



**Performance-Based Financing Community of Practice in Africa
Conference « West-Africa »
18 and 19 March 2011
Saly, Sénégal**

Performance-Based Financing: the African Community of Practice

Numerous African countries are now adopting the Performance-Based Financing (PBF) strategy to revitalize their health sector. This strategy is seen both as a means to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, and as a lever to induce far-reaching reforms in public health systems. To support these change efforts, a **community of practice** (CoP) was created.

The PBF CoP aim is to bring together experts working in Africa on the subject of Performance-Based Financing with a focus on the health sector. The CoP is intended as an open space that will contribute to thinking, and as a means to access the accumulated and shared knowledge among its members. It also aims to unite the efforts of different agencies involved in PBF. It is a community of practice supported by the Harmonization for Health in Africa initiative, a concerted effort of aid agencies in the health sector (www.hha-online.org).

The CoP is facilitated by a coordination team of experts involved in the development, political integration and research of PBF. Different strategies are used to promote knowledge sharing and capacity building. Some activities are face-to-face (regional workshops, training); others are making use of new information technologies (discussion forum, website). Implicit knowledge held by individual experts is fully recognized and as such, the CoP is trying to support individual members in advancing their careers in particular at the regional level (for example, through continuous training, sharing of offers employment or networking). The two working languages of the CoP are English and French.

A first workshop in West-Africa!

Launched in early 2010, the CoP has rapidly expanded to over 200 members, mostly from countries already advanced in PBF (the Great Lakes region in particular). Because PBF experiences are expanding in West Africa, the CoP wants to open up to regional experts.

To this end, the Community of Practice has decided to organize a regional workshop in Senegal. The latter will be held in Saly, on the 18th and 19th March 2011, and will be a direct extension of the conference organized by the African Association of Economics and Health Policy (www.afhea.org). The CoP workshop will be held in the same hotel as that hosting the AfHEA conference. The first day of the workshop will be devoted to a **review of current ongoing experience or planning status for such activities in West-African countries**. The second day of the workshop will be organized in collaboration with the "Public-Private Partnership ' community of practice and will focus on the private sector's role in PBF strategies.

Why participate in this regional workshop?

Your participation in the workshop will let you better understand the objectives of the CoP and might make you decide to join it. Ultimately, your involvement will provide the following services to your country:

- access to a pool of expert practitioners aware of operational, political and scientific matters related to PBF in the health sector,
- leveraging your own experience with other countries on the continent,
- access to the accumulated global knowledge on such strategies,
- opportunities for exchange or training for your managers and national experts.

At a more personal level, the benefits of participation in the CoP are:

- access to a network that brings together experts from Africa and elsewhere in an extremely dynamic area of knowledge,
- opportunities for exchange, debate and learning,
- opportunities to accelerate your career by obtaining greater professional visibility and access to job offers in this area of expertise,
- continuous information on the latest developments in the fields of theoretical, operational and empirical knowledge on PBF.

Support

The workshop organizers are not able finance participants. We opted for a low cost approach which should allow those of you already on site for the AfHEA conference to not having large additional expenses.

For others, our recommendation is to turn to technical, financial and academic partners working in the field of PBF in your country. It is noteworthy that the PBF CoP is a platform recognized by agencies involved in the Harmonization for Health in Africa

(HHA) initiative. As such, some country offices of agencies involved in HHA may be interested in supporting your participation in activities of the CoP, including this workshop.

This support ought to include the following: international transport to Senegal, traveling by taxi from the airport to the conference hotel, accommodation on site (hotel and per diem) and participation in the costs of organizing the workshop. According to initial estimates, a budget of 150,000 CFA (300 USD; 230 €) per day per participant should be enough (excluding air ticket). We hope to organize an all-inclusive “package (excluding air ticket) to facilitate your stay.

Registration

Workshop participation is only for those that have registered. You are requested to contact the workshop organizing committee at the following email address: cop.pbf@gmail.com. We will close registration on February 27 at midnight.

Thank you for giving us: your full name, nationality, country of employment, affiliation (department, agency, university ...), and a short note on your motivation to participate in the workshop. If you are not yet a member of the CoP, we will register you in our electronic forum (<http://groups.google.com/group/performance-based-financing>), which will keep you informed on the preparations relating to the workshop.

If you think you may be able to make a presentation during these two days, thank you submitting an abstract of no more than 300 words (without any commitment on our part).

Organizing Committee

The organizing committee consists of the following experts (as of 5/1/2011): Nicolas de Borman, Morris Kouame, Gyuri Fritsche, Maud Juquois, Allison Kelley (CoP PPP), Tonia Marek (CoP PPP), Bruno Meessen, Laurent Musango Claude Sekabaraga, Alice Soumare.
