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## **ACTION FOR GLOBAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER UK PARTNERS | Winter 2008/09**

### **'NO CURE FOR UNHEALTHY WORLD' IN DOHA**

Action for Global Health has expressed great disappointment that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, Doha, Qatar (29 November - 2 December 2008), failed to commit to major funding for development priorities.

In a statement dubbed 'No cure for an unhealthy world', the network said the final outcome document of this milestone event was: "neither a strong message of support to the world's most vulnerable, nor a comprehensive action plan to finance their most essential needs such as universal access to healthcare."

The conference, held to review the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus adopted at the global conference on Financing for Development in 2002 and offered a unique forum to discuss the broader scope of development finance.

However rather than build on related international agreements of this year - in Accra and New York - the network found the conference largely sidelined these and, without high-level attendance, lacked the weight to really deliver. As feared, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agenda was obscured by current financial, food, energy and climate crises.

The outcome document at Doha agreed only minor changes to financial technicalities and as such did not signal any real advance on what was agreed at Monterrey. The Monterrey Consensus recognised the importance of financing for meeting the MDGs and made pledges across six themes: domestic resources and sound policies; foreign investments; trade; aid; debt; systemic issues and coherence.

Catherine Giboin of Action for Global Health partner Médecins du Monde, said: "In Doha an historic moment in time has been missed to make an actual difference. People's essential needs must be put back at the heart of financing for development."

Frazer Goodwin of Action for Global Health partner European Public Health Alliance, said: "Donors need

to strongly engage in the follow-up process and keep their financial commitments to change that fact"

A statement from civil society to the President of the General Assembly said agreement on binding targets and timelines for donor fulfilment of the 0.7% goal was essential.

President Nicholas Sarkozy attended as President of the EU Council. No other EU Head of State, nor the Heads of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF), were in Doha.

The rhetoric of President Sarkozy's impassioned reaffirmation in his initial speech to the conference of Europe's commitments on aid was largely absented from the outcome document.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**26 January 2009** UK National Policy Conference, 'From Accra to Doha: What is the health sector doing to provide more and better aid?', Royal Society, London, UK.

**25 - 27 January 2009** Health World Social Forum, Belem, Brazil.

**28 January - 1 February 2009** World Economic Forum, Davos, Switzerland.

**23 - 25 March 2009** Stop TB Partnership Forum, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

**March 30 - April 3 2009** Global Symposium on Engaging Men and Boys in Gender Equality, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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## ACTION FOR GLOBAL HEALTH AT DOHA

In Doha, Action for Global Health participated in discussions on aid effectiveness.

At an event hosted by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development/Development Assistance Committee (OECD/DAC), Frazer Goodwin of Action for Global Health questioned Antoinette Sayeh, Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF)'s African Department on whether this key financial institution gave enough fiscal space to scaling-up in the health sector.

Goodwin called for greater transparency; for the IMF to ensure partner countries know about policy changes on fiscal space for social sectors, and for a real recognition of the importance of human capital for development, so that spending on health and education are seen as an investment rather than a cost. Sayeh assented, saying the IMF should do more

to communicate with individual ministries of health as it does with ministries of finance.

Action for Global Health also contributed to French Government discussions on innovative financing for scaling-up in the health sector.

Also at the conference, Germany and Pakistan signed the second Debt to Health agreement which will turn €40 million of debt into €20 million additional funds for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

For a copy of the final outcome document, President Sarkozy's speech and reports of specific events visit [www.actionforglobalhealth.eu](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu) or [www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha).

### Civil Society Forum

The Civil Society Forum, 'Investing in People-centred Development' (25 – 27 November 2008), presented its Civil Society Declaration, with recommendations and an evaluation of conference outcomes, at a press conference on 2 December 2008.

Describing the conference as "hesitant", the Forum called for deeper discussion of the key development financing areas in order for commitments to be delivered on; and mechanisms and follow-up to make this and timely crisis responses possible.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) asked that they be a full partner in these discussions. They recognised that on gender equality, the outcome document in Doha goes far above and beyond what was contained in the 2002 Monterrey Consensus.

Action for Global Health's advocacy at Doha focused on a call for health to be a tracer sector in development finance and the allocation of 0.1% of Gross National Income (GNI) for the health sector, as recommended by the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health.

For a full list of the CSO Forum recommendations and more on the conference, please visit [www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/doha\\_financing\\_conference\\_unduly\\_hesitant\\_says\\_civil\\_society\\_forum](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/doha_financing_conference_unduly_hesitant_says_civil_society_forum).

More information is also available at the Forum website [www.ffdngo.org](http://www.ffdngo.org) or [www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/civilsociety/forum.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/doha/civilsociety/forum.htm).

## WHAT IS ACTION FOR GLOBAL HEALTH?

Action for Global Health is a cross-Europe network of NGOs and charities, calling for Europe to act now to enable developing countries to achieve the health Millennium Development Goals by 2015. [www.actionforglobalhealth.eu](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu).

## BAMAKO: 'HEALTH RESEARCH TOWARDS EQUITY'

The Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health has made equity a central tenet of all health research.

Meeting in Bamako, Mali (17 – 20 November 2008) in its eighth year – and attended by Action for Global Health – the Forum stressed the need to:

- Broaden the focus from “health research” to “research for health” in order to address the social, environmental, economic, political and biological determinants of health;
- Form inter-sectoral links in research and innovation for health at national, regional and global levels;
- Strengthen the “systems approach” through leadership, accountability and engagement with all relevant stakeholders.

A Call to Action urged national governments to allocate at least 2% of health budgets to research; and research funders and international development agencies to invest at least 5% of development assistance funds earmarked for the health sector on research. Donor investment must be in line with country-led research strategies and focus on primary healthcare.

The Call to Action underlined the core principles of ‘engagement’ and ‘equity’: “Civil society and community participation [are needed] in the entire research process, from priority-setting to the implementation and evaluation of policies, programmes and interventions. Only a small proportion of spending on research addresses the health challenges that disproportionately affect the poor, marginalised and disadvantaged,” it said.

The Forum called on all stakeholders to take forward the recommendations of the WHO Commission on

the Social Determinants of Health, and for health inequities to be a main focus.

The Forum was organised by the Council on Health Research for Development, the Global Forum for Health Research, the Republic of Mali, UNESCO, the World Bank and the World Health Organisation (WHO), and attended by 1,000 delegates from 75 countries.

### About the Forum

In 1990 the Commission on Health Research for Development recognised that health research did not focus enough on neglected diseases and the health of poor people in low- and middle-income countries.

In 2000, the First Conference on Health Research for Development held in Bangkok, Thailand, reviewed progress in research during the 1990s and proposed a “systems approach” focusing on policies, resources and stakeholders.

The Ministerial Summit on Health Research in Mexico City in 2004 proposed overcoming the ‘know-do gap’ - from knowledge to policy to action - and the need for research to support efforts to achieve the health MDGs.

The Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health now aims to assess progress and address current challenges such as climate change and food security.

For a full copy of the Call to Action please visit [www.bamako2008.org](http://www.bamako2008.org).

## WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST: ADVOCACY CONSULTATION

Women and Children First held a meeting on 15 December 2008 to discuss the development of coordinated UK advocacy for maternal, newborn and child health.

Over 30 participants from a wide range of NGOs, professional associations and academic institutions explored ways of working together and began to identify joint goals and objectives on MDGs 4 and 5.

The meeting highlighted particularly the importance of raising public awareness and support for these issues. Women and Children First will compile a calendar of key events and opportunities for advocacy in 2009, and plan next steps for the New Year.

## HIGH-LEVEL TASK FORCE ON INNOVATIVE FINANCING FOR HEALTH

Action for Global Health has responded to the launch of a High-level Task Force on Innovative Financing for Health Systems with a recommendation that the mandate for this be given to existing structures rather than establishing yet another potentially duplicating mechanism.

The Task Force was formed by UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown to mobilise additional funds as well increase the efficiency of health financing and effective use of aid. The UN High-level Summit on the MDGs called for an extra US\$30 billion to save 10 million lives.

Action for Global Health has said that rather than simply redistribute or 'repackage' existing health aid, it is essential that new financing sources are identified. The network is concerned too much effort is going into creating new solutions which can be a 'smokescreen' for lack of action on existing commitments.

The network recommends that rather than launch a new initiative, an existing mechanism such as the International Health Partnership and related initiatives (IHP+) Scaling-up Reference Group (SuRG) is given the mandate. The Task Force comes into being one year on from the launch of the IHP+ - just what the IHP+ was trying to avoid.

The network suggests that SurG makes it a priority to:

- Identify what donors are currently allocating;

- Establish what additional financing is needed
- Suggest how donors can contribute to this;
- Demonstrate how this additional funding is channelled through existing financing mechanisms, without diluting/redirecting the use of existing finances;
- Illustrate how national governments can be supported to increase their domestic health spending through for example the removal of IMF-imposed barriers to health investment.

Action for Global Health also calls for civil society, as service deliverer and watchdog, to be a key stakeholder in this process, to tackle access in particular. The engagement of advocates at the highest level, including Graca Machel, French Minister for Cooperation and Development Bernard Kouchner and UN Secretary-General Special Envoy for Finance and Development Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul, is welcomed.

For a full copy of Action for Global Health's position paper visit [http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/deliver\\_innovative\\_finance\\_through\\_existing\\_mechanisms\\_says\\_action\\_for\\_global\\_health](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/deliver_innovative_finance_through_existing_mechanisms_says_action_for_global_health).

## IHP+ UPDATE

The International Health Partnership and related initiatives (IHP+) has announced the selection of civil society representatives to its Scaling-up Reference Group (SuRG).

Elaine Ireland from Action for Global Health partner the International HIV/AIDS Alliance has been selected as alternate to the Northern Country Representative Sue Perez, Treatment Action Group. The Southern civil society representatives are Dr Lola Dare, African Council for Sustainable Health Development, and Mayowa Joel, Treatment Action Movement, Nigeria.

The new appointments will represent the consensus and concerns of civil society. Elected for one to two years, they will select civil society members to an advisory group. A communications focal point will also be appointed.

The SuRG is designed to oversee, coordinate and steer the IHP+ inter-agency core team at WHO and the World Bank. Members are from the eight leading global health agencies.

Ms Carol Nyirenda, Zambia; Dr Bobby John, India; and Dr Tim Reed, the Netherlands, were on the CSO Selection Committee.

For more information on the IHP+ please visit <http://www.internationalhealthpartnership.net>.

## EU UPDATE - HEALTH MDGS DISCUSSION IN STRASBOURG

Speakers at the Third Development Days Edition (EDD) called for the European Commission's major annual consultative forum to bring a southern perspective to the discussions on the financial crisis taking place, for example at the G20 meeting in Washington.

European Commissioner for Development and Cooperation Louis Michel; French Minister for Cooperation and Development Bernard Kouchner and his Secretary of State Alain Joyandet, addressed the EDD in Strasbourg, France, 15 – 17 November 2008, attended by 3,000 participants from 1,200 organisations across all sectors.

An EDD Declaration said: "We express our deep concern about the impact of these crises on the developing countries, especially the most vulnerable, and on the achievement of the MDGs. In this context, development aid represents an essential element of the crises responses, and respect of commitments in this matter appears all the more important."

Presidents of Burkina Faso, Mali and Madagascar called on Northern countries to continue to respect their financial commitments, particularly in health and education. They asked for greater integration in international institution negotiations and the elaboration of an ambitious but realistic worldwide development strategy.

Marielle Hart, Head of the Office of Action for Global Health partner the Stop AIDS Alliance, was on a panel on local governance attended at the opening by EU Commissioner Bernard Petit.

Hart presented the Action for Global Health's year two report, 'Healthy Aid: Why Europe must deliver more aid, better spent to save the health Millennium Development Goals'.

Marie-Alexia Delerue, Medecins du Monde, urged France to deliver on its aid promises. She asked panel member Director of the General Direction for International Cooperation and Development Anne Gazeau-Secret, about future French cooperation policies for health.

Also at EDD, Action for Global Health responded to Francois Bourguignon's presentation of the EC report "Millennium Development Goals at Midpoint: Where do we stand and where do we need to go?" The report, written for DG Development of the EC by the former World Bank Chief Executive as a background paper for the 2009 European Report, has been criticised by Action for Global Health for being too economically-driven and lacking a rights-based approach.

Action for Global Health contributed to plenary sessions and side-events on the food and financial crisis.

For a full report of Action for Global Health at EDD please visit [http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/third\\_european\\_development\\_days\\_edition](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/third_european_development_days_edition). For a copy of the Bourguignon report, key findings and recommendations, please visit [http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/2008%2008%2019%20MDG\\_Where%20do%20we%20stand\\_first\\_draft.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/development/icenter/repository/2008%2008%2019%20MDG_Where%20do%20we%20stand_first_draft.pdf). For Action for Global Health's critique of the Bourguignon report, visit [http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/launch\\_of\\_ec\\_report\\_millennium\\_development\\_goals\\_at\\_midpoint](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/launch_of_ec_report_millennium_development_goals_at_midpoint).

### RECENT PUBLICATION LINKS

**WHO World Health Report** [www.who.int/entity/whr/2008/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/entity/whr/2008/en/index.html)

**UK 'Health is Global' Strategy** [www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/International/DH\\_072715](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/International/DH_072715)

**WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health** [www.who.int/social\\_determinants/en](http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en)

**Action for Global Health 'Healthy Aid'** [www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/publications/healthyaid](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/publications/healthyaid)



## OTHER NEWS

### World AIDS Day 2008: How to achieve universal access by 2010

The UK's Stop AIDS Campaign presented a new report on HIV/AIDS and Health Systems Strengthening (HSS), at a roundtable, chaired by UK Shadow Minister for International Trade and Development Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP (4 December 2008).

The report addresses 'vertical' disease-specific health responses and 'horizontal' HSS. It looks at the impact on HIV, TB and malaria programmes of a move by governments towards the horizontal approach.

Principal author Dr Mandeep Dhaliwal presented the paper's key recommendations, which draw on the findings of Action for Global Health's 'Healthy Aid'.

Elaine Ireland, Action for Global Health, said it was important to find a balance between vertical and horizontal programmes to ensure that HIV/AIDS programmes continue to impact on other health services, without a shrinkage of resources.

The roundtable was attended by NGOs and People Living with HIV/AIDS from Southern countries. For a full report of the meeting and recommendations please visit [http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/world\\_aids\\_day\\_2008\\_how\\_to\\_achieve\\_universal\\_access\\_by\\_2010](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/world_aids_day_2008_how_to_achieve_universal_access_by_2010).

Amy Kesterton from Action for Global Health partner Interact Worldwide attended a meeting on new prevention technologies, hosted by the UK Campaign for Microbicides and Prevention Working Group and the UK Consortium on AIDS and International Development. It focused on AIDS vaccine development. Malcolm McNeil, DFID, signaled the UK Government's long-term commitment to this goal.

### 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights

On the 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Action for Global Health called on European governments, the EC, donors and international agencies to make a priority and comply with the right to health as a central plank of the health MDGs.

The human right to health was laid out and internationally recognised for the first time in the Declaration. In 1966, it was enshrined in international law in the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, reaffirmed in 1978 in the Alma Ata Declaration.

Sixty years on from the original Declaration, Action for Global Health is calling on governments to put in place legal structures that protect the right to health; as well as policies that tackle the social determinants of health and ensure women, children and all vulnerable and marginalised groups have equal access to primary healthcare.

The absence of a rights-based approach to health is one of the key factors in a lack of progress towards the MDGs, says the network. With more than one

billion people around the world lacking even the most basic healthcare, this right remains largely rhetoric.

As well as donor governments allocating 0.1% of GNI to ODA for health, partner governments must direct sufficient domestic resources to health. Civil society needs to be engaged.

A failure to apply the principles of the right to health - the Declaration says the State is primary duty-bearer - has led to persistent and widening health inequalities both between and within countries.

For a full copy of Action for Health's statement please visit [http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/60th\\_anniversary\\_of\\_universal\\_declaration\\_of\\_human\\_rights](http://www.actionforglobalhealth.eu/news/60th_anniversary_of_universal_declaration_of_human_rights).