

Comprehensive evaluation of the global strategy and plan of action on public health, innovation and intellectual property

Key points from the evaluation team's draft inception report and initial comments by the ad hoc evaluation management group

Report by the Secretariat

1. The evaluation team prepared a draft inception report in late December 2015 for review and comments by the ad hoc evaluation management group. The report, a useful tool for validating the evaluation workplan for 2016–2017,¹ providing a roadmap for its implementation, was prepared in line with the guidance provided in the *WHO evaluation practice handbook*² and on the basis of the terms of reference for the evaluation as specified in document A68/35.

KEY POINTS FROM THE DRAFT INCEPTION REPORT

2. The draft inception report establishes: the evaluation criteria to be used; the evaluation methodology and workplan; a schedule of key milestones and deliverables; and resource requirements linked to the evaluation activities and deliverables detailed in the workplan.

3. The evaluation criteria to be taken into account are relevance, effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability. As the evaluation is a formative evaluation, the team considered that it was too early to evaluate impact.

4. The methods to be used include a review of primary and secondary data, both quantitative and qualitative. The data are to be collected by means of a desk review of documents; an online survey – available in the six official languages of the Organization – addressed to all 194 Member States; 24 country case studies; a public web-based survey; and additional key informant interviews and focus groups to ensure that all stakeholders in the global strategy and plan of action are covered.

¹ Document EB138/44.

² WHO evaluation practice handbook. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2013.

5. The draft inception report also includes a comprehensive list of evaluation questions that could provide the basis for the online survey, for review and comment by the ad hoc evaluation management group and the WHO Evaluation Office.

6. The country case studies will provide an in-depth review of the implementation of the global strategy and plan of action in 24 countries, representative of the six WHO regions and the four World Bank income groups (high, upper middle, lower middle and low). The data gathered from country case studies will not be attributed to specific countries, but will contribute to the overall understanding of the implementation of the global strategy and plan of action across countries with different levels of development.

7. The draft inception report also provides timelines for the key deliverables: data collection (February–May 2016); data analysis followed by preliminary results (May–September 2016); draft evaluation report (October 2016); and final evaluation report (November 2016).

INITIAL COMMENTS BY THE AD HOC EVALUATION MANAGEMENT GROUP

8. The ad hoc evaluation management group has been actively and constructively engaged in the evaluation process from the outset. It has provided guidance to the evaluation team and has responded to specific questions from the team. It has reviewed the December 2015 draft inception report and members have provided their initial comments. It is envisaged that the ad hoc evaluation management group will continue to provide guidance to the evaluation team so that the inception report can be finalized by the end of January 2016.

9. Overall, the ad hoc evaluation management group found the draft inception report to be comprehensive, providing a good overview of how the evaluation is to be conducted. Initial comments by members, which will be discussed further within the group and with the evaluation team, include the following:

- theoretical and operational definitions of “relevance”, “effectiveness”, “efficiency” and “sustainability” are needed to guide the work;
- assessing efficiency may be too ambitious a goal, as it would entail comparing cost and outcome data, which are often difficult to access at the country level;
- despite the formative nature of the evaluation, some reflection on the impact, potential for impact and barriers to the impact of the global strategy and plan of action may be of benefit;
- it is important to ensure that the online survey is designed in a way that allows the stakeholders, especially the lead stakeholders, to respond easily to the questions that are relevant to them;
- the use of some open-ended questions in the online survey is desirable and encouraged;
- the use of a decentralized network of evaluators to undertake the country case studies is welcome but quality assurance across the different evaluators in the network must be ensured;
- the relevant WHO country office could identify the appropriate key informants and convene the focus group discussions to support the country case studies;

- efforts to ensure inputs to the evaluation from as wide a group of stakeholders as possible are welcome and strongly encouraged;
- whereas the evaluation will result in findings at the level of the action plan, there is also a need to reflect on how the implementation of the action plan is contributing to the aim of the global strategy as described in paragraph 13 of the global strategy and plan of action.¹

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¹ http://www.who.int/phi/publications/Global_Strategy_Plan_Action.pdf?ua=1 (accessed 11 January 2016).