Health and Sustainable Development Beyond 2015

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Be-Cause Health Seminar on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
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The Vicious Circle of Poverty and Human Development

- Ill-health
- Low educational attainment
- Under-nutrition
The Vicious Circle of Poverty and Human Development

- Ill-health
- Low educational attainment
- Poverty
- Under-nutrition
The Vicious Circle of Poverty and Human Development

- Low income
- Impaired productive potential
- Ill-health
- Low educational attainment
- Under-nutrition
- Poverty
The Vicious Circle of Poverty and Human Development

- Limited public revenues for social programmes
- Weak economic performance
- Low income
- Impaired productive potential

Central Concepts:
- Poverty
- Ill-health
- Low educational attainment
- Under-nutrition
The MDGs: a Linear Approach

AID

- Nutrition, health and education programmes; income support
- Poverty reduction
- Improved nutrition, health, education

Increased productive potential
Some Successes Globally

• Goals met or on track globally
  – Halving extreme poverty
  – Halving people without access to safe water
  – Improving lives of 100m slum-dwellers

• Goals to be met late
  – Gender equality in primary + secondary education

• Many goals and targets will not be met

• Results very variable between countries/regions
  – Global success because of strong progress in better-off/more successful countries
Least Developed Countries Report, 2014: LDCs' performance against the MDGs

- 48 least developed countries
- Assessed progress against seven MDG targets
- Only 1 of 48 LDCs (Lao PDR) is on track for all
- The 6 other LDCs in South/South East Asia are on track for a majority of those for which data are available
- Outside this region (SSA, Pacific, Haiti, Yemen), 90% are off-track on most targets
- This reflects differences in economic development (not just economic growth - transformation)
From the MDGs to the SDGs

- Eg from poverty reduction to poverty eradication
- Poverty can be *halved* by reducing it by more than half in some places (eg China)
- Poverty can be *eradicated* only by eradicating it *everywhere*
- This makes the SDGs much more ambitious....
- ...and it makes the LDCs the battleground where the Post-2015 Agenda will be won or lost
From the MDGs to the SDGs

AID

Nutrition, health and education programmes; income support

Poverty reduction

Improved nutrition, health, education

Increased productive potential

MDGs
From the MDGs to the SDGs

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Nutrition, health and education programmes; income support

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Improved nutrition, health, education

Productive and remunerative employment

Increased productive potential

MDGs
From the MDGs to the SDGs
From the MDGs to the SDGs

AID

Nutrition, health and education programmes; income support

MDGs

Fiscal resources

Poverty reduction

Improved nutrition, health, education

Productive and remunerative employment

Increased productive potential
From the MDGs to the SDGs
A Framework for the SDGs/Post-2015 Agenda
Reproductive Health

• Less immediate effect on productive potential
  – Major benefits are inter-generational (cf 2015-30)
• This doesn't mean it's unimportant!
• Need to take account of economic benefits of health....
• But don't instrumentalise or subordinate health (to anything) - skews priorities
Health ↔ Economy

• The economy is for health, not health for the economy
  – "a complete state of physical, mental and social well-being"
• But economic development is essential for health, esp.
  – Poverty and economic security
  – Public resources
• Need economic policies oriented to these ends
  – Decent jobs, with productivity matching income
  – Safety nets
  – Public services
  – Rural development
• This requires a very different approach, nationally and globally (LDCR 2014)
• Without such policies, health improvement (including SRH) will not be sustainable
Sustainability

• Environmental sustainability is important, but distinguish
  – National/local constraints on national development
  – Global constraints on global development (eg climate)

• Not only environmental sustainability
  – Also financial, economic, social, political, institutional

• North/South difference
  – North: what are (global) environmental impacts?
  – South: can development be sustained?
  – Sustainability is multi-dimensional
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"[Developing countries] should not forget that mass campaigns [ie vertical programmes] are temporary expedients within a long-range pattern of health development, and that there is need to establish with the least possible delay an organized scheme of general health services....

"In areas where an adequate network of general health services is lacking, and where mass campaigns have reached the midpoint or are nearing completion, the problem is one of urgency."
Vertical Programmes and Sustainability

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C.L. Gonzalez (for WHO) 1965
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*Halfdan Mahler (subsequently DG of WHO), 1966*
The Bottom Line:

- Sexual and reproductive health and rights are very important.
- But *sustainable* improvements depend on:
  - Strong health systems, accessible to all.
  - Improvements in social determinants of health and fertility (esp. poverty and economic security).
- And both depend on economic development.
- Everything is connected to everything else.
- Everything *depends on* everything else.
- We're all in this together!