

Ethiopia Signs Landmark International Agreement to Improve Health Outcomes

Addis Ababa, 26 August 2008—Ethiopia today signed an agreement with the global development community to mobilize more harmonization and more effective financing to reduce maternal and child deaths and the impact of catastrophic illnesses on the poor. For the first time, the government and international development partners pledged to channel fragmented aid flows in the health sector into a common modality to make their impact far greater. The effectiveness of health financing from all sources will be improved by supporting the principles of “one plan, one budget, one report”. The new Ethiopian compact, based on the country’s own plan to boost or ‘scale-up’ the coverage and quality of its national health services, will be monitored by both the government and its development partners to assure that national targets are being achieved.

The agreement signed today in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa is the first agreement to be concluded under the International Health Partnership (IHP) which was launched twelve months ago in London by a broad coalition of international organizations, bi-lateral donors, and developing country governments to help low-income countries achieve the wide-ranging improvements in health and human welfare called for by the 2015 Millennium Development Goals or MDGs. For many low-income countries, meeting their health-related MDGs by 2015 remains a challenge.

“By signing this compact with the International Health Partnership today—the first of its kind world-wide—I believe we can mobilize the resources we need and provide them in a way that can really help Ethiopia’s mothers survive their pregnancies and raise healthy children, and can protect the most vulnerable people from suffering the deadly illness of malaria,” says Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Health Minister of Ethiopia, and one of the founding members of the International Health Partnership. “At this halfway point to achieving the Millennium Development Goals, I would encourage more countries to join the IHP. I would also appeal to the global aid community to continue to foster greater harmonization and to mobilize the financing needed to help as many countries as possible to achieve their health MDGs.”

Other African and Asian countries are expected to sign IHP compacts with development partners over the coming months after Ethiopia’s first such signature of an IHP compact agreement in Addis Ababa today.

To see more on the International Health Partnership, click here:

<http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net/>

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