IAP RECOMMENDATION FOR

Donors and business engagement in the SDGs

Development cooperation partners should ensure that transparency and accountability standards aligned with public health are applied throughout their engagement with the for-profit sector. They should invest in national regulatory and oversight capacities, and also regulate private sector actors headquartered in their countries.

Development cooperation partners—including bilateral donors, the development banks, global health foundations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the UN system—should ensure that their engagements with the for-profit sector are guided by the same standards that they regularly apply to recipients of their technical and financial support.

KEY MEASURES FOR BILATERAL DONORS

Bilateral donors should systematically apply accountability standards to private sector engagement in order to protect the right to health, especially for women, children, adolescents and left-behind groups. This includes all vehicles for mobilizing private sector investments in health—including blended finance and PPPs.

- Ensure transparency on additionality.
- Undertake impact assessments on health, human rights and equity.
- Ensure meaningful civil society and community involvement in decision-making and reviews of implementation.
- Make independent evaluations obligatory and their reports publicly accessible.
- Encourage governments to make planned PPPs open to public consultation, especially those impacting on health, and involve civil society in designing and monitoring them.
The Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) should ensure that health—with particular attention to women, children and adolescents—receives adequate attention in the guidance (currently under development and expected in 2019) for bilateral donors and development banks regarding the effective use of modalities of private sector engagement, including PPPs.

KEY MEASURES AND INVESTMENT AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PARTNERS

Development cooperation partners should invest in national regulatory and participatory accountability systems to hold private sector partners to account for women’s, children’s and adolescents’ health.

- Update national health information management systems to capture for-profit private sector providers.
- Strengthen public sector capacity to regulate the private sector, purchase services, negotiate contracts and manage PPPs.
- Build government capacity to negotiate international trade agreements and regulate the operations of multinationals to protect public health.
- Develop guidance for governments and parliamentarians on model legislation for effective regulation of private sector engagement in health.
- Strengthen independent accountability and oversight mechanisms, such as the judiciary and legal systems, as well as civil society organizations that carry out social accountability functions.

Reference


ABOUT THE IAP

The Independent Accountability Panel for Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent (IAP) is appointed by the UN Secretary-General. It is composed of an internationally-recognized group of experts in health and human rights, who serve in their individual capacities. The IAP’s main functions are to:

- Independently review progress and accountabilities towards achieving the EWEC Global Strategy objectives aligned with Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 3, and provide actionable recommendations
- Disseminate IAP reviews and recommendations to support country action and impact
- Promote accountability principles and advocate for remedy and action.

The IAP is the only independent accountability mechanism established under the SDGs so far. The panel recommends the development of an integrated accountability mechanism under UHC, addressing non-communicable and communicable diseases, emergencies and other SDG 3 issues. It should prioritize accountability for the health of women, children and adolescents, and others left furthest behind.

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