



# ACTION FOR GLOBAL HEALTH

FULL FUNDING  
STRONG SYSTEMS  
FAIR ACCESS

Brussels, 22 July 2010

Dear member of the Development Cooperation Working Group,

The UN High Level MDG Review Summit in September offers a vital opportunity for EU Member States to adopt ambitious positions outlining concrete actions to achieve the MDGs by 2015.

Progress towards the health MDGs has been particularly slow and Action for Global Health strongly believes that the European Union and its Member States have a crucial role to play in enabling developing countries to achieve MDGs 4, 5 and 6.

The facts speak for themselves:

- 9 million children are dying before their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday every year – mostly from preventable causes;
- Over 350,000 women die from complications in pregnancy or childbirth every year;
- This year alone, HIV, TB and malaria will kill over 5 million people;
- An additional 100 million people will fall into poverty because they have to pay for health care.

A key factor in all of this is the failure of both developing country governments and donors to seriously invest in health systems that are based on the principles of equity and universality as a way to ensure the right to health for all (Council Conclusions *'The EU Role in Global Health'*).

Therefore, Action for Global Health urges the EU Member States to include in their MDG Review Summit positions the following points:

1- Support the development of an EU MDG Action Plan with concrete actions and budget allocations for implementing EU commitments towards the MDGs.

2- Make ODA targets legally binding, following the examples of the UK and Belgium, as stated in the European Commission's Communication "A twelve-point EU action plan in support of the Millennium Development Goals". Furthermore, 15% of the 0.7% ODA should be allocated to health. This is equivalent to 0.1% of individual Member States' GNI, as recommended by the WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health.

4- Support the introduction of a Currency Transaction Tax for development as recommended by the recent expert report commissioned by the Leading group on Innovative Financing to Fund Development.

3- Provide financial resources for the Joint Action Plan for Women's and Children's health, launched by UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, and make sure resources under this initiative are additional and within the existing aid architecture.

4- Invest in building a strong health workforce and address the 'pull factors' in international health worker migration. Governments in the North should implement the recently approved WHO Code of Conduct on health workers recruitment.

5- Strongly support access to healthcare free at the point of use. Donors must formulate concrete proposals on how developing countries can increase access to free at the point of use health services for all, including sexual and reproductive healthcare.

6- Develop clear guidelines to ensure the engagement of civil society in the development of national health policies, plans and strategies on an ongoing basis. The International Health Partnership and Related Initiatives (IHP+) should continue to ensure and strengthen the meaningful engagement of civil society in its processes for influencing policies and holding governments and donors accountable.

7- Embed health policies into national development strategies and establish cross-sector coordination mechanisms. Nutrition, water sanitation, education, gender equality and the fulfilment of economic and social rights are key determinants for health.

We sincerely hope that you consider these recommendations in your positions for the MDG Review Summit and that the necessary measures will be taken to reach the MDGs by 2015 and to improve the health and lives of millions of men, women and children in developing countries around the world.

Yours sincerely,

Marielle Hart

Head of EU Policy  
Stop AIDS Alliance  
on behalf of Action for Global Health



Action for Global Health is a broad European network of NGOs advocating for Europe to play a more proactive role in enabling developing countries to meet the Health Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

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