GAP for SDG3: where is civil society?

G2H2 May 18 2019
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Who, what and when?

Request & Timeline

- Governments of Germany, Ghana, Norway
- To improve the cooperation of the organizations involved
- WHO in the lead
  - 10/2018: launch at World Health Summit in Berlin: Align, Accelerate, Account
  - 10/2018 – 9/2019 (Phase 2): active engagement (country, regional and global level) & consultations
  - 9/2019: launch of final plan at UN General Assembly
  - 09/2019 – 2030 (Phase3): Implementation phase

„However, more needs to be done to achieve our shared goals and we believe it is necessary that all relevant actors rally fully behind the SDG 3 and related targets.“
CSO in the picture of the GAP

Engagement opportunities for CSO?

**Launch**
- Informal civil society meeting with WHO (Berlin)
  - Oct. 2018

- Civil society strategy session (CSEM & GFAN) (NYC)
  - Dec. 2018

- CSEM call for advisory group members
  - Jan. 2019

- Non state actor consultation on three accelerators (NYC)
  - April 2019

- Feedback to draft meeting report of consultation
  - May 2019

- WHO: shares drafts > short window for online feedback
  - June 2019

- Launch of Final Plan at UNGA (NYC)
  - Sept 2019

**Deadline for draft acceler. mid-May**

- WHO Technical briefing (20.05. 12:30 – 14:00)
- Community & CS engagement for GAP (20.05. 15:30 – 17:30) GVA Press Club
- UN HLM on UHC & GAP lunch briefing, MMI Assembly side event (25.05. 11:30 – 13:30)

**Engagement opportunities for CSO?**
- Wemos shared input with GAP Secretariat & CSEM
- Wemos gave feedback to the report
CSEM advisory group on the GAP

Initial responsibilities

- Call in 01/2019, formed in 02/2019 with 8 members
  - civil society consultation processes
  - civil society inputs
  - civil society engagement
  - liaison to WHO and other partners
  - Accelerator working groups
  - [https://csemonline.net/announcing-the-gap-civil-society-advisory-group-members/](https://csemonline.net/announcing-the-gap-civil-society-advisory-group-members/) & [https://csemonline.net/civil-society-advisory-group-for-the-gap/](https://csemonline.net/civil-society-advisory-group-for-the-gap/)
- Not clear how to approach the members
Wemos’ input to the GAP on accelerator 1 and HRH

- On accelerator 1 including
  - Emphasis on more progressive forms of taxation
  - Need of higher quality AND quantity of DAH
  - Strengthen public funding for health and avoid dilution by referring to hybrid financing instruments

- Additional accelerator on HRH including
  - Quality education for all cadres
  - Job creation with guaranteed salaries
  - Decent working conditions
  - Decent living conditions
  - Governed international mobility of health workers

GLOBAL ACTION PLAN FOR HEALTHY LIVES AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL

Wemos advocates for a comprehensive approach to health and welcomes this initiative to improve alignment and accountability among Global Health actors and accelerate progress towards SDGs. We have built a solid knowledge base and advocated for more and better funding for health, emphasizing equity, cross-sectoral issues and the need to scale up investments in the health workforce.

Following from our work in these areas, we would like to make the following remarks on the Accelerator Discussion Frame on Sustainable Financing (version as at 20 December, 2018) and suggest to grasp this important opportunity to accelerate action on Human Resources for Health.

Wemos Input on Sustainable Financing

STRENGTHEN THE EQUITY IMPACT

We are glad to see that equity takes a central place in this document, that equity is stressed in relation to resource mobilization as well as in relation to health expenditure. To strengthen the potential equity impact of the GAP, we suggest two areas in which the equity lens can be better applied.

Taxation

The discussion framework refers to fiscal reforms as a “technical dialogue”, thereby ignoring the highly political nature of such reforms and the urgent need to make taxation far more progressive in order to be truly equitable. Moreover, sound and progressive tax systems are the most sustainable funding source for governments to finance public goods, including health. We recommend that the framework:

- emphasizes the need for countries to move to more progressive forms of taxation such as wealth, corporate and personal income taxes;
- and includes measures to strengthen international collaboration for tax justice. Not only to counter tax avoidance, as is mentioned in the document, but also to stop tax evasion and to effectively tax transnational corporations and align fiscal policies to stop the race to the bottom in corporate taxation.

Quality and quantity of development assistance for health

We are glad to see that quality of Development Assistance for Health (DAH) is receiving due attention and call for similar attention to the quantity of external funding. Most low and lower-middle-income countries will take many years before they will be able to fund a decent level of health services from their national budgets. Even if they considerably increase their budget share allocated to health. Equity in health requires a global redistribution of resources that will not – in the short nor medium term – be achieved via tax justice only. For many low-
Wemos actions to date (1)

- Attended WHO – civil society meeting on the GAP during the World Health Summit, October 2018
- Sent input directly to WHO GAP Secretariat and CSEM staff, 14 Feb 2019
- No response from WHO
- CSEM: “there have been multiple opportunities to provide input”
- Followed up with CSEM to inquire about future opportunities: “keep your eyes open for information from the Advisory Group”
Inquired about our input with WHO GAP Secretariat via email, 28 March. No response.

 Asked WHO GAP Secretariat what happened with our input at meeting in Berlin organized by SWP.
  
  * Response: “taken into account for further development” and offer to pass on this input to sherpa of accelerator 1.

 Followed that contact up via email, asking what happened with it, 5 April. No response.

 Shared input with GFF contact. Had not seen it so far.
GLOBAL ACTION PLAN FOR HEALTHY LIVES AND WELL-BEING FOR ALL

WEMOS advocates for a comprehensive approach to health and well-being that recognizes the importance of implementing evidence-based programs and policies. The Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All is a framework that promotes strategies for reducing health disparities and improving health outcomes globally. It focuses on addressing non-communicable diseases, mental health, access to care, and health systems strengthening.

WEMOS INPUT ON SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

STRENGTHEN THE EQUITY IMPACT

We need to ensure that health systems are resilient to shocks and that health care is accessible to all. The equity impact of health care services should be a priority and interventions should be designed to address disparities in health outcomes.

STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE THE EQUITY IMPACT

- Strengthen primary health care services
- Investing in education and training for health professionals
- Increasing access to essential medicines
- Improving health information systems
- Developing partnerships with the private sector
- Engaging communities in health care decisions
- Promoting health and well-being in all policies

QUALITY AND QUANTITY OF DEVELOPMENT FINANCE FOR HEALTH

The health sector requires sustainable financing to ensure that services are accessible to all. Funding for primary health care and health systems strengthening should be increased to ensure that health care services are available and of high quality. The Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All is a key tool for achieving this goal.

HEALTH UNLOCKED
Discussion

What to do in remaining time?

• Chaotic process so far
• Weak communication by signatories and WHO
• Not many opportunities for real engagement
• Invite from organizations to reach out as CSO and not wait for formal invite (in December meeting NYC)
• Not open and inclusive approach
• CS frustrated with process: Are there real opportunities for CS engagement or is it only lip service?

• How should CS act in the remaining months until September to make our voice be heard?