Health cooperation beyond aid

Geneva, 27 May 2017
Welcome
Carlos Mediano, MMI President
Introductions, discussion

Thomas Schwarz, MMI EHC
1. The policy space: Universal access to health

- Fighting diseases
- Providing services (Programmes)

Equitable access to good quality health services (health system, UHC)

Improving conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age:
Social, economic, political, ecological determinants of health and of health policies and governance
1. The policy space: Universal access to health
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- Would you agree with an overall health policy aim of “achieving universal access to health” or, in the words of the SDGs, “ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages”?

- How/where do you define the overall goals (expected outcomes) of your engagement in international health cooperation?
1. The overall policy aim: Universal access to health

- Do you have a “theory of change” which defines how you expect health outcomes to be improved and your organization’s particular role and contribution?

- How would you assess the progress of the country in which your organization has its origins towards achieving universal access to health? Are you also working in this country? Why/why not?
Health cooperation beyond aid: Let us talk!

What contribution(s) to the achievement of universal access to health do you expect from international solidarity and cooperation? Where is your place in the triangle of
(a) provision of essential health services?
(b) strengthening health systems and institutions?
(c) addressing determinants of health / governance?
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?
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What do we want?!!
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?

When do we want it?!!!
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?

"Vertical" health programs are once again unfashionable, subject to a blistering set of critiques from all manner of experts - some of whom were instrumental, just a few short years ago, in promoting them. The most recent summary of the accusations that vertical programs destroy "health systems" can be found in the pages of the Financial Times, where Andrew Jack does an admirable job of rounding up the usual suspects and letting them get in their sound bytes; previous versions of the case against verticality have been made eloquently and passionately by Laurie Garrett and Roger

CGD blog posts reflect the views of the authors drawing on prior research and experience in their areas of expertise. CGD does not take institutional positions.
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?
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GlaxoSmithKline will pay for the training of more healthcare workers who will dispense medicines and give vaccinations.
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?

Bad aid: Should all NGOs close down?

Aid is often criticised as ineffective and wasteful, but millions still work in the sector. How can NGOs reconcile that and ensure their work has a positive impact?
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?

The death of international development
The development industry needs an overhaul of strategy, not a change of language.
20 Nov 2014 07:00 GMT | Politics, Poverty & Development, Aid

Engagement: 5574
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?

- Who “owns” your institution and its programs in international health cooperation? Who defines your institution’s policies and approaches? To whom is your institution accountable?

- Does your institution report back to the “beneficiaries” of your work and to your partner institutions in developing countries? If not, why?

- If your organization is involved in thematic, regional or global platforms and fora on health development and cooperation: Are the right people around the table? How can we redefine and improve deliberation?
2. **Anything wrong** with development cooperation?

- Would you accept the labelling of your institution as “a business”? How do you handle the dilemma between doing “the right things” and your institution’s economic sustainability? Is there a “business” and “marketing” approach in your definition of policies and programs?

- “Your work saves lives, but also contributes to the stabilization of a thoroughly unfair and destructive system of trade and development.” – What is your formal institutional answer to this challenging question? And are you happy with it?
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?

- Has your institution, your overall approach and practices been publicly criticized? How did you react? Are you still happy with this reaction, or would you do it differently? What did you learn out of it? What did you change?

- Would you call yourself a “learning organization”? If yes, what are your instruments and structures, and who is in charge of your institutional learning?

- Would you call your organization’s work “evidence based”? If yes, what evidence do you refer to and why, and how is it generated and continuously reassessed?
2. Anything wrong with development cooperation?

- Could you subscribe to one of the following statements: (a) “We are at the end of aid.” (b) “We need to move beyond aid.”? Please provide your own insights about if/how “aid” or development cooperation needs to change in order to improve its legitimacy.

- Has your organization – related to a critical overall assessment of your role and not because of an economic crisis –, ever considered closing down? If yes, what made you change your mind?
Health cooperation beyond aid: Let us talk!

(How) does (health) cooperation need to change?
- in order to increase its legitimacy and remain relevant
- in order to strengthen and not weaken national ownership and people centered health policies and systems
3. Effective health cooperation
3. Effective health cooperation

Seven Behaviours
How development partners can change for the better
3. Effective health cooperation

- (How) Do the five “aid effectiveness” principles of ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing for results, and mutual accountability resonate in the policy documents and practices of your organization?

- How/where do you define and measure effectiveness of your organization’s work?

- Have you ever taken the “seven behaviours” promoted by IHP/UHC2030 and answered them on behalf of your own institution?
3. Effective health cooperation

- Do you share the assessment that we lack platforms, fora and spaces where practices, values, concerns, in relation to health development and cooperation can be discussed in an open, transparent way?
Health cooperation beyond aid: Let us talk!

How to create and sustain fora for debate and spaces for analysis/reflection?
- where values, policies, strategies, approaches, methods and practices of health cooperation can be shared and discussed
- where institutional learning can take place
UHC2030 is the global movement to build stronger health systems for universal health coverage

UHC2030 provides a multi-stakeholder platform to promote collaborative working in countries and globally on health systems strengthening. We advocate increased political commitment to universal health coverage (UHC) and facilitate accountability and knowledge sharing.

Find out more >
Join the MMI Network and its working group on Effective Health Cooperation

Health cooperation beyond aid? We care!

With its events and publications, the MMI working group on Effective Health Cooperation (MMI EHC) aims at providing spaces for an in-depth reflection and dialogue on the relevance, legitimacy and effectiveness of health cooperation. At the same time our working group provides its members with tools and platforms for improved interaction and collaboration.
Suggested Readings

- Health Cooperation - Its relevance, legitimacy and effectiveness as a contribution to achieving universal access to health. MMI EHC discussion paper, October 2016

- Health cooperation beyond aid. An introduction by Daniel Lopez Acuna, EASP / MMI EHC

- Reflecting about paradigm shifts... Editorial by Remco van de Pas, ITM IHP / MMI EHC

www.medicusmundi.org/contributions/events/2017/Sideevent2017
Thank you!

Same place, next year!