

bringing clarity to health systems

HealthSystems20/20



Health Systems 20/20 E-Update - February 2009

Health Systems 20/20 works to strengthen health systems through integrated approaches to improve financing, governance, and operations, and building capacity of local institutions. This E-Update is disseminated periodically.

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Contents

1. Pay for performance for improving health
2. Addressing health systems strengthening under PEPFAR
3. Assessing the health system in Vietnam
4. Using NHA data in Namibia to inform health resource allocation
5. Yemen GIS work featured on USAID Global Development Commons web site
6. Utilizing data to scale up HIV/AIDS services in Côte d'Ivoire
7. Improving management systems for HIV/AIDS service delivery in Mozambique
8. Innovations for health financing in Sub-Saharan Africa
9. Sixth Global National Health Accounts Symposium – Call for Abstracts
10. Health Systems 20/20 at 136th annual APHA meeting
11. Health Systems 20/20 blog expanded for wider commentary
12. Visit Health Systems 20/20 on Facebook and Twitter
13. New Publications

1. Pay for performance for improving health



There is increasing evidence that providing incentives to service providers by linking payment to performance can lead to impressive improvements in critical areas like immunization coverage, utilization of prenatal care, and deliveries attended by skilled birth attendants. This approach, called pay for performance (P4P), was the subject of the first Asia regional P4P workshop, held in Cebu, Philippines January 19-23, 2009. The workshop welcomed 14 teams of three "stakeholders" from nine Asian countries, along with numerous observers, to learn about P4P approaches, how to work together as a team to identify what impedes good performance, and how to design and implement a customized performance-based financing approach. The event was sponsored by Health Systems 20/20 in collaboration with AusAID, the Center for Global Development, Norad, and the World Bank.

[Read more](#)

2. Addressing health systems strengthening under PEPFAR

The new U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) reauthorization explicitly calls for attention to health systems. Health Systems 20/20 is providing technical input for the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator's vision of how to approach health system strengthening under the new PEPFAR program. Health Systems 20/20 and the Health Workforce Advocacy Initiative have teamed up to develop a [toolkit](#) of materials to help Global Fund applicants better understand how they can use Round 9 of the Global Fund to strengthen their countries' health systems as well as what resources are available to support them in doing so.

[Read more about Health Systems 20/20's work in HIV/AIDS costing](#)

3. Assessing the health system in Vietnam

The [Health Systems Assessment Approach](#) is a systematic, indicator approach to rapidly assess a country's health system. The approach has been utilized to date in Angola, Benin, Namibia, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Vietnam. Health Systems 20/20 has collaborated with the government of Vietnam through the Health Strategy and Policy Institute to conduct health systems assessments in two provinces, Ninh Binh and Can Tho. Assessment results will guide health system strengthening efforts as PEPFAR/Vietnam prepares to expand HIV/AIDS related services across the country.

[Read more](#)

4. Using NHA data in Namibia to ensure health resources are well allocated

National Health Accounts data in Namibia was used to inform the financing component of the government's health sector reform strategy. Reforms include financial expenditure autonomy for district-level health centers, a more equitable resource allocation formula for all 13 regions, and possible elimination of user fees. Reforms of this magnitude have not been proposed since Namibia's independence in 1989.

[Read more](#)

5. Yemen GIS work featured on USAID Global Development Commons web site

USAID's [Global Development Commons](#), an initiative that seeks to promote innovation within USAID and the greater development community to improve the accessibility and affordability of information and knowledge, featured Health Systems 20/20 GIS work in Yemen.

[Read more](#)

6. Utilizing data to scale up HIV/AIDS services in Côte d'Ivoire

The Côte d'Ivoire Ministry of Health and key Ivorian stakeholders are using service cost data from public health facilities to inform the scale-up of HIV/AIDS services nationally. Data on the cost of HIV counseling and testing, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, antiretroviral therapy, related laboratory services, diagnosis and treatment for tuberculosis, and care and support services revealed that antiretroviral treatment and tuberculosis services had the highest unit costs due to drug prices, but labor costs associated with ART and care and support services were substantial as well.

[Read more about our work in Côte d'Ivoire](#)

7. Improving management systems for HIV/AIDS service delivery in Mozambique

Health Systems 20/20 conducted a survey of National AIDS Council (CNCS) staff at the central and provincial offices in Maputo, Nampula, and Cabo Delgado in Mozambique to help determine the reasons for high staff turnover. The survey highlighted lack of benefits as an important reason for the high turnover and low morale. To address some of the key issues that were highlighted in the survey, Health Systems 20/20 and CNCS launched a cooperative effort with the Ministry of Public Service to constitute CNCS as a full governmental agency. This effort, which is expected to be completed by mid-2009, will allow CNCS to provide health benefits and, potentially, retirement benefits to its staff for the first time in its history.

[Read more](#)

8. Innovations for health financing in sub-Saharan Africa

Senior experts from development agencies and think tanks located in the Washington, DC area met on November 5, 2008 for a roundtable discussion on "Innovations for Health Financing in Sub-Saharan Africa." The event, hosted by Health Systems 20/20 and the Results for Development Institute, aimed to develop recommendations for how United States government development agencies could help sub-Saharan African countries attain more equitable, efficient, and sustainable health financing.

[Read the project brief](#)

9. Sixth Global National Health Accounts Symposium — Call for Abstracts

The Sixth Global NHA Symposium, a two-day workshop, hosted by the China Health Economics Institute, with the sponsorship of WHO and USAID, takes place July 9-10, 2009, in Beijing. The program will include training and information sessions regarding the latest developments in NHA, as well as NHA applications to policy and decision-making. The 2009 Symposium theme is "advancing methods, serving policy." Abstract submissions are open until February 15.

[Read more](#)

10. Health Systems 20/20 at 136th Annual APHA Meeting

Thousands of leading experts, researchers, and practitioners came together at the American Public Health Association's 136th Annual Meeting and Exposition, October 26-29, 2008, in San Diego, California, to share their research, learn from each other, and explore new strategies for addressing a wide range of critical public health issues.

[View Health Systems 20/20 presentations](#)

11. Health Systems 20/20 blog expanded for wider commentary

In conjunction with the XVII International AIDS Conference in Mexico, Health Systems 20/20 launched a blog to spur discussion and debate on how best to bring a health systems perspective to the HIV/AIDS dialogue. The blog has been expanded to include wider commentary about health systems strengthening.

[Please join the discussion](#)

12. Visit Health Systems 20/20 on Facebook and Twitter

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13. Recent Publications

- [Toward Solving Health Financing Challenges in Africa — A Way Forward, Jan 2009](#)
- [Health Systems 20/20 Year 2 Annual Report, Dec 2008](#)
- [Innovations for Health Financing in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Roundtable Discussion, Dec 2008](#)
- [Paying for Performance in Health: Guide to Developing the Blueprint, Dec 2008](#)
- [From Humanitarian and Post-conflict Assistance to Health System Strengthening in Fragile States: Clarifying the Transition and the Role of NGOs, Nov 2008](#)
- [Toolkit for Using Round 9 of the Global Fund for Health Systems Strengthening, Oct 24 2008](#)
- [Health Systems 20/20 Publications List, Oct 2008](#)
- [Coûts de la Prise en Charge Médicale du VIH/SIDA par les Services de Santé Publique en Côte d'Ivoire, Oct 2008](#)
- [Costs of HIV/AIDS Medical Services in Public Health Facilities in Côte d'Ivoire, Oct 2008](#)

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