Private sector consultation focuses on smart, scaled and sustainable financing

On March 11th a Global Financing Facility (GFF) private sector consultation was held at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC. Meeting participants heard a presentation laying out GFF’s strategy on how challenges will be prioritized for support. The strategy will involve smart, scaled and sustainable financing to drive results and will be based on health financing assessments in priority countries. In order to make private capital work in this context the GFF needs to focus on how the available funding can be used to de-risk investments and ‘unlock’ private capital for the sustainable development of health infrastructure. The potential opportunities to leverage private capital include strategies such as pay-for-performance, private equity funds, public-private partnerships, social impact bonds, and philanthropic funding. These tools are being evaluated by several partners including General Electric, IFC, WB, USAID and JP Morgan. Feedback from the private sector stakeholders at the meeting included a consensus that multi-sectoral investment strategies should not only be employed for infrastructural improvements, but can also be used to improve access to high impact health innovations by the most vulnerable populations. There was a general sentiment that the investments in the private sector and mobilizing capital are only one of many strategies for making markets work and that the GFF has the potential to employ other market shaping strategies that could have a significant impact on meeting the post-2015 MDG goals. The GFF team said that in the near term they plan to make their strategy “credible and focused” before taking on
expansion. Eighteen heads of agency are helping with the multiple considerations and working towards a draft plan for the end of April. The GFF is scheduled to launch in July.

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