

Civil Society Statement on Measurement and Accountability for Health

Full Statement

As the global development community approaches the roll out of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), *The Roadmap for Health Measurement and Accountability*¹ presents an opportunity to strengthen measurement and accountability platforms for health. We join the leadership of the World Bank, WHO, USAID and other partners to welcome the *Roadmap*, and support its introduction and implementation. The *Roadmap* provides an important framework for collecting and analyzing the health data necessary to measure progress; improve data availability and quality; align investments in health information systems; and to hold development partners, national governments and non-state actors accountable to their commitments. However, while the *Roadmap* notes the importance of non-state actors, and specifically civil society, in this process, the principles for stakeholder engagement in its investment framework and implementation plans at the global and country levels must be better developed and articulated.

As civil society actors² who have accompanied the Roadmap development process thus far, we call on the World Bank, USAID, WHO and other partners to work proactively with civil society to better define the mechanisms and platforms for data utilization and accountability at the global and country levels. In this effort, we request all stakeholders to clarify, institutionalize, and resource the participation of civil society to ensure that it is meaningful and having impact.

Specifically, we call for the Roadmap and its operationalization process to:

Deepen applied thinking and action to define and operationalize **improved accountability mechanisms** at the global, country and local levels.

- In-country accountability processes and platforms should be country-led to foster country ownership and ensure sustainability. These platforms should acknowledge and include a wide range of stakeholders and should adopt democratic and transparent selection processes to ensure the participation of civil society.
- National measurement and accountability platforms should facilitate synergy and coordination with the repertoire of global initiatives and programs being implemented at the country level.

Provide principles and mechanisms to enable the **alignment of stakeholders around measurement and accountability standards and platforms**, building on the work of the IHP+ to clearly set out partner behavior expectations.

- Alignment and improved coordination should be at the center of measurement processes and accountability platforms/mechanisms at global and country levels. This should build on the work of the IHP+ at country and global levels to improve partner behavior and contribute to measurement, accountability and health development at global and country levels.
- Global standards and mechanisms should be established to ensure transparent reporting and measurement. Stakeholders should be equally engaged and mutually accountable for the resources and/or services they commit to provide, the process through which they provide resources and/or services, and the results stemming from those resources or services.

¹ Hereafter referred to as the Roadmap.

² This statement was prepared by a group of Northern and Southern civil society organizations working from input on civil society engagement gathered through e-consultations, stakeholder interviews, face-to-face meetings, webinars, round table meetings and a workshop at 68th World Health Assembly. While we recognize that the civil society consultation has not been as exhaustive as we might have hoped, we commit to continuing to raise our voices for the engagement of civil society throughout the implementation of the Roadmap at the global, country and local levels.

- The capacity of policy and decision makers to collect and analyze health metrics for decision making with regards to health service delivery should be strengthened to render their actions more effective and having more impact.

Enable the **active engagement of non-state actors, including civil society and the private sector**, in all phases of *Roadmap* development, including in its oversight structures and operational process.

- Entry points, guiding principles and roles for the engagement of non-state actors, including marginalized populations, should be urgently clarified at global and country levels to ensure better coordination and collaboration.
- Productive partnerships between civil society; government, including parliamentarians; development partners; and the media should be fostered to monitor and demand accountability on commitments.
- Capacity strengthening and participation-enabling support should be established to encourage active civil society participation in accountability processes.
- Civil society should not be sanctioned for holding governments or development partners accountable.
- Financial and technical assistance should be made available at global, country and local levels to allow for country-wide participation in all health sector measurement and accountability processes.

Mandate and facilitate **accessibility to and transparency and use of health and health-related metrics** for advocacy, planning, programming and accountability.

- All stakeholders – national governments, development partners and non-state actors, including civil society and the private sector – should collect and make available data for use in reporting on key indicators. Mechanisms and dedicated staff should be put in place to facilitate and ensure quality data collection, triangulation and reporting.
- Data should be available to use as evidence for accountability and transparent partner behavior; to engage governments (including parliamentarians), development partners and media on policy dialogue and advocacy; and to demand accountability at various levels.
- Better data sharing and closer collaboration on data analysis within and between different departments at the Ministerial-level should be encouraged to operationalize the holistic application of data.
- Data should be transparent and accessible to enable advocacy, facilitate evidence-based decision making and strengthen accountability. Stakeholders should be encouraged to share information and collaborate across sectors to strengthen success in the health sector.

Promote the **analysis of equity and sustainability** through the use of data, measurement and accountability mechanisms and approaches.

- Specific care should be taken to ensure that data and measurement mechanisms include marginalized and other hard-to-reach populations.
- Equity measures should be included and routinely applied to report on, and ensure accountability around, distribution of coverage and impact.

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