

Resource Needs Progress report “60 days --March 9th – May 9th, 2005”

Overview

This report describes the progress made since March 9th 2005 in the area of resource needs estimations. Since the decision to establish a working group in this area about 60 days ago, both a Resource Needs Steering Committee and a Resource Needs Technical Working Group, representing a wide range of stakeholders, have gathered to discuss and guide the estimation of the resources required for the AIDS response. Based on this input, the most recent AIDS resource needs estimation will be improved and finalised by mid-June, which is timely given global events such as the PCB and the G8 meetings.

March 9th 2005: High-Level Meeting, “Making the Money Work”¹

At a meeting in London on 9th March 2005, “The Global Response to AIDS: Making the Money Work – *The Three Ones in Action*”, leaders from donor and developing country governments, civil society, UN agencies, and other multi-national and international institutions gathered to discuss:

- A Financial Framework for AIDS funding for 2005-2007;
- The “Three Ones” principles’ next steps to improve collective support for nationally-led AIDS strategies;
- Improving coordination among multilateral institutions and international donors.

An agreement was reached to form “*a Working Group, to be facilitated by UNAIDS, and representing donors, national governments, civil society, the private sector, and technical partners, which will continue preliminary work and provide technical justification of financial resources needed within 60 days, taking into account appropriate assumptions and methodologies and considering resources required for the development of adequate health sector and related human and institutional resources.*”

The purpose was to:

- Review and revise existing work on resource needs estimations with improved understanding of the overall assumptions that were used, the technical aspects of the methodology, a sensitivity analysis, and the actual calculations. This document would also include the most up-to-date forecasts of available resources for comparison with the estimated needs.
- Establish and announce an ongoing process for a systematic analysis of resource needs for the next 12 months. The existing work on resource needs estimates and the resource needs document originally prepared for the 9 March meeting would be considered a starting point that utilizes one possible methodology and set of assumptions. There should be a routine updating of the outcomes of the work for review and comment by interested partners.

To facilitate the process, three levels of working groups were proposed (see Annex 1 for list of participants):

1. Resource Needs Steering Committee (SC), to act as a supervisory panel;
2. Resource Needs Technical Working Group (TWG), to provide guidance and review the estimations;

¹ See also documents “Further refinement of the Financial Framework for AIDS Funding for 2005-2007. Proposed Action Plan” and “Communiqué from the High-Level Meeting, 9 March 2005”

3. Core group at the UNAIDS Secretariat, to deal with day-to-day needs of the exercise and ensure optimal information flow.

April 6th 2005: Conference Call to Prepare for the First Meeting of the Resource Needs Steering Committee²

The objective of this conference call was not to attempt to resolve the issues with regards to the resource needs estimates, but only to identify them and clarify what options should the Steering Committee consider.

The call discussed the membership of the Resource Needs Steering Committee and agreed to expand the Steering Committee to include more representatives from developing countries. The participants also identified the agenda items and issues for consideration at the first Resource Needs Steering Committee meeting, and assigned authors for background papers for the meeting. Furthermore, the group agreed that it would be difficult to have a transparent, inclusive process and good results in such a short period of time.

April 15th 2005: Resource Needs Steering Committee Meeting I³

The objectives of the first meeting of the Resource Needs Steering Committee were:

1. to gain an appreciation for the concerns and issues surrounding the current estimations of resource needs and the diverse needs for the use of this information;
2. to provide broad guidance on coverage assumptions, the potential use of scenarios and overall political implications;
3. to agree on a proposed timeline with specific products;
4. to endorse the proposed establishment of a supporting Resource Needs Technical Working Group (including its membership);
5. to build the firm commitment of Steering Committee members to the exercise.

The main discussions and agreements were:

- Concerns that the work of this Steering Committee and the supporting Technical Working Group be linked to that of the Global Task Team (GTT), especially to its Working Group on Harmonisation of Programming and Financing.
- Recognition that the 60-day limit as decreed by the March 9th meeting would limit the scope and rigor of the resource needs estimates.
- The main use of the current global AIDS resource needs estimations would primarily be for advocacy and resource mobilisation, though building on country information and strengthening in-country capacity for resource estimation (e.g. through second round of UNAIDS Secretariat's regional workshops, and consultations of representatives from developing countries). In the future, a more concerted effort would be needed to increase the role of developing countries in both generating and using this type of data.
- Resource needs estimate should focus on 2006 – 2008 and identify 3-4 clear areas (Prevention, Treatment and care, OVC), reconciling with existing international targets.
- Use of scenarios should be limited to describing projected available resources and resource needs for achieving agreed targets, necessary for determining the gap (possibility of using ranges rather than single numbers).
- Vaccine and microbicide research should be referenced but not included given other processes estimating the needs for AIDS research. Technical assistance and investments in capacity should be acknowledged in resource needs estimations.

² See also "Note for the Record of the Conference Call to prepare for the First Meeting of the Resource Needs Steering Committee, 6 April 2005"

³ See also "Report of the Resource Needs Steering Committee First Meeting, 15 April 2005"

- The evidence base for scale-up rates and targets, and the use of scenarios representing different options for attaining a comprehensive response were also discussed. The question of how targets fit into the overall work remains outstanding and will be discussed further.
- Though there was less discussion of projections of resources available, it was clear that donors represent available resources in different ways. Moreover, there are preferred ways of representing the resources made available (e.g. as % of GNI or as % of total AIDS resources).

May 4th 2005: Resource Needs Technical Working Group Meeting I ⁴

The meeting of the Resource Needs Technical Working Group was intended to:

- Set the context within which the technical guidance will be delivered;
- Provide technical guidance for the refinement of AIDS resource needs estimates;
- Establish a list of priority activities, responsibilities and a timeline for the next “45 days”, limited by the need to have global AIDS resource estimates by the PCB Meeting in June and the G8 Meeting in July.

The basis for the discussion was the revised draft discussion document on “Resource Needs for an expanded response to AIDS in low- and middle-income countries” of April 29th 2005, which was adapted on the basis of the first Steering Committee meeting. The technical guidance for improving the resource needs estimation in the short term is described in the note for the record. The main recommendations were:

- In the future, disseminating tools for resource estimation at country level should be a major priority. In that way, global resource estimates could potentially be more closely linked to country-specific information.
- Internationally endorsed targets should be translated into intervention targets that can be linked to the AIDS resource estimation models.
 - o However, for some areas, there might not be any targets available and the linking also depends on often weak effectiveness information.
- The timeframe for the AIDS resource estimation should be re-defined:
 - o Resource estimation to be reported for 2006 – 2008, but nested within 2006-2015 timeframe.
- In so far as possible within “45 days”, factors that affect increases in scale-up rate should be addressed in the resource estimation, such as:
 - o Investment in human resources;
 - o Investment in infrastructure;
 - o Investment in enhancing management capacity;
 - o Political commitment, macroeconomic absorption capacity and other factors affecting effective expenditure for scaling-up the response to AIDS;
 - o Additional investments in wider health system development should ideally be covered by all Health MDGs together. It would be useful to develop an analysis of financial sharing of these costs by each sector within Health. This analysis should assume scaling up of the different programmes simultaneously, which may not actually occur.
- More information needs to be gathered to acknowledge economies of scale and scope in the AIDS resource estimations.
- The varying needs and cost of scaling-up ART at different stages should be considered.
- The possibility of acknowledging different prevention strategies and allocations for categories of countries (low/high prevalence, concentrated or generalised) should be explored.
- The gap analysis should be refined by:

⁴ See also “Note for the Record of the Resource Needs Technical Working Group, 4th May 2005”

- Improving coherence in reporting by donor countries (e.g. components to be included);
- Continued gathering of information at country level, including on differences between commitments, disbursements and expenditure;
- Distinguishing between “implementation” and “funding” gap.
- OVC costing component should be improved in close cooperation with UNICEF.
- The nutrition components should be improved in close cooperation with WFP.

Proposed way forward

Short Term Activities

- Following the recent meeting of the Technical Working Group, over the next weeks there will be extensive data gathering and further analysis to better inform the parameters and to guide the estimations of resources needed
- There will be further improvement of the resource estimation models, e.g. to allow for new assumptions and to provide increased transparency
- The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on May 17 in Geneva. The agenda will primarily be to focus on finalizing the key elements of the Resource Needs document, including:
 - Prevention-A discussion on how the response to the epidemic will vary depending upon whether there is a low or higher prevalence epidemic and the how this would affect the cost estimations. In addition, there would need to be a discussion on 3 or 4 key assumptions about coverage and the potential cost implications.
 - Care- A discussion on the current methodologies being used and the costing implications of different assumptions about treatment coverage.
 - Orphans and Vulnerable Children.- present the methodologies and costing implications of different coverage assumptions
 - Gap Analysis - A discussion focusing on the complexities surrounding the estimation of funding gaps between what is available and what is needed.
 - Programme Constraints - Further discuss how we would estimate the investments needed for programmatic capacity
 - Actions- Discuss next steps, including how we should vet the resource needs document once it is finalized and planning for an ongoing resource needs estimation process to extend over the next 6 to 12 months.
- Finalisation of AIDS resource estimations, as potential input for the UNAIDS PCB (27-29 June) and G8 (6-8 July) Meetings

Long-term activities

- UNICEF will provide country derived information on OVC costing over next 6 to 12 months
- WFP to provide information on the costing of food programs by September
- Analyse the resource needs for the five MDG priority diseases, including the required additional investments in overall health system development
- Further longer-term improvements to the resource needs estimation methodology and data

Annex 1: Participants

Resource Needs Steering Committee

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Alan Whiteside, University of Natal/South Africa*
Bernhard Schwartländer, GFATM
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Tsetsele Fantan, African Comprehensive HIV/AIDS Partnerships, Botswana
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Resource Needs Technical Working Group

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Phil Compernelle, Technical Consultant
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* Unfortunately, to date unable to attend meetings but requested to submit written comments

Other participants

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