

## **Outcome Document of the MDGs Follow-up Meeting Breakout Session 1: Health and its related MDGs Tokyo, June 2, 2011**

On the occasion of the MDGs Follow-up Meeting, the Health Breakout Session was held on 2 June in Tokyo.

This Health Breakout Session was an opportunity for various stakeholders from UN agencies, other multilateral organizations, NGOs, private-sector, health care professionals and academic institutions to add global momentum towards achieving the health-related MDGs and to draw increased attention and shape the policy direction for post MDGs.

The participants acknowledged that while the international community has witnessed substantive progress and learned lessons over the last decade, there still remains much to be done at global, regional, national and local levels to accelerate the progress towards the 2015 deadline for achieving the health-related MDGs.

**Key challenges for achieving the MDGs 4 and 5 as well as the MDG 6 must be addressed by realizing the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;**

***Narrowing the Implementation Gap*** Recognizing the implementation gaps in the achievement of the MDGs 4, 5 and 6, the participants stressed the importance of continued efforts to identify bottlenecks to scale up and to pursue more efficient and coherent ways to deliver cutting-edge strategies and health services including effective package of interventions, nutrition, life-saving vaccines and family planning to all women and children by ensuring a continuum of care, as shown in Japan's MNCH assistance model "EMBRACE" (Ensure Mothers and Babies Regular Access to Care) among others. The participants acknowledged the benefits of investing in MDG 6 to address these bottlenecks and also reaffirmed that efforts to close the implementation gap through strengthened ground-level action, supported by strong political will and increased community participation and empowerment, is essential to accelerate the progress towards achieving the MDGs 4 and 5, the most off track MDGs, as well as the MDG 6. The participants further recognized importance of health systems strengthening and capacity development as a foundation for these efforts.

***Strong and Sustained Leadership and Ownership*** The participants reconfirmed that strong and sustained leadership by all state and non-state stakeholders at global, regional, national and local levels is essential. In this regard, the participants acknowledged the role of the UN Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, and also the commitments of countries and partners to accelerate action towards MDGs 4 and 5. The participants also reaffirmed that strengthened national ownership and leadership are the primary determinant of progress in achieving all MDGs including the health MDGs: 4, 5 and 6.

***Evidence-based Decision Making for Better Results*** The participants reconfirmed that the health research and information systems need to be strengthened at all levels to generate,

collect and analyse, adequate, timely, reliable and age disaggregated data in order to design and review for better programmes and policies for sustainable development. The participants further stressed the importance of effectively monitoring the progress and providing adequate feedback for improving the effectiveness and quality of health systems towards achieving the MDGs 4, 5 as well as 6, and welcomed the recommendations of the Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health and urged to implement the recommendations.

***Acting at Scale to Reach Those in Need*** The participants reaffirmed that the scaling-up of the successful policies, approaches and actions will need to be complemented by a strengthened global partnership including public-private partnerships, and strengthening existing coordination mechanisms as well as strategic integration. In this regard, the participants recognized the importance of demonstrable and scalable gains being translated into effective population-based health programs supported by evidence, and welcomed Japan's initiative to initiate EMBRACE implementation research in Ghana. The participants also highlighted the role of GAVI's Pledging Conference in June in London and Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health to accelerate the progress towards achieving MDGs 4 and 5. The participants also reaffirmed that such policies and actions focusing on the most vulnerable populations including girls and young women are indispensable towards achieving the MDGs. In this respect, the participants emphasized the need to ensure more equitable access to healthcare services as well as to remove barriers, including geographical and financial barriers, to improve the access to health-care services.

***Furthering the Integrated Approach*** The participants reconfirmed that actions on a number of cross-cutting issues will positively enhance the achievement of the MDGs 4 and 5 as well as the MDG 6, such as the efforts of the Scaling Up Nutrition, measures to combat infectious diseases of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria including the 'Global Plan for the elimination of new HIV infections among children by 2015 and keeping their mothers alive', and promotion of gender equality, empowerment of women and human rights.

The participants reiterated that attention must be focused on accelerating the efforts to deliver on and fully implement existing commitments to ensure the achievement of the MDGs by 2015. However, the participants recognized that the least developed countries face severe double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In this respect, the participants stressed the need of the international community, regardless of the development level, to improve the capability of the health services to respond to the double burden through making and sustaining health systems investments. The participants also recognized the pivotal role of adolescents and young people as the link between the MDGs and NCDs. This will better prepare health services to achieve the MDGs and be also effective to deal with emerging global challenges beyond the current MDGs. These challenges will require high quality health facilities with skilled health personnel and information systems that allow improved quality of care.

***Comprehensive Health Systems Strengthening as a key for achieving the MDGs as well as beyond MDGs agenda***

***Comprehensive Health Systems Strengthening*** The participants acknowledged that supporting national efforts in strengthening health systems that include strengthening health financing, the training, deployment and retention of the health workforce and improving health information

systems are essential. Supporting the health systems to deliver equitable health outcomes by providing adequate and predictable resources through domestic, bilateral and multilateral channels, including strengthening innovative financing mechanisms, as appropriate, will be a basis for responding to the challenges beyond the current MDGs including NCDs.

***Health Systems Transition*** The participants underlined the need to shift towards strengthened primary health care as part of a service hub that provides the support to deliver critical services for NCDs as one of the effective approaches to cope with NCDs and other global health priorities. The participants agreed that achieving universal coverage through removing financial and other barriers to improved access, particularly for vulnerable population, is one of the priority approaches and an important input for the outcome document of the United Nations High-Level Summit on Non- Communicable Diseases in September 2011.

***Strengthen International Cooperation and Accountability*** The participants recognized that effective response to NCDs and other health threats requires government leadership and coordination of relevant sectors and stakeholders, which is reinforced through international cooperation. The participants also recognized that a framework for national and global monitoring, reporting and accountability is essential to ensure that the returns on investments in health including NCDs meet desirable expectations and results of all stakeholders.

### ***The Way Forward***

The participants reiterated the MDGs have played a vital role in shaping a broad development vision, raising awareness and generating real and important development gains and thus, the participants reiterated the importance of staying engaged towards achieving the MDGs by 2015. However, the participants also recognized that important priorities lay outside the MDG targets. Therefore, the participants strongly reaffirmed that the efforts to achieve the MDGs for all must also focus on development, as well as other global health priorities beyond MDGs era.