

The Post-2015 Global Development Agenda:



Photos: Warren Zelman

*Health Must Remain
a Top Priority*

We believe the Post-2015 Development Agenda must accelerate progress on unmet MDGs and create a tangible, bold vision for achieving future health progress. It should have a strong emphasis on country ownership and empowering locals to take greater control over their own development.

In the last decade, the world has made tremendous progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a set of eight internationally agreed-upon goals with measurable targets and clear deadlines for improving the lives of the world's poorest people. With the MDGs set to expire next year, the United Nation's Post-2015 Development Agenda provides a unique opportunity to review development gains, become more inclusive of communities, address global attention on emerging health threats and reassess current goals that have not reached their targets.

For more than forty years, MSH has stood by the principles of supporting effective local leaders and local institutions to create lasting health impact. Healthy people and communities contribute to economic vitality and political stability.

WHAT WE'RE DOING: *Post-2015 Advocacy on the U.S. and Global Level*

MSH is working on the U.S. and global level to ensure health remains a key component of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We are partnering with like-minded global health and advocacy organizations (i.e. the Global Health Council) to advocate for a strong U.S. government position on health in the Post-2015 framework.

In addition, MSH advocates for the inclusion of health at the global level. MSH has been working at the country level through our local country offices, governments and partners globally to influence the UN decision-making process. MSH coordinates Health for All Post-2015, a global campaign of civil society organizations advocating for UHC in the post-2015, agenda. It comprises over 40 organizations from approximately 20 countries, engaging with UN missions and other partners to advance a principled approach to UHC and secure its place in the SDG framework. MSH also participates in Open Working Group and U.N. General Assembly activities.

ADVOCACY TACTICS

Influence: MSH vocalizes its views through active participation in policy working groups and by providing substantive input into position papers authored by MSH and our global health partners.

Advocate: MSH delivers positions through lobby meetings, letters and phone calls with U.S. government and U.N. targets.

Raise Awareness: MSH holds events in Washington D.C. and New York City, and shares its perspective through targeted social media, press releases and blogs.

WHAT'S NEEDED

MSH advocates for the inclusion of the following four key areas in the Post-2015 Agenda:

1 Financing for Health: Universal Health Coverage (UHC)

The Post-2015 Agenda must include Universal Health Coverage to address financing and access to health for critical health areas, such as HIV/AIDS and maternal, newborn and child health.

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) means everyone can access the quality health services they need without financial hardship. UHC is critical because 1 billion people lack access to basic health care and another 100 million fall into poverty trying to access it. Nearly a third of households in Africa and Southeast Asia have to borrow money or sell assets to pay for health care. Reducing or eliminating out-of-pocket spending is critically important to promote access to health services and health workers and to prevent impoverishment for vulnerable populations.

UHC is operationalized by cost sharing health care expenses among an entire population through pre-payment and risk-pooling, rather than being shouldered by the sick. Access is based on need and unrelated to ability to pay. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to UHC; however, implementing countries emphasize the following core tenets in their systems: prioritizing the poorest; increasing reliance on public funding; reducing or eliminating out-of-pocket expenses, and developing the health system.



Photo: Warren Zelman



Photo: Warren Zelman

2 The Changing Landscape of Global Health: Non-Communicable Diseases/Chronic Diseases and Fragile States

The Post-2015 Agenda must address the changing landscape of global health with people living with more chronic diseases and more poor people concentrated in fragile states.

Chronic diseases (CDs), including cancers, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, and asthma, represent a rising health burden in developing countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates more than 100,000 people worldwide die every day from CDs. The epidemic is promoting further inequalities between developed and developing countries and is reversing the gains of addressing infectious diseases and malnutrition. For example, 80% of CD-related deaths occur in low-and middle-income countries. Furthermore, underserved populations that lack access to quality care (including those who cannot afford care, cannot travel to care, or have limited knowledge of their condition or how to navigate local health system and advocate for care) suffer disproportionately. Despite a World Health Assembly call to reduce premature mortality from CDs by 25% by 2025, many countries do not have the budgets, policies, and existing health systems necessary to reach this goal. Left unchecked, CDs will be the leading cause of disability by 2030, leading to lost economic productivity and higher health care costs.

Conflict and instability is a key driver of poverty. An estimated 40% of the world's poor now living in conflict, post-conflict and fragile state environments. With Despite 37% of Official Development Assistance being spent in fragile & conflict-affected states, very few fragile states are expected to meet any of the MDGs. Global poverty can't be eliminated without fundamental shifts in places like DRC, Afghanistan, Haiti and Nigeria. Tackling poverty in the post-2015 era will require a greater focus on fragile and post-fragile states.

3 Women and Girls

The Post-2015 Agenda MSH must address the needs of women and girls to live healthy lives and achieve their potential.

The norms and values of many societies limit women's and girls' access to resources. Women and girls experience widespread inequalities based on their biological vulnerabilities as well as their subordination and oppression. These inequalities are manifested in their inability to use health services and have equal access to socio economic and political resources. Women and girls also are victims of gender-based violence, leading to detrimental health outcomes. Health-related vulnerabilities and poor outcomes for women and girls have social and financial costs that restrict the availability and quality of health services.

Addressing women and girls as a priority in the Post-2015 Agenda would support the goal of governments to realize their obligation to equally fulfill the right to health for all. MSH wants to see gender equality promoted through the integration of services, support for women in leadership positions in the health workforce, address the sexual and reproductive health needs of adolescents, prevent sexual and gender-based violence, and empower women. Additionally MSH will partner with other organizations to prevent child marriages so girls can achieve their potential and become productive and healthy members of society.



Photo: Warren Zelman

4 Governance and Accountability

The Post-2015 Development Agenda should have a strong emphasis on governance and accountability, without which a health system cannot function effectively.

Governance is often the weakest link in the provision of health services in the developing world. Despite substantial donor investments in African health sectors, they have not been getting optimal benefits for their investments. Well governed and properly managed health systems are accountable for results, responsive to people and therefore capable of producing great health outcomes. Inspired leadership, sound management and transparent governance are the keys to strong and sustainable health systems. Good governance enables sound management of people, money, medicines and information. Sound management systems in turn enable delivery of safe, efficient, effective, and timely health services that are respectful of the needs and preferences of patients and health service users.

The Post-2015 Development Agenda has the potential to galvanize development actors and bring us closer to a world without extreme poverty. MSH will continue to work with like-minded health organizations to ensure this Agenda reflects the new development challenges and maintains health as a key goal in achieving prosperity for all.



Photo: Warren Zelman

PAST MSH EVENTS ON POST-2015



Photo: MSH Staff

A Healthy Future for All: Making Universal Health Coverage a Post-2015 Priority (New York City, USA)

As the United Nations General Assembly kicked off general debate on the post-2015 development agenda in September 2013, MSH, The Rockefeller Foundation, and the Permanent Mission of Thailand to the United Nations hosted *A Healthy Future for All: Making Universal Health Coverage a Post-2015 Priority*.

The standing-room-only event featured keynote speaker Jeffrey D. Sachs, Director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University.



Photo: Warren Zelman

NCD Roundtable Dinner: Building Bridges Across Health Priorities (Geneva, Switzerland)

On May 20, 2014, MSH and LIVESTRONG Foundation co-hosted a high-level dialogue with United States government and non-governmental stakeholders about how current global health platforms can be leveraged to **help effectively prevent and treat chronic and noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in developing countries**.

Guests include representatives from governments, private sector, and nonprofit organizations.



Photo: Warren Zelman

Who's looking out for Women and Girls' Health? (New York City, USA)

On September 23, 2014, MSH and several partner health organizations will host a high level panel will highlight the importance of focusing attention on and channeling resources towards **improving the status of women's and girls' health in developing countries**. The panel, composed of several key Ministers of Health, will offer an opportunity to hear directly from those in charge of health in the country as to successes of current initiatives surrounding women's and girls' health, including adolescents, Maternal Newborn Child Health, and reproductive health.



Photo: MSH Staff

Governance for Health: Priorities for Post-2015 and Beyond (Geneva, Switzerland)

On May 21st, 2014 the USAID-funded Leadership, Management and Governance Project led by MSH hosted a high-level side event in conjunction with the 67th World Health Assembly in Geneva, Switzerland.

This event was moderated by Dr. Jonathan Quick, CEO and President of MSH, and included distinguished panelists from around the world. The event discussed important topics such as **good governance and leadership in the health sector** and incorporating good governance into the Post-2015 framework.

For more information, please contact
MSH's Policy and Advocacy Manager Filmona Hailemichael
at fhailemichael@msh.org.

MANAGEMENT SCIENCES FOR HEALTH

Saving lives and improving the health of the world's
poorest and most vulnerable people by closing the
gap between knowledge and action in public health.

WWW.MSH.ORG

200 RIVERS EDGE DRIVE
MEDFORD, MA 02155
UNITED STATES
T E L + 1 617.250.9500
COMMUNICATIONS@MSH.ORG

