

Report of Finance Committee to the Board

February 20, 2009
Washington DC



Members of the Finance Committee

- Julian Schweitzer, Chair
- Vinod Paul
- André Lalonde

Secretariat senior staff also present and Daniel Hulls
(CEPA, Consultant)



Item 1 - FC received update on developments since last meeting

- Finance Officer - recruitment in process, recommendation will go to FC on no objection basis shortly
- Secretariat staff – attrition
- Resource mobilization – renewed interest of donors, informal discussions held
- Renewal of MOU – in process
- FC requests WHO to clarify two outstanding issues: a) right to reassignment removed? b) editorial clearance of Partnership documents



Item 2 - Implementation of the 2008 Value Added Work Plan

Recommended for Board approval with these comments :

- Appreciation of Secretariat work expressed
- Format for finance reporting agreed
- Significant achievements, especially in the advocacy area, despite uncertainties and many activities dropped
- Lack of achievement in defining effective interventions package noted: this will be a vital area of work for 2009



Item 2 - Implementation of the 2008 Value Added Work Plan (cont'd)

Recommended for Board approval with these comments :

- FC notes overall budget under-run during 2008
- FC draws to the attention of the Executive Committee the very slow recruitment processes at WHO



Item 3 - 2009 Budget Paper

Recommends for Board approval, with these comments:

- Analysis in the paper is accepted by the FC and improved clarity of reporting and formatting is again noted with appreciation
- Detailed budgets for priority actions, Secretariat and core PMNCH functions were examined and approved by the FC subject to full Board decision on priority action substance and Secretariat structure



Item 3 - 2009 Budget Paper (Cont'd)

Recommends for Board approval, with these comments:

- FC draws to the attention of the Executive Committee the risks to budgets and deliverables if it is not possible to achieve recruitment on an accelerated timetable.
- Notes that there is funding available to cover projected 2009 costs, subject to agreement by donors on allowing some fungibility
- FC recommends that Secretariat starts process of renegotiation with donors to agree changes in funding restrictions
- Notes the need to begin now to raise funds for 2010 and 2011



Item 3 - 2009 Budget Paper (Cont'd)

Recommends for Board approval, with these comments:

- Notes that budgets for priority actions are *incremental* to what partners will assign to these items for activities outside the Partnership
- FC expresses concern that issue of accountability and responsibility for delivering 2009 work plan by partners is ill defined. This exposes the Partnership to reputational and financial risk and negatively affects Secretariat staff morale.

