

**Note of the 9th Meeting of the Advisory Committee
for the Secretary-General's Ebola Multi-Partner Trust Fund (Ebola MPTF)
9:00 – 10:00 am, 24 September 2015 (EST), New York**

Chairperson: Dr. David Nabarro, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Ebola

Members:

HE Ms. Marjon V. Kamara, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Liberia to the UN
HE Mr. Vandi Chidi Minah, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the UN
Mr. Alassane Conte, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea to the UN
Mr. Sheku Mesali, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the UN
Ms. Gail Farngalo, Ebola Focal Point, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia to the UN
Ms. Laura Kelly, Ebola Crisis Unit, Government of the United Kingdom
Ms. Nadine Skale, Permanent Mission of Germany to the UN

Resource Persons:

Mr. Peter Graaff, Regional Interagency Ebola Crisis Lead

UN Agencies:

Mr. Antonio Vigilante, DSRSG and UN Resident Coordinator for Liberia
Ms. Seraphine Wakana, UN Resident Coordinator for Guinea
Mr. David McLachlan-Karr, UN Resident Coordinator for Sierra Leone
Dr. Bruce Aylward, WHO Director-General's Special Representative on Ebola, WHO
Mr. Eloi Kouadio, Country Director, UNDP Guinea
Mr. Sudipto Mukerjee, Country Director, UNDP Sierra Leone
Mr. Philip Dive, Strategic Planning Adviser to the RC of Sierra Leone

HQ:

Ms. Ruby Sandhu-Rojon, Deputy Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP
Ms. Barbara Bentein, Principal Advisor, Head of Ebola Cell, UNICEF
Mr. Abdullah Alkulaib, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP New York

Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola:

Mr. Derk Segaar, Chief of Office, Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola
Ms. Joanna Nickolls, Senior Policy Adviser, Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola

Ex-Officio Members:

Ms. Jennifer Topping, Executive Coordinator, MPTF Office
Ms. Olga Aleshina, Head of the Ebola MPTF Secretariat, MPTF Office

Apologies:

Ms. Kirsten Stewart, Government of the United Kingdom
Mr. Marshall Elliott, Government of the United Kingdom
Ms. Sophia Wengelin, Swedish International Development Corporation
Ms. Bintou Keita, Ebola Crisis Manager for Sierra Leone (*resource person*)
Mr. Abdou Dieng, Ebola Crisis Manager for Guinea (*resource person*)

Update from the Special Envoy on Ebola

After welcoming participants, the Chairperson provided an update on the epidemiological situation in the three Ebola-affected countries, highlighting several positive developments of late. These

included the small number of cases in the region and the rapid and effective responses by personnel to cases in the districts of Kambia and Bombali, Sierra Leone, as well as in Conakry, Guinea. He noted, however, the continued possibility of re-emergence of the disease from survivors still carrying the virus despite not showing symptoms, mainly in their reproductive systems. The Chairperson emphasized the need to focus on the well-being and provision of healthcare to survivors, including through comprehensive support that includes medical services, sexual health counselling and activities to enable survivors to maintain employment. He added that, with approximately 40,000 survivors in the region, support for this constituency should be a priority in discussion with the governments of the affected countries.

The Chairperson expressed appreciation to UNICEF, WHO, UNDP and other agencies in the UN system for the effective response to the outbreak and their continued engagement. In response to a question from the Permanent Representative of Liberia about the persistence of the virus in survivors, the Chairperson shared research findings about the presence of the virus in male semen for six to nine months after recovery. Further, he disseminated the written information on the issue to Advisory Committee members.

Governance Structure and Programmatic Framework of the Recovery Window

The Chairperson summarized the main points about the MPTF recovery window and governance structure that arose from the previous Advisory Committee meeting. It was proposed by the Chairman during the last Advisory Committee to have a 10-member Advisory Committee for the recovery window, in addition to a number of observers who would help ensure inclusiveness and efficiency. The programmatic framework of the window would be structured around four pillars, namely (1) Health, Nutrition, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), (2) Socio-Economic Revitalization, (3) Basic Services and Infrastructure, and (4) Governance, Peacebuilding, and Social Cohesion). The Chairperson invited participants to share their comments on the draft Governance Structure and Programmatic Framework document.

The Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone enquired about the expected lifespan of the MPTF. The Chairperson and the MPTF Office Executive Coordinator advised that the Fund will exist for as long as it is capitalized and there are needs in the countries. The Executive Coordinator added that a two-year lifespan (ending around September 2016) would likely be a reasonable estimate. The Permanent Representative of Liberia expressed her support for keeping the end date of the Fund flexible so it can support recovery activities as required.

Representatives of UNDP, UNICEF and WHO expressed their support for the Governance Structure and Programmatic Framework document. The UNICEF representative urged participant to remain vigilant and focused on the response effort given the current situation in the affected countries. The Committee approved the recovery window Governance Structure and Programmatic Framework document.

Funding Framework of the Trust Fund

The MPTF Office Executive Coordinator provided an update on the financial situation of the MPTF. She noted that the Fund has received a total of US\$155.7 million in commitments, out of which US\$149.8 million was deposited. Since the last Advisory Committee meeting, contributions were provided by Russia (US\$1 million), Belgium (US\$4.5 million) and Canada (US\$3.6 million).

She added that recipient UN organizations have received US\$137.9 million from the Fund and that US\$1 million was allocated for field-level monitoring and evaluation activities. With the deposit of the contribution from Russia, funding for project #33, "Restoring Midwifery Services in Liberia", would be transferred to UNFPA, she advised.

The Executive Officer stated that the remaining balance of the MPTF Account is US\$9.4 million. Of this amount, US\$600,000 is earmarked by Israel for clinics, and US\$1 million is to be transferred to UNFPA for project #33. The amount available to the Advisory Committee to allocate is US\$7.8 million.

The Chairperson expressed his appreciation to donors for their generous contributions and emphasized the need for more information-sharing with them on the response strategy in order to maintain the flow of critical resources to complete the response.

Project Proposals

Project #43: UNDP/UNFPA, “Strengthening community recovery and resilience in post-Ebola Guinea”; requested amount: US\$ 698,764.

This project aims to support Ebola survivors in their affected communities by enabling them to become involved in the recovery process. UNDP and UNFPA will support the affected communities with respect to their priorities and enable them to reduce the risk of flares up.

Comments/Remarks:

- While expressing her support in principle for the proposal, the representative of Germany asked for additional information about the amount requested, noting that it seems unusually low.

Project #44: UNDP “Support to the Government of Guinea to establish and manage a dedicated financial mechanism to capitalize on International Ebola Recovery Conference pledges”; requested amount: US\$ 351,187

This project proposal provides for the establishment of a dedicated pooled funding mechanism to handle the finances pledged at the International Ebola Recovery Conference. The mechanism would ensure pledged resources are received and properly allocated against the highest recovery priorities and strengthen existing coordination procedures for tracking funding and assistance. The project is intended to ensure transparency, efficiency, accountability and impact.

Comments/Remarks:

- The Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone asked for more details about the expertise needed to help the government create the financial mechanism.
- The Permanent Representative of Liberia strongly supported the concept of a transparent mobilization and management of recovery funding.
- The Permanent Representative of Guinea expressed his support to the proposal, highlighting the importance of setting-up a transparent funding mechanism for recovery.

Project #45 WHO/IOM/UNICEF, “Ebola Survivors in Sierra Leone: Needs Assessment of Psychosocial Support and Reintegration into Society”; requested amount: US\$ 1,021,000

With more than 4,000 Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone, many of whom are experiencing significant difficulties due to health, social, and psychosocial problems (brought on by social exclusion and stigma), the Government of Sierra Leone is seeking to provide support to all survivors. It has in this regard developed a comprehensive package for survivors, the funding needs of which amount to US\$22 million. In support of this plan, UN agencies are requesting US\$1,021,000 to cover costs related to psycho-social support and support for reintegration.

Comments/Remarks:

- Sierra Leone Country Team representatives informed the Committee about difficulties survivors are facing due to the new chain of transmission in Bombali and Kambia. In addition, they advised that survivors are being regarded as a possible source of transmission.
- The Representative of Liberia expressed support for the proposal.
- The representative of Germany supported the proposal. She asked for more information about the number of survivors who would be trained versus the cost budgeted for this activity.
- The representative of the United Kingdom expressed support for the proposal. (Note: additional written feedback on the proposal was shared with Committee after the Advisory Committee meeting to address the questions/ of high staff costs and provide more detailed outputs.)
- Resident Coordinator’s Office personnel outlined the main points arising from consultations with the Ministry of Health, the United Kingdom and UN agencies. Regarding questions about

staff costs, the RC Office advised that discussion on same would be furthered with UN agencies at the local level.

Project #47: UNICEF “Social mobilization for achieving and sustaining a resilient zero in Guinea”; Requested amount: US\$ 749,000.

This project proposal sets out a community engagement framework to bridge the transition from the response to recovery phase in support of achieving and sustaining a ‘resilient zero’.

Comments/Remarks:

- The representative of UNICEF informed participants that a slightly adjusted proposal amounting to \$909,000 would be circulated to Committee members immediately after the meeting.
- The Permanent Representative of Liberia expressed support for the proposal.

Advisory Committee members responded positively to all of the proposals tabled. However, several requested additional information to assist with making a final decision.

The Chairperson summarized the action points as follows:

- Project #43: UNDP and UNFPA to provide additional information about the amount requested and its purpose.
- Project #44: UNDP to elaborate further on the main emphasis of the project (resource mobilization versus increasing transparency around the use of resources) and describe the process of obtaining the desired expertise.
- Project #45: WHO, IOM and UNICEF to discuss and review at the country level the staff cost estimates and the target number of advocates/survivors to be trained.
- Project #47: UNICEF to circulate to Committee members the updated project proposal.

The Chairperson proposed to circulate the revised documents electronically for e-consultation and approval. The UNICEF representative informed of an urgent proposal from Sierra Leone and asked that it be included in this review cycle. The UNDP representative advised that a recovery proposal from Liberia (Project #46) would be resubmitted shortly.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.