

A common framework for monitoring performance and evaluation of the scale-up for better health

Background

The scale-up for better health is unprecedented in both potential resources and the number of initiatives involved. Such a grand experiment requires a harmonized monitoring and evaluation effort that reinforces both country and global needs to demonstrate results, secure future funding, and enhance the evidence base for intervention. Eventually, the scale-up efforts will be judged by country progress towards the health-related MDGs, the degree to which major health constraints in countries have been addressed, and adherence to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

A common framework for monitoring performance and evaluation of the scale-up for better health aims to ensure that the demand for accountability and results from single donor and joint initiatives is translated into well-coordinated efforts to monitor performance and evaluate progress and results in country. It also stresses the importance of working in ways that contribute to strengthening country organizational capacity and health information systems, as well as enabling evidence-informed decision making and improved country performance.

Process and progress

- An M&E WG was set up under the auspices of IHP+ and led by WHO and WB
- October - November 2007: WHO and the World Bank, in collaboration with many partners and technical experts, developed a draft background paper with a situation analysis, proposed framework, set of principles and potential application at global and country level.
- December 11 2007: at a meeting of technical experts the framework paper was discussed and subsequently revised.
- January 10-11 2008: the revised framework paper was discussed further at a meeting of representatives from 8 countries, 4 bilateral donors, 4 global health partnerships, and 5 UN agencies. There was strong buy-in from the countries for the draft framework.

Proposed framework

The top section of the framework shows the sequence used in monitoring and evaluation frameworks from inputs and processes to outputs, outcomes and impact. At the bottom of the figure, the proposed actions for improved monitoring of performance and evaluation are shown.

The framework for evaluation of the scale-up in the spirit of the Paris declaration can be translated into the following six principles:

1. **Collective action:** the primary focus should be on the contribution of the collective efforts to scale-up the health sector response in countries.
2. **Alignment with country processes:** monitoring performance and evaluation should build upon national processes that countries have established to evaluate and review progress in the implementation of national health sector plans.
3. **Balance between country participation and independence:** evaluation processes should be driven by country needs but conducted in a manner which maintains their independence.
4. **Harmonised approaches to performance assessment:** evaluations of the scale-up should use common protocols and standardized outcome indicators and measurement tools, with appropriate country adaptations and leadership, minimizing the separate evaluation efforts of individual initiatives, grants and programmes.

5. **Capacity building and health information system strengthening:** systematic involvement of country institutions in performance monitoring and evaluation is necessary to strengthen health information systems and promote local capacity for analysis and application of information and evidence.
6. **Adequate funding:** as a general guide between 5% and 10% of the overall scale-up funds need to be set aside for monitoring performance, evaluation, operational research and strengthening health information systems.

Proposed next steps

To implement the framework in 2008 several key issues need to be addressed, to reduce duplication and fragmentation of data collection, management and reporting and to maximize country benefits and the quality of evaluation. This requires coordination and collaboration among the major partners, both at global and country levels. The table lists five goals for 2008 with proposed actions and principal actors.

Goal	Action	Actors
<i>Common framework and principles</i>	Endorsement by all major international actors	H8 and major health initiatives involved in evaluation
<i>Aid effectiveness monitoring</i> Bi-annual assessment using a core set of monitoring indicators and measurement methods for the health sector	Develop plan for assessments, building upon existing OECD Aid Effectiveness monitoring process, disease-specific and country experiences, and make it specific to the scale-up for better health	IHP+ management structure, with focus on country health sector compacts, and partners
<i>Alignment with national information systems</i> Data collection and analysis for monitoring performance and evaluation are part of country plans and processes to monitor progress	Develop generic roadmap for working in countries, including proper coordination Share general and country data collection and evaluation plans	Major initiatives and partners, countries Lusaka IHP+ country meeting end February, other events
<i>Harmonization of international reporting requirements</i> Minimizing the reporting burden on countries and coordinating support to improve data availability and quality	Global and country level review of reporting needs and gaps in data availability and quality Share and align country reporting requirements and global or specific reporting needs, while maintaining initiative-specific characteristics	IHP+ management structure with focus on country health sector compacts, and partners
<i>Health systems monitoring</i> Standardized way to monitor results of investments in health systems	Agreement on core set of monitoring indicators, measurement methods and roadmap for data improvement in countries	WHO/HMN/World Bank Working Group on health systems metrics and partners

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