

Monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals

The Sixty-third World Health Assembly,

Having considered the report on monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals;¹

Recalling resolution WHA61.18 on monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals;

Recalling the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, especially those related to global health, in particular the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the commitments made by the international community to attain the Millennium Development Goals and the new commitments made during the United Nations High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals (New York, 25 September 2008);

Stressing the importance of achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals, especially with the objective of ensuring socioeconomic development;

Concerned by the fact that achievement of the Millennium Development Goals varies from country to country and from goal to goal;

Welcoming the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the annual ministerial review held by the Economic and Social Council in 2009 on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health;

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/108 (10 December 2009) on global health and foreign policy;

Recognizing that the Millennium Development Goals are interlinked, and reiterating the Health Assembly's commitment to continued reinvigoration and strengthening of the global partnership for development, as a vital element for achieving these Goals, in particular those related to health, inter alia through capacity building, transfer of technology, sharing of best practices and lessons learnt, South-South cooperation, and predictability of resources;

¹ Document A63/7.

Recalling the Monterrey Consensus of March 2002 to “urge developed countries that have not done so, to make concrete efforts towards the target of 0.7% of the gross national product (GNP) as ODA” and “encourage developing countries to build on progress achieved in ensuring that ODA is used effectively to help achieve development goals and targets”;

Reaffirming the commitments by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7% of gross national income on official development assistance by 2015 and to reach 0.56% of gross national income for official development assistance by 2010, as well as the target of 0.15% to 0.20% for least developed countries;

Welcoming increasing efforts to improve the quality of official development assistance and to increase its development impact, such as the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, the principles contained in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action, and the experience of the International Health Partnership and others, in order to strengthen national ownership, alignment, harmonization and managing for results;

Noting the work of the Leading Group on Innovative Financing for Development and of the High-level Task Force on Innovative International Financing for Health Systems, the additional pledges made by several countries to increase financing for health, and the announcements made by several countries at the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on Health (New York, 23 September 2009) to achieve universal access to affordable basic health care, including provision of free services for women and children at the point of use where countries choose, and financial mechanisms toward social health protection;

Welcoming the important initiative of the United Nations Secretary-General and of the work on the Joint Action Plan to improve health of women and children and his invitation to all Member States to engage;

Expressing concern at the relatively slow progress in attaining the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa;

Expressing deep concern over the weak institutional capacity in health-information systems, the inadequate coverage and poor quality of civil registrations in developing countries which hamper monitoring progress of Millennium Development Goals;

Expressing deep concern that maternal, newborn and child health and universal access to reproductive health services remain constrained by health inequities, and at the slow progress in achieving Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5 on improving child and maternal health;

Welcoming the contribution of all relevant partners and progress achieved towards the goal of universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support related to HIV/AIDS;

Reaffirming WHO’s leading role as the primary United Nations specialized agency for health, including its roles and functions with regard to health policy in accordance with its mandate;

Welcoming WHO’s report on women and health¹ as important in advancing women’s rights and gender equality, underlining the need to address women’s health through comprehensive strategies

¹ *Women and health: today’s evidence tomorrow’s agenda*. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2009.

targeting root causes of discrimination, and stressing the importance of strengthening health systems to better respond to women's health needs in terms of access and comprehensiveness;

Recognizing that health systems based on the principles of tackling health inequalities through universal access, putting people at the centre of care, integrating health into broader public policy, and providing inclusive leadership for health are essential to achieving sustainable improvements in health;

Recognizing also the growing burden of noncommunicable diseases worldwide, and recalling the importance of preventing infectious diseases that still represent a heavy burden, particularly in developing countries, the adverse impacts of the food, environmental, economic and financial crises on populations, in particular on the poorest and the most vulnerable ones, which may increase the level of malnutrition and reverse the achievement of Millennium Development Goal 1 (Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty) and the health-related Goals and the progress made in the past two decades,

1. URGES Member States:

(1) to strengthen health systems so that they deliver equitable health outcomes as a basis of a comprehensive approach towards achieving Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6, underlining the need to build sustainable national health systems and strengthen national capacities through attention to, inter alia, service delivery, health systems financing, health workforce, health information systems, procurement and distribution of medicines, vaccines and technologies, sexual and reproductive health care and political will in leadership and governance;

(2) to review policies, including those on recruitment, training and retention, that exacerbate the problem of the lack of health workers, and their imbalanced distribution, within countries and throughout the world, in particular the shortage in sub-Saharan Africa, which undermines the health systems of developing countries;

(3) to reaffirm the values and principles of primary health care, including equity, solidarity, social justice, universal access to services, multisectoral action, transparency, accountability, decentralization and community participation and empowerment, as the basis for strengthening health systems, through support for health and development; taking into account leadership, public policy, universal coverage and service-delivery reforms necessary for strengthening primary health care;

(4) to take into account health equity in all national policies that address social determinants of health, and to consider developing and strengthening universal comprehensive social protection policies, including health promotion, infectious and noncommunicable disease prevention and health care, and promoting availability of and access to goods and services essential to health and well-being;

(5) to further commit themselves to increased investment in financial and human resources and to strengthening the national health-information systems in order to generate accurate, reliable and timely evidence on achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;

(6) to renew their commitment to prevent and eliminate maternal, newborn and child mortality and morbidity: through an effective continuum of care, strengthening health systems, and comprehensive and integrated strategies and programmes to address root causes of gender inequalities and lack of access to adequate care and reproductive health, including family

planning and sexual health; by promoting respect for women's rights; and by scaling up efforts to achieve integrated management of newborn and child health care, including actions to address the main causes of child mortality, in particular through interventions that increase rates of exclusive and sustained breastfeeding;

(7) to expand significantly efforts towards meeting the goal of universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010 and the goal to halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015;

(8) to maximize synergies between the HIV/AIDS response and strengthening of health systems and social support;

(9) to enhance policies to address the challenges of malaria including monitoring of drug resistance in artemisinin-based combination therapy;

(10) to sustain and strengthen the gains made in combating tuberculosis, and to develop innovative strategies for tuberculosis prevention, detection and treatment, including means of dealing with new threats such as coinfection with HIV, multidrug-resistant tuberculosis or extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis;

(11) to sustain commitments to support the eradication of poliomyelitis and the efforts to eliminate measles;

(12) to include best practices for strengthening health services in bilateral and multilateral initiatives addressed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular in South-South cooperation initiatives;

(13) to support developing countries in their national endeavours to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the health-related Millennium Development Goals, inter alia through capacity building, transfer of technology, sharing of lessons learnt and best practices, South-South cooperation, and predictability of resources;

(14) to fulfil their commitments regarding official development assistance by 2015;

(15) to fulfil and sustain the political and financial commitment of developing country governments in mobilizing adequate budget allocation to health sectors;

2. INVITES concerned organizations of the United Nations system, international financial institutions, and calls upon international development partners and agencies, nongovernmental organizations and private sector entities to continue their support and consider further support to countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, for the development and implementation of health policies and national health development plans, consistent with internationally agreed health goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

3. REQUESTS the Director-General:

(1) to continue to play a leading role in the monitoring of the achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, including progress towards achieving universal coverage of services essential to these Goals;

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- (2) within the framework of WHO's Medium-term strategic plan 2008–2013, to continue to cooperate closely with all other United Nations and international organizations involved in the process of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, maintaining a strong focus on efficient use of resources based on the respective mandates and core competencies of each, avoiding duplication of efforts and fragmentation of aid, and promoting the coordination of work among international agencies;
 - (3) to provide support to Member States in their efforts to strengthen their health systems, address the problem of the lack of health workers, reaffirm the values and principles of primary health care, address the social determinants of health, and strengthen their public policies aimed at fostering full access to health and social protection, including improved access to quality medicines required to support health care for, inter alia, the most vulnerable sectors of society;
 - (4) to foster alignment and coordination of global interventions for health system strengthening, basing them on the primary health care approach, in collaboration with Member States, relevant international organizations, international health initiatives, and other stakeholders in order to increase synergies between international and national priorities;
 - (5) to articulate and present to the Health Assembly as part of its action plan for the renewal of primary health care, the actions that the Secretariat envisages will strengthen its support for the achievement of Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6;
 - (6) to work with all relevant partners in order to achieve high immunization coverage rates with affordable vaccines of assured quality;
 - (7) to lead the work with all relevant partners to help to ensure that action on the health-related Millennium Development Goals is one of the main themes of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals High-level Plenary Meeting (New York, 20–22 September 2010);
 - (8) to continue to collect and compile scientific evidence needed for achieving health-related Millennium Development Goals and to disseminate it to all Member States;
 - (9) to continue to submit annually a report on the status of progress made, including on main obstacles and ways to overcome them, in achievement of the health-related Millennium Development Goals, through the Executive Board, to the Health Assembly;
 - (10) to assist Member States in the development of reliable health-information systems to provide quality data for monitoring and evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals.

Eighth plenary meeting, 21 May 2010
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