



WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Geneva

Sustainable Development and Healthy Environments Cluster

Increasing Investments in Health Outcomes for the Poor

Second Consultation on Macroeconomics and Health

28-30 October 2003

Consultation overview

(updated 26/09/2003)

Objectives of Consultation

The Consultation will bring together ministers and high level officials of health, finance and planning from 40 developing countries and senior representatives from a number of development agencies, foundations, regional entities, research institutions and international banks. Three thematic foci (How to improve effectiveness of the health systems, How to make health central in the macroeconomic framework, and How to increase predictability of external funding) will be addressed through planned presentations by country delegates, expert speakers and representatives of development agencies. They will also be discussed during working groups and plenary discussions.

The overall objective is to continue and enhance dialogue between decision makers and development partners on the content, process and mechanisms to make strategic choices at country level for improving health outcomes, especially for the poor.

The content background of the meeting is included in the synthesis reports of the working groups produced by the WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health (CMH), especially the working groups on Improving Health Outcomes of the Poor, Mobilising Domestic Resources for Health and International Development Assistance and Health. The CMH and working group reports can be accessed at www3.who.int/whosis/menu.cfm?path=whosis,cmh&language=english.

Objectives for Thematic Discussions

How to Improve the Effectiveness of the Health Delivery Systems and Monitor Outcomes

- Review and prioritize actions towards the key obstacles to increase coverage of essential health interventions accessible to the poor.
- Discuss a potential set of mechanisms to accelerate the development of policy options to address these constraints and improve the capacity of the government at all levels to effectively allocate and absorb increased resources.
- Elucidate options to stimulate development of mechanisms to monitor outcomes for improved management, at local and national levels.

How to Make Health Central in the Country Macroeconomic Framework and Increase Allocation of Resources to Health

- Review multisectoral coordinating mechanisms that can best integrate pro-poor health investments into national development plans and achieve health objectives.
- Identify options for generating and reallocating internal resources for increased health expenditures.
- Report, discuss and possibly prioritize options on how the public sector can use public and private partnerships to manage decentralization while increasing access to health services by the poor.

How to Increase Predictability of External Funding and Increased Co-ordination with Partners

- Outline a process to harmonize various partner objectives and capacity to support national priorities.
- Explore approaches to ensure more predictable resource flows matching country specific macroeconomic frameworks and strategic health investment plans that can attract significantly greater funding.
- Assess ways of focusing stakeholders on health objectives for the poor, decreasing conditionalities, and responding more flexibly to local needs.

Expected Outcomes of Consultation

The primary outcome expected is a commitment to the achievement of a health compact that will be agreed upon by Ministers of Finance and Planning in collaboration with the Minister of Health. Additionally, countries will provide examples of coordinating mechanisms and describe how they can be used to oversee progress on planning strategic and long-term investments, sequencing pro-poor health reforms and making the necessary analyses on strategic choices, financing options and human resources.

A set of recommendations and proposed follow-up actions will be agreed upon and guide WHO's and other partners' future activities on macroeconomics and health. These follow-up recommendations will be addressed to developing and developed countries, international organizations and multilateral institutions.

How this will be achieved

The consultation will begin with a one day preparatory meeting (28 of October) in which participants will discuss operational and technical issues in the three thematic working groups and a two-day ministerial consultation in which participants will hear presentations and engage in focused discussions.

Tuesday, 28 October	Preparatory Meeting	8:30 – 17:30
Participants	Participants to the Preparatory Meeting include one high-level government official from each of the countries engaged in a macroeconomics and health process and WHO regional and country staff attending the consultation.	
Organization	The Preparatory Meeting will begin with a brief introduction to the plan of the day and the Three Thematic Foci. The participants will be asked to break-up into one of the three Working Groups (WG) of their choice. At the end of the WG session, the participants will reconvene for plenary discussions and presentations led by each group's elected rapporteur.	
Objectives	The objectives of the Preparatory Meeting are to give the high-level officials and WHO an opportunity to discuss technical issues encountered in implementing the macroeconomics and health process in their countries.	
Expected Outcomes	The officials will gain valuable information to provide technical follow-up within their countries. Officials will also be requested to relay the outcomes of the working groups to their ministers and heads of delegation in preparation for discussions in the following days and to assist ministers, who will be invited to make interventions.	
Social Events	Inaugural Dinner Reception will be hosted by WHO for all participants to the consultation at the WHO Restaurant from 18:30 to 22:00.	
Wednesday, 29 October	Ministerial Consultation	8:30 – 17:00
Participants	Country delegations, development partners, foundations, regional entities, research institutions, international banks, WHO staff and other interested parties.	
Organization	Key note addresses and an overview of recent regional meetings will be given. Presentations will be given on the topics discussed by Work Groups during the Preparatory Meeting followed by plenary discussions. Six countries have been selected to give presentations on their work implementing a macroeconomics and health process, their experiences and progress made to date. Interventions by Ministers and plenary discussions will follow presentations.	
Thursday, 30 October	Ministerial Consultation	8:30 – 16:30
Participants	Same as on 29 October 2003	
Organization	The morning session follows the format of the previous day. The afternoon session will consist of short presentations and plenary discussions. Presentations from the rapporteurs summarizing the three thematic focus topics will lead to plenary discussions to propose recommendations for future country actions and collaborations with WHO and development partners.	