

Fourth IHP+ Country Health Teams Meeting
Sustaining and accelerating change, getting results
11 – 14 December 2012, Nairobi, Kenya

The International Health Partnership (IHP+) aims to accelerate progress towards the health Millennium Development Goals, by putting agreed principles on aid effectiveness into practice. IHP+ mobilizes national governments, development agencies, civil society and others to support a single, country-led national health strategy in a well-coordinated way. The Country Health Teams Meeting is the flagship event of IHP+. The purpose of this fourth meeting is to agree ways in which IHP+ can accelerate aid and development effectiveness in health, building on five years' IHP+ experience.

IHP+'s third meeting was held in 2010 when the global economic crisis was raising questions about the added value of the aid effectiveness agenda. The meeting's conclusion was that it mattered as much – if not more – than before, and that partners needed to consolidate and accelerate progress. Recent IHP+ reviews conclude there is real progress but no room for complacency. IHP+ adds value by bringing partners together to solve common issues, and has catalyzed partners working together better to support countries. Country governments are strengthening leadership and aid governance, and improving country systems, and development partners have consolidated efforts to align behind 'one plan'. However, their use of country systems, especially financial management and monitoring platforms, has not increased as much as expected.

IHP+ operates in a continuously changing environment. The 2011 High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan reaffirmed the Paris aid effectiveness principles but has initiated a shift towards the broader notion of *development* effectiveness, with country ownership, inclusion and accountability for results at its core. New forms of south–south co-operation are more prominent. Consultations on the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals are now underway. The continued global financial crisis is maintaining an emphasis on value for money and results from development aid. In health, IHP+'s focus on accountability and results is reinforced by the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health. For country governments, health remains a crowded field, and issues of coordination, duplication and fragmentation are still very real.

This means that in late 2012, IHP+ is at a crossroads. Its continued increase in size reflects its added value: it now has 56 signatories, of which 31 are developing country governments. More civil society organizations are involved. At the same time, there are concerns that change is still not happening as fast as originally hoped. The big question is, what else could or should IHP+ partners do to put agreed aid and development effectiveness principles into practice in health, and so achieve better results?

Meeting objectives

To agree on ways in which IHP+ can further accelerate better health results through greater development effectiveness in health. The meeting will:

- Analyze progress in aligning behind one national health plan; one budget and in aligning with country systems
- Identify obstacles and incentives to improve harmonization and alignment, and action needed in the next two years to accelerate progress.
- Agree on future IHP+ approaches to strengthen mutual accountability for results

Participants Approximately 200 participants: country government, development agency and civil society representatives from all IHP+ signatory countries plus development agencies and global civil society representatives.

Languages The meeting will be in English and French.