencies will develop processes to enable countries to access future funding for HSS based on national health strategies/plans and utilising the Joint Assessment of National Strategies process developed under IHP+ (Track 2, Option 2). Implementation of these processes is planned to begin in 2010.
4. The four agencies will propose approaches to better define the scope of HSS investments and track them over time, will strengthen monitoring and evaluation frameworks and reporting, and will harmonize technical support used by countries to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate HSS strategies.

Country consultations will inform how the Platform can work in different country contexts. These will be based on the invitation and interest of national authorities, and will be inclusive of all key stakeholders, including civil society, and the private sector. Country consultations have already taken place in Nepal and Ethiopia, and preliminary discussions have been held with Benin, Cambodia, Mali, Sierra Leone and Vietnam, amongst others.

1 Subject to approval by the respective management/governance body where required.
2 The ‘Tracks’ refer to groups of countries while the ‘Options’ refer to possible mechanisms for accessing new HSS funding. Full explanations of the Tracks and Options can be found in the joint work plan (http://go.worldbank.org/0D4C6GPQU0).