From donor to domestic: Transitions for Family Planning

ATTAINING SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR FAMILY PLANNING IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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Amidst the numerous challenges countries in transition face, **clear opportunities** to improve health system functions and performance are present.

**Obstacles**
- Limited fiscal space
- Competing priorities
- Constrained capacity
- Overlapping or redundant functions
- Donor-driven agenda

**Opportunities**
- Leverage existing priorities
- Increase alignment b/w Health and Finance
- Identify potential efficiency gains – be innovative
- Build on transitions discourse
What does it mean to have a sustainable, successful transition?

Is there a universally accepted definition of sustainability or transition?

No, but few major agencies have adopted their own.

1. Global Fund defines sustainability as…
   Programs that *maintain service coverage at a level to provide continuing control of a health problem* even after removal of external funds.

2. Gavi defines transition as…
   Countries sustaining their immunization programs with *high and equitable coverage of target populations, while having robust systems and decision making process in place* to support the introduction of new medicines.

3. USAID defined successful FP graduation as…
   A country meeting the following criteria: 1) *sustained or improved mCPR*, 2) sustained on-the-ground technical, administrative and programmatic *capacity to continue service delivery* and 3) *continued financing (or increases)* of FP service delivery and commodities relative to levels prior to graduation.
At the high-level, a few guiding principles should be kept in mind to ensure a successful and sustainable transition:

1. **Promoting transparency and predictability via..**
   - Systematic transition criteria
   - Publicly available transition schedules
   - Coordinated donor decisions

2. **Transitions require...**
   - Time
   - High-level political commitment
   - Country ownership
   - Built-in monitoring and evaluation

3. **Countries should also be thinking of...**
   - Funding mechanisms for civil society and the private sector
   - High-level political engagement
   - Improving in-country capacity
   - Increasing capacity of civil society and private sector
For example, Gavi’s model has a **systematic and time-bound phased approach** to transitions.
Global Fund’s transition framework focuses on multiple elements, including **embracing a holistic approach** as well as strengthening and leveraging non-public sector providers.

- Support **National Strategic Plans** to ensure the sustainability of HIV, TB, and malaria programs.
- Support development of **Health Financing Strategies** in countries with high burden of disease and/or low revenue capture.

Transition Readiness Assessment  
↓  
Transition Work Plan  
↓  
Transition Work Plan basis for funding request (funding comes from country allocation)

Once country-component becomes ineligible, may receive 3 years of transition funding.

Working towards sustaining programs and eventual transition.
While there are multiple approaches to sustainable transitions, here are a few **best practices** to consider:

- **A framework for sustainable health financing that is embedded in the government PFM system**
- **An understanding of general government revenue as the core of financial sustainability**
- **A holistic view that leverages efficiencies and considers the broader context of health policy and UHC goals**
- **A country-led process that can be ongoing after the activity ends...**