

The Bank welcomes DFID's new health strategy with its commitment to help deliver better health for poor people the around the world.

Increasingly, good health and sound health system policy have been recognized as a major, inseparable contributor to economic growth. Advances in public health and medical technology, knowledge of nutrition, population policies, disease control, and the discovery of antibiotics and vaccines are widely viewed as catalysts to major strides in economic development, from the Industrial Revolution in 19th century–Britain to the economic miracles of Japan and East Asia in the 20th century

The implications of this are that human development has to be at the center of development. Investments in girls' education improve household decisions on nutrition and demand for basic health care. At the same time, investing in basic nutrition during pregnancy and infancy has a substantial positive effect on early childhood development, which, in turn, significantly contributes to educational attainment, employability, and future income.”

“Women endure a disproportionate burden of poor sexual and reproductive health,” “Their full and equal participation in development depends directly on accessing essential sexual and reproductive health care. This strategy commits the DFID to help these women, along with the Bank, UN Population Fund, WHO,GFTM and other Global and national stakeholder,, to make voluntary and informed decisions about fertility.”

As Global partners, we have a responsibility to listen before we act. The DFID strategy demonstrates that the value of this, as key challenges are identified.

- Slow progress in achieving the MDGs and addressing the major causes of disease
- Failure to invest in strengthening systems which deliver essential services
- Poorly coordinated international support, leading to inefficiencies in AID.

We know that global health has changed so radically over the last decade that DFID, WHO, GFTM , the Bank, all of us here today must redouble our commitment to help developing countries and global partners achieve better health for people, and especially poor and vulnerable communities.

The Bank therefore supports DFIDs approach of :

- **Delivering more resources to the people**

“While there is more health financing available to countries than ever before, much of it is earmarked for fighting priority diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and some vaccine-preventable diseases, and there’s less available for strengthening health systems at country level, for maternal and child health, for nutrition, and for family planning priorities.”

- **Expanding access to basic services**

Honorable Hilary Benn is right is say that that “we are already doing a lot, but we must do better...and that the truth is that we are not working together properly, and without closer coordination, we run the risk of devaluing what we are doing.” I know that all of us would like to see improved governance and leadership in the health sector, at every level.

Women endure a disproportionate burden of poor sexual and reproductive health. The World Bank continues to play a central role in ensuring access to all reproductive services through policy advice and financial assistance. In its policy discussions with client countries, the Bank will continue to affirm: its long-standing and strong commitment to the Cairo Consensus, the landmark 1994 agreement on family planning and sexual and reproductive health; and to provide countries with whatever financial and technical help they request in this area.

- **Improving the effectiveness of International funding for Health**

We know there's more health money around for poor countries than ever before (roughly 13 billion dollars in the last year alone), but much of it's earmarked for fighting priority diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, and some vaccine-preventable diseases, and there's less available for strengthening health systems at country level, for maternal and child health, for nutrition, and for family planning priorities. Many existing aid programs for health assume a functioning health system exists with the capacity to deliver drugs to the people who need them. But this is often not the case.

'Strengthening health systems' may sound more abstract and less important than fighting specific diseases, but well-organized and sustainable health systems are essential to achieve results. Protecting people from malaria, HIV/AIDS or TB deaths and illness calls for strong health systems as well as specific disease control measures.

On the ground, in practical terms, it means putting together the right chain of events (financing, regulatory framework for private-public collaboration, governance, insurance, logistics, provider payment and incentive mechanisms, information, well-trained personnel, basic infrastructure, and supplies) to ensure that poor people get the good quality health services they need to save and improve their lives.

- **Demonstrating results and building evidence of what works**

Working '**cross-sectorally**' is also imperative to save lives and improve the quality of health of the world's poor—having health ministries, their local departments, and their international

aid donors work more closely together with other strategic government ministries to achieve better health results within countries.

According to the Bank's new strategy, "many advances in health status achieved during the 20th century were the result of close synergy among health and other key sectors in the economy such as water and sanitation, environment, transport, employment, education, agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and public administration. For example, investments in girls' education improve household decisions on nutrition and demand for basic health care. At the same time, investing in basic nutrition during pregnancy and infancy has a substantial positive effect on early childhood development, which, in turn, significantly contributes to educational attainment, employability, and future income."

We thank you Rt. Honorable Minister and DFID for this approach. It is time that we all focused on a results framework, and the development of clear monitoring indicators, to measure progress. It is time that we finally deliver health to communities, families, youth, children, mothers and babies that pay with their lives when we wait.