

**Note of the 11th Meeting of the Advisory Committee
for the Secretary-General's Ebola Multi-Partner Trust Fund (Ebola MPTF)
11:00 am – 12:00 pm, 29 June 2017 (EST), New York**

Chairperson: Dr. David Nabarro, Special Adviser to the SG

Members:

H.E. Mr. Amadu Koroma, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the UN
Mr. François Soumah, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guinea to the UN
Mr. Mr. Sheku Mesali, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the UN
Ms. Kirsten Stewart, DFID, UK, London
Mr. Dirk Jakobi, Mission of Germany to the UN

UN Agencies:

Mr. Yacoub El Hillo, UN Resident Coordinator, Liberia
Mr. Marc Wajnsztok, UN Resident Coordinator Office, Guinea
Mr. Mohamed Kakay, UN Resident Coordinator Office, Sierra Leone

HQ:

Mr. Patrick Anthony Drury, WHO HQ, Geneva
Mr. Peter Graff, WHO HW, Geneva
Mr. Abdullah Alkulaib, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP New York

Lessons Learned Exercise – Independent Consultant

Mr. Peter Bauman

Ex-Officio Members:

Ms. Jennifer Topping, MPTF Executive Coordinator
Ms. Olga Aleshina, Senior Portfolio Manager
Ms. Cristina Bertarelli, Trust Fund Analyst

Apologies:

Ms. Ruby Sandhu-Rojon, Deputy Director of the Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP
Mr. Sunil Saigal, UN Resident Coordinator, Sierra Leone
Ms. Seraphine Wakana, UN Resident Coordinator for Guinea
Ms. Gail Fargalo, Ebola Focal Point, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Liberia to the UN
Ms. Sophia Wengelin, Sweden
Ms. Lotta Segerstrom, Mission of Sweden
Mr. Samuel Doe, Country Director, UNDP Sierra Leone
Mr. Jean-Jacques Frere, LLE Independent Consultants

Opening of the 11th Advisory Committee Meeting on Ebola Response MPTF

Dr. David Nabarro opened the 11th Advisory Committee Meeting of the Ebola Response MPTF by welcoming the Representatives of the affected countries, the Donors, the Participating Organizations and all the participants. He announced that this will be his last time chairing the meeting of the Ebola Response MPTF Advisory Committee, as he is leaving his position in the UN Secretariat on June 30th 2017. Subsequent work of the Ebola MPTF will be chaired by Ms. Michelle Gyles-McDonnough, Director of Sustainable Development Unit of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

The Chair invited the initial remarks from the participants of the Advisory Committee Meeting. All participants unanimously expressed their appreciation to the Chair for his strong leadership of the Fund and Ebola Response since September 2015.

Agenda Item # 1: Lessons Learned Exercise (LLE): overview of findings

The Chair reminded the participants that the independent Lessons Learned Exercise of the Ebola MPTF operations was commissioned late last year and was undertaken by two consultants. The LLE report was prepared and circulated to the Advisory Committee in Spring 2017 for comments. The Chair invited Mr. Peter Bauman, one of the two independent consultants, to provide a brief overview of the LLE findings and lessons learned.

Mr. Baumann thanked all the Ebola MPTF stakeholders for collaboration during the LLE exercise. He provided the overview of the LLE findings and some of the best practices that have made this Trust Fund one of the most successful UN Trust Funds. He highlighted that this was made possible through the combination of the key elements, enabling the UN System to respond to the health emergency, including:

- Strong leadership
- Fund's clear focus
- Political will and commitment
- Rapid mobilization of funds
- Rapid, flexible and specific response
- Communication and interactions among the parties involved
- Inter-agency cooperation, based on the comparative advantages
- Cultural aspects of the response

Participants expressed full agreement with the findings. Many participants emphasized the importance of:

- Leadership;
- Flexibility of the tools that allowed to fill in the gaps based on specific and urgent needs;
- Partnership among the agencies and the implementing partners; and
- Exemplary performance displayed by the UN System working coherently and effectively in times of crisis/emergency supported by the flexible pooled fund instrument, which allowed to coordinate the response and act quickly and at scale.

Agenda Item # 2: Funding Framework of the Trust Fund

The MPTF Office Executive Coordinator provided an update on the financial situation of the Ebola MPTF. She reminded the participants that the Fund received a total of US\$ 166.4 million in contributions. Among the funds received, USD 600,000 from Israel earmarked for maintenance of the two Israel's medical clinics in Sierra Leone were in the process of being returned to the Donor as no proposal could meet the earmarking requirement. Recipient UN Organizations received US\$159.8 million from the Fund; US\$ 5.4 million was returned as refunds by UN Agencies; US\$144.6 was reported in expenditures as of 31 December 2016.

The Fund's Administrative Agent informed the Advisory Committee that US\$ 8.6 million were available for programming.

Agenda Item #3: The Trust Fund duration – extension through end of September 2018

The Chair proposed the extension of the Ebola MPTF lifetime until the end of September 2018 granting enough time to implement the preparedness programmes, result of the LLE

recommendations for the residual amount available in the Trust Fund, as well as the DRC Ebola Response project and to move forward with the process of project closure.

Agenda Item # 4: Review of submitted proposals and fund allocation decision

Project #65: UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WHO and WFP Guinea “Enhancing the post-Ebola national capacity to efficiently respond to future health outbreaks”; requested amount: US\$ 2,500,000.

This joint proposal is submitted as a response to a series of critical gaps which represent threats to the future health security in the country. This project aims to:

- Improve the country’s community-based surveillance and early warning/alert notification systems;
- Strengthen the local community health preparedness and care management for patients;
- Conduct joint stress tests and simulation activities for the national contingency plan and other pandemic response plans at national and community/cross-border level;
- Strengthen the operational capacity of locally-based rapid response teams to respond in case of a health outbreak.

DECISION: After presentation and favorable support by the Chair and the Advisory Committee members, the project was **conditionally approved for funding at US\$ 2,500,000, subject to responding to DFID/UK comments (should be shared by DFID shortly), and Secretariat technical comments (related to Results Matrix).** The proposal is scheduled to be finalized within two weeks.

Project #66: WHO, UNFPA, UNFP, UNWOMEN ad UNICEF Liberia “Support to Multi-hazard preparedness and response for Liberia”; requested amount: US\$ 2,500,000.

The objective of this joint proposal is to strengthen government capacity to mitigate, prevent and respond to multi-hazard threats caused by epidemic and disasters. The key strategic areas to be addressed by this proposal include:

- Disaster Risk reduction with focus on multi-hazard national preparedness and response plan;
- Surveillance and laboratory services for human and animal health;
- Emergency preparedness and response;
- International Health Regulations (IHR) core capacities at Ports of entry (POE);
- Risk Communication and community engagement.

DECISION: After presentation and favorable support by the Chair and the Advisory Committee members, the project was **conditionally approved for funding at US\$ 2,500,000, subject to responding to DFID/UK comments (should be shared by DFID shortly), and Secretariat technical comments (related to Results Matrix).** The proposal is scheduled to be finalized within two weeks.

Project #67: WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA Sierra Leone “Preparedness Joint Programme”; requested amount: US\$ 2,500,000.

This joint proposal is focusing on:

- Promoting the implementation of IHR (2005) incl. border health components;
- Strengthening real-time surveillance for priority public health diseases, conditions and events;
- Strengthening surveillance for public health events in the community;
- Establishing events-based surveillance;
- Promote community ownership and participation in preparedness and response to outbreaks and other public health events;
- Strengthening community based maternal death surveillance and response

DECISION: After presentation and favorable support by the Chair and the Advisory Committee members, the project was **conditionally approved for funding at US\$ 2,500,000, subject to responding to DFID/UK comments (should be shared by DFID shortly), and Secretariat technical comments (related to Results Matrix).** The proposal is scheduled to be finalized within two weeks.

Project #68: WHO Democratic Republic of Congo “Strengthening Rapid Response mechanism and preparedness of WHO and partners to support the MOH for EVD in the DRC, including specifically Likati Health District”; requested amount: US\$ 1,070,000.

The objective of this proposal is to ensure the provision of critical capacity in the following areas:

- Ongoing support to Likati health zone, including active case search to ensure no suspected case is undetected, and planning for post-response surveillance.
- Enhancement of infection prevention and control policy, measures and capacity.
- Support and maintain field laboratory capacity for rapid deployment, to enable the rapid confirmation of EVD cases.
- Planning and implementing support for EVD survivors.

This project will also help improve the capacity of WHO and partners to urgently strengthen international rapid response mechanisms for EVD outbreaks

DECISION: After presentation and favorable support by the Chair and the Advisory Committee members, the project was **conditionally approved for funding at US\$ 1,070,000, subject to responding to DFID/UK comments (should be shared by DFID shortly), and Secretariat technical comments (related to Results Matrix).** The proposal is scheduled to be finalized within two weeks.

Reprogramming of Project #17 “Establishing Rapid Response and Stabilization Teams (RRSTs) in the National Ebola Response Centre Secretariat (NERC) in Sierra Leone” to be implemented by UNDP

This no-cost budget revision requests to reprogram an unutilized balance of approximately \$ 730,000 after completion of project activities related to the RRST deployment and salary payments. The change in scope envisages procuring 15 off-road 4 wheel drive mini-trucks (one per District), at the request of the Ministry of Health, to be used for moving medical supplies from District Centres to Peripheral Health Units. The fleet management plan will be developed by the National Pharmaceutical Supply Chain Agency which is under the Directorate of Drugs and Medical Supplies.

The proposal is similar in focus to a project supported by the Global Fund which covered the cost of 13 large vehicles for transporting medical supplies from the Central Medical Stores to each District Headquarters. Additionally, DFID informed that they are in the process of donating 4x4 vehicles of various specifications to the District health teams. DFID requested UNDP to liaise with DFID Sierra Leone’s Senior Health Advisor and Resilient Zero programme lead, to ascertain if this would mean duplication in activities.

DECISION: Based on comments received from the Advisory Committee member, the Chair defer the decision on reprogramming until the additional information is received from DFID Sierra Leone in view of avoiding duplication. **APPROVAL DEFERRED**

Agenda Item # 5: AOB and Final remarks

Proposals # 65, 66, 67, 68 were supported and conditionally approved, subject to responding to feedback from DFID and Ebola MPTF Secretariat.

Further to the comment from the Advisory Committee member on the need for additional information on reprogramming of project #17, the Chair proposed to circulate additional clarifications to the members of the Advisory Committee for e-discussion and e-decision.

With no further comments from the participants, the Chairperson thanked the participants for the great participation and collaboration in the framework of the Ebola MPTF and he adjourned the meeting by acknowledging all the actors that have made the Trust Fund success possible.