

# Health Systems Funding Platform

WORK PLAN UPDATE: JUNE 2011

## Background

The Health Systems Funding Platform (the Platform) was established in 2009 at the recommendation of the High Level Taskforce on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems. It is a mechanism to advance progress towards achieving the MDGs, specifically, to “coordinate, mobilize, streamline and channel the flow of existing and new international resources to support national health strategies.”<sup>1</sup> It aims to enable more effective support for Health Systems Strengthening (HSS) and the three health MDGs, by streamlining the flow of international resources to support national health strategies.

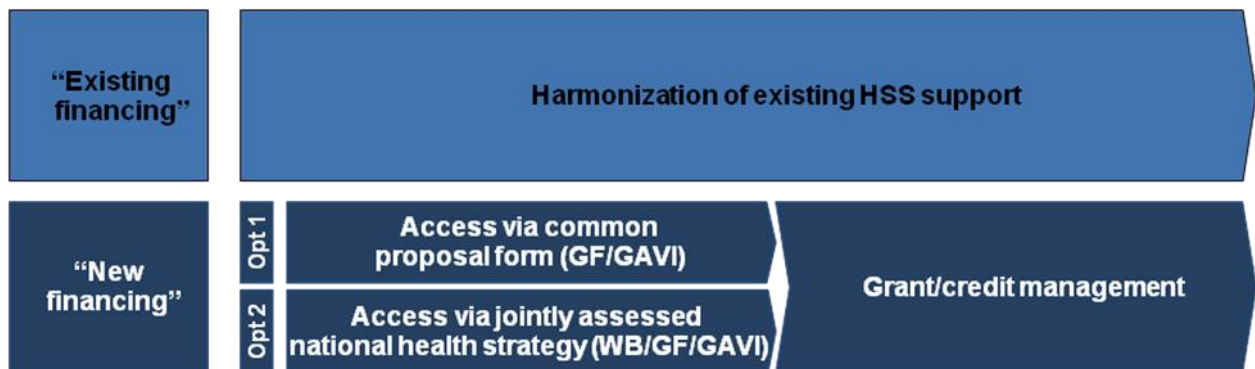
The Platform is a **collaborative effort** between the GAVI Alliance, the Global Fund and the World Bank, facilitated by the World Health Organization, in consultation with countries and other key stakeholders, including civil society<sup>2</sup>. It is important to note that the Platform is not limited to the current partners, but open to all agencies at global and country levels.

The Platform is not a global pool of funds; it **seeks to structure** existing funding streams so that health systems support is more harmonised and aligned. As a result, it is envisaged that transaction and management costs should be reduced, processes simplified and countries more empowered to maximise the impact of HSS funding and activities.

Through the Platform, future support will be better **aligned with national strategies**, priorities and fiscal cycles, and consequently become more flexible and country-driven. Common frameworks will be used for financial management, monitoring and evaluation, reporting and joint annual performance reviews. This represents a significant improvement for countries in terms of aid effectiveness.

## Modalities of funding

For countries looking to harmonize existing funding or apply for new funding via the Platform, the different approaches can be represented as follows:



For application to GAVI and the Global Fund, the following procedures apply:

*Common Proposal Form:* Countries may use the Common Proposal Form to apply for HSS funding from both GAVI and the Global Fund, or individually from either agency. To test the first version of the Common Proposal Form, WHO, GAVI and the Global Fund conducted consultations in early 2011 in selected countries (Lao PDR, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Zimbabwe), involving key stakeholders, such as civil society.

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/CMS\\_files/documents/taskforce\\_report\\_EN.pdf](http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/CMS_files/documents/taskforce_report_EN.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see <http://go.worldbank.org/0D4C6GPQU0>

*Funding Request Template:* A Funding Request Template that is based on jointly assessed national health strategies (JANS) is available to countries which have a finalized national health strategy that have completed or are planning to complete a JANS. The Funding Request Template is being tested in countries prior to August 2011 (*GAVI and Global Fund only*).

For the World Bank (and donors not operating via applications), current funding modes apply.

*Key dates in the application process for countries:*

- 15 August 2011: Launch by GAVI and the Global Fund of the Funding Request Template, Common Proposal and guidelines for both documents.
- 15 December 2011: Deadline for submission of the completed Funding Request Template or Common Proposal Form.

### **Progress against key deliverables listed in the work plan**

a) *Existing funding:* In countries where Platform partners have existing HSS support, work has focused on harmonizing monitoring and evaluation arrangements and aligning indicators (in Cambodia, Benin, Sierra Leone, and Democratic Republic of the Congo [DRC]) and harmonizing and aligning financial management arrangements (Benin and DRC).

b) *New funding:*

- *Harmonized proposal forms:* GAVI and the Global Fund have worked to harmonize their regular proposal forms into a Common Proposal Form
- *Funding Request Template based on a JANS:* A number of countries have conducted (or will soon conduct) a JANS<sup>3</sup>. Progress on identifying financing and the application process has been slower than envisaged, though completion is expected in early 2012.

c) *Lessons learned:* Documentation of lessons learned is in progress, including the implementation process and results achieved. The learning also informs all Platform materials.

### **Country Progress**

*Benin:* Joint partner mission in November 2010, with workplan endorsed by MoH to harmonize M&E and financial management (WHO, WB, GAVI, GF, CTB). Workplan includes: one harmonized PMU (being implemented), one single audit and one combined financial report.

*Cambodia:* Joint country mission in June 2010 resulted in approved aide memoire, performance indicators aligned and HMIS strengthened. Partners will participate in mid-term review (July-Dec 2011), including a review of the sector wide approach (mission June 2011).

*Democratic Republic of the Congo:* Regular joint discussions to harmonize performance frameworks and strengthen national HSS M&E plan. Global Fund (Round 9) and EC grants to be managed by the same project management unit within the MoH.

*Bangladesh:* Discussions with the country have started on the topic of harmonizing existing grants with the new Bangladesh National Health Plan (2011-2016).

*Nepal:* In August 2010, GAVI and World Bank, along with other aid donors, signed a Joint Financing Arrangement (JFA) of commitment to support the health sector program based on one financial management framework – with one reporting mechanism and one external audit.

*Ethiopia and Vietnam:* Completed the JANS in both countries and FMA in Ethiopia, now in the process of completing the Funding Request, with expected submission to GAVI in Q3 of 2011.

*Tanzania:* A pilot of the Common Form is in progress, and Tanzania is expected to submit the application to GAVI in Q3 of 2011.

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<sup>3</sup> Nepal, Ethiopia, Ghana, Uganda and Vietnam have conducted a JANS; Malawi, Rwanda and Kyrgyzstan have a JANS in progress; Mali and Sierra Leone will conduct a JANS before year end.