

**Secretary General's Ebola Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)
#5th Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes (DRAFT)**

January 16th, 2015, 09:30am EST - 02:30pm Accra Time

Participants:

Dr. David Nabarro, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Ebola (Chair)
H.E. Mr. Mamadi Touré, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guinea to the UN
H.E. Mr. Amadu Koroma, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the UN
Ms. Gail Farngalo, Counsellor, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Liberia to the UN
Mr. George Turkington, Representative of UK
Ms. Jo Scott-Nicholls, Representative of UK
Ms. Katarina Kotoglou, Representative of Sweden

Observer:

Ms. Bintou Keita, Chief of Staff, UNMEER (observer)

Resource Persons:

Mr. Abdou Dieng - Ebola Crisis Manager for Guinea (absent)
Mr. Amadu Kamara - Ebola Crisis Manager for Sierra Leone (absent)
Mr. Tim Connolly – Representative of UNMEER Liberia, OIC ECM
Ms. Rose Linda Barbuto - Director, Essential Services - UNMEER, Liberia
Aissatou Cisse-Yaoyao, UNDP Guinea
Representatives of WHO, UNICEF and IOM Côte d'Ivoire
Ms. Barbara Bentein – UNICEF New York
Mr. Jean-Victor Nkolo – Spokesperson for the President 69th Session of the GA
Mr. John Gordon, Office of the Special Envoy
Mr. Anders Nordstrom, Office of the Special Envoy
Ms. Chadia Wannous, Office of the Special Envoy

Ex-Officio Members:

Ms. Olga Aleshina, Representing the Executive Coordinator of the MPTF Office (ex-officio)

Introduction

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 5th Advisory Committee Meeting. He debriefed the participants on the key points of the first four months of UN Ebola Response MPTF activities:

- The Fund served as an Emergency Rapid Action mechanism;
- 29 proposals have been received to-date and 18 approved for funding; \$100.4 mln has been transferred;
- Proposals submitted from the three affected countries as well as the bordering countries;
- Strategic prioritization principles, consistent with the evolving epidemiological situation;
- Review of the proposals based on the Strategic Objectives and Value for Money analysis

Opening Comments and remarks

The Chair invited the participants for initial remarks and observations:

- ✓ **DPR of Sierra Leone** thanked Dr. Nabarro for his visit to the countries and the Ebola MPTF team for the work done in providing effective responses in the areas where there are still challenges.
- ✓ **The Counsellor representing the PR of Liberia** expressed her appreciation and shared the encouraging news coming from homeland about the progress made on containment and subsiding trend of the Ebola outbreak in Liberia.
- ✓ **The PR of Guinea** expressed his gratitude to all the parties involved in the Ebola response including Global and field counterparts and bilateral partners. He expressed his appreciation for the high priority given to the social mobilization projects. He requested to provide information about the launch of the 2014 Interim Report on Trust Fund's achievements.
- ✓ **The UK representative** requested to provide a document describing a strategic plan and the gaps filled by the Fund. The Chair confirmed that the document was drafted this week and will be distributed shortly, after clearance with UNMEER.
- ✓ **Chief of Staff, UNMEER**, confirmed that UNMEER is working on the feedback to the Strategic Allocation document, which provides some key element of the MPTF, reviews gaps funded and provides future direction to the Fund.

The Chair thanked and listed the points of discussion of the Agenda of the 5th Advisory Committee Meeting:

- Visit to the affected countries;
- Ebola MPTF Funding Framework;
- Review of the submitted proposal #26 - #27 - #28 - #29 - #15 - #8
- Proposal to activate additional two Windows: one for Recovery and one for Preparedness

UN Special Envoy on Ebola's visit in the affected areas

During his visit, the Chair has personally witnessed the improving situation in the three affected countries. In Liberia, besides two counties in a small geographical area, the general incidence of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is in decline for the last few weeks. The improvement is also evident in Sierra Leone where the President, his team along with the diplomatic community and local media have conducted a successful exercise on social mobilization. Nevertheless, there are still some hot spots of transmission especially in the western region of the country. The situation in Guinea shows an inconsistent EVD pattern with cases in the North, East, and Central part of the country, as well as in Conakry and again in bordering areas with Liberia and Guinea Bissau. The Chair shared views of the stakeholders on the ground about the flexibility and positive tangible impact of the Trust Fund's funded projects in the areas affected by EVD. He affirmed that the work supported by the Trust Fund is having a great impact on the rapid response.

Presentation of the Funding Framework

The Fund Administrator presented the overview of the funding situation (pledges, commitments, and deposits) and allocations. A total of US\$131 mln has been deposited as of January 14th, 2015. The contributions have been received from over 30 Member States, a business and individuals. The un-earmarked contributions amounted to \$82 mln and earmarked to \$ 49 mln (as described in Table 4 of the Funding Framework). \$100.4 million had been transferred to Recipient Entities funding 17 proposals. Taking into account some programmatic allocations made in

December 2014, which would need to be paid at the beginning of 2015, the Trust Fund only had \$5.6 mln available for programming at this meeting.

As of today, 40% of monthly reports related to Trust Fund activities for November and December 2014 has been received. The first interim report will be prepared in February 2015.

Further to the communicated small balance on the Trust Fund account, the Chair stressed the importance of the second phase of resource mobilization to sustain enough resources to address the critical unfunded needs. The Chair announced the new pledge from the Republic of Algeria. He called for more resources from the current and new donors to the Trust Fund, highlighting the efficiency and speed of the Trust Fund mechanism.

Report on proposed approvals and overview of the current situation

The summary of the submitted proposals and proposed approvals is provided below:

- **#26 – Ebola Response through Small Grants in Liberia-** The Chair briefed members on the clarification he received for this project. The project submitter provided additional information justifying no overlap but complementarity with Proposal #11 QIP-Liberia due to the type and level of organizations targeted. The proposal received favorable support
- **#27 - Multi-faceted preparedness in Côte d'Ivoire** - The original request amounting to \$ 10 mln was referred back to the submitting UN Agencies requesting a revision lowering the amount. The revised proposal, amounting to \$ 4mln, was resubmitted by the three Agencies for consideration at this Advisory Committee meeting. This proposal has been favorably considered. The Chair acknowledged the need to create a Preparedness Window of the Trust Fund and approach the donors for funding.
- **28 – PPE & Ebola supplies: Centralized Procurement Fund –** The Chair confirmed the need for consistent supply of PPEs based on his recent trip to the affected countries. Although it seems difficult to evaluate the future demand for PPE stock to ensure a prompt response, it is important to secure a reasonable stock. Favorable support with conditionally approved tranches, due to low balance in the Trust Fund account, was proposed.
- **#29 – Support to CBUs from Mano River Union** - The Chair positively supported the proposal conditioning the approval on the budget line appropriateness. Favorable support
- **#15 – Social Rehabilitation and payment to EVD survivors and destitute families** - The revised proposal has been re-submitted, with the major focus on survivors. Based on the importance of the survivors' network, the proposal has been conditionally approved for support from the Trust Fund in tranches applying the value of money principle.
- **#8 – Ebola Workers Payment Programme in Liberia –** Request to fund Component 3 of this proposal (Components 1 and 2 have been already funded through the Trust Fund), amounting to approximately \$700,000 to cover actual payments was received. Favorable support was given by the Advisory Committee members.
- **Due to the limited time to discuss all proposals, the members of the Advisory Committee were encouraged to submit the written comments. DFID confirmed it will share written comments on all the proposals.**

- **Members of the Advisory Committee** provided final remarks on the proposals
In general, the members of the Advisory Committee have provided positive feedback. In particular:
 - ✓ **UNMEER's Chief of Staff** endorsed the comments for the proposals and positively commented on #29 Mano River Support
 - ✓ **UK** shared positive remarks in reference to the submitted proposals. More comments will be provided in the coming two-three days.
 - ✓ **Sweden** provided a positive remark on #27 - Multi-faceted preparedness
 - ✓ **PR of Guinea** – Positive acknowledgment of the work presented.
 - ✓ **Representative of PR of Liberia** Positive acknowledgment of the work presented and particularly pleased about the #26 – Small Grants and second tranche of #8 for payment to Ebola workers
 - ✓ **DPR of Sierra Leone** – Grateful for the acceptance to the payment in tranches of the #15 considering that this very important proposal has a direct impact on the life of survivors especially children and households that have lost the family income. Additional remarks about further action to undertake not to slip back in the future
 - ✓ **Chair** summarized the main outcomes of the resource allocation round: :
 - Support to finance proposals: **#26, #27, #28** (#28 in tranches starting with 3mln initially), **#29, #15** (#15 in tranches after realignment of the budget lines and more clearly articulating value for money for some components), **#8** positive support. UK's written feedback on the above proposals is to be reflected in re-submissions.
 - Proposed and requested of feedback from the Advisory Committee members on the establishment of two more Windows for the Trust Fund
 1. **Preparedness Window** (for countries like Guinea Bissau, Côte d'Ivoire and Niger)
 2. **Recovery Window** for projects that have been already received and future projects that will be developed in line with the Ebola Recovery Assessment.

Conclusions

The Chair concluded the 5th Advisory Committee meeting thanking the Members and acknowledging their valuable participation to the fast-paced operations of the Ebola Trust Fund. He encouraged the submission of additional feedback on proposals that were considered. The Chair expressed his gratitude to donors representatives, representatives of the affected countries and resource persons.