

**Secretary General's Ebola Multi-Partner Trust Fund (MPTF)
#6th Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes**

April 9th, 2015, 08:30am EST - 01:30pm 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. Ms. Marjon V. Kamara, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Liberia 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
Mr. Andreas Hilmersson, representative of Sweden, Swedish Mission in NY
Ms. Sophia Wengelin, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Stockholm

Resource Persons:

Mr. Peter Jan Graaff, Ebola Crisis Manager for Liberia, UNMEER
Ms. Bintou Keita, Ebola Crisis Manager for Sierra Leone, UNMEER
Mr. Abdou Dieng, Ebola Crisis Manager in Guinea, UNMEER
Mr. Norbert Allale, IFRC Regional Head of Ebola Operations, Ghana
Ms. Soraya Adouane, Chief of Staff a.i., UNMEER Guinea
Mr. Eloi Kouadio IV, Country Director UNDP Guinea
Mr. Jean-Marie Dangou, Director, WHO Guinea
Mr. Carlos Cortes Falla, UNDP Guinea
Ms. Rose Barbuto, Director of Essential Services UNMEER Liberia
Mr. Remi Sogunro, UNFPA Representative a.i. Liberia
Mr. Cleophas Torori, Country Director a.i, UNDP Liberia
Ms. Jill Morehead, Technical Specialist, Payment and Cash Transfers, UNDP Liberia
Mr. Paul Shewry, Director of Essential Services UNMEER Sierra Leone
Mr. Mohamed Kakay, Associate Coordination Officer UNMEER Sierra Leone
Ms. Sarah Kline, Ebola Response Resource Mobilisation Lead, WHO Geneva
Mr. Jago Salmon, BPPS, UNDP New York
Mr. Abdullah Alkulaib, Regional Burea for Africa, UNDP New York

Office of the Special Envoy on Ebola:

Ms. Joanna Nickolls

Ex-Officio Members:

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

Introduction

The Chair welcomed the participants to the 6th Advisory Committee Meeting. He debriefed the participants about global meetings related to the Ebola outbreak and response.

UN Special Envoy on Ebola's visit in Guinea and Sierra Leone

After his last trip to the affected areas with Bruce Aylward, WHO Assistant Director-General, and Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Head of UNMEER, the Chair reported positive and encouraging news on the epidemiology of the virus. The situation in Liberia is close to getting to zero. Unfortunately, one last fatal case was confirmed of a woman who died of Ebola. The Chair informed that sporadic cases could happen during epidemics and outbreaks. Therefore, he urged to remain on alert. The chair acknowledged the positive results of contact tracing and prevention, which led to this positive situation in Liberia. Improvements were also evident in Guinea and Sierra Leone where the numbers were decreasing week by week, there were fewer unsafe burials, and communities were not as reticent as before and better respond to the outbreak. The Chair stressed that more work need to be done to get to zero, to stay at zero, and to strengthen the systems.

UNMEER that was set up to provide the emergency response during the Ebola Outbreak will transition its coordinating role to the UN Country Teams in three countries, starting with Liberia and following with Sierra Leone and Guinea, respectively.

Funding Framework and Achievement of the Trust Fund

The current overview of the funding situation (pledges, commitments, and deposits) and allocations was presented. A total of US\$140 mln was deposited as of 31 March 2015. The contributions to the Trust Fund slowed down in 2015. However, few additional contributions were received.

The Trust Fund enjoyed the unprecedented number of contributors, which reached 40 Member States, as well as businesses and individuals. The latest contributions were received from Bahrain, Malaysia, Mauritius, Philippines, Togo and Venezuela. Additional funds were expected from Kazakhstan, Peru and the Russian Federation.

US \$123.2 million was transferred to Recipient Entities funding 20 proposals. Taking into account the programmatic allocations already approved and transferred, the Trust Fund only had \$10 mln available for programming.

Further to a comment from Sweden on how the funds were spent by the organizations, the Trust Fund Administrator informed that the monitoring and evaluation processes were established to provide feedback on the implementation and achieving the envisaged results. Moreover, the 2nd Interim Report, expected to be produced in June 2015, would include the financial expenditures.

Review Proposals

The Chair highlighted the Strategic Priorities for 2015 highlighting the needs based on: strengthening epidemiology and contact tracing functions (WHO at country and district level), logistical capacity (WFP Special Operations), Ebola response workers payments, affected families and survivors. The Trust Fund opened two new Windows – Preparedness and Recovery– to finance proposals in these areas. The Government of Russia pledged \$ 1 mln to the Recovery Window.

Since the actual demand of resources exceeded the current Fund's balance of \$ 10,005,534 (with \$ 2,000,000 to be kept as an emergency reserve), the following proposals were submitted for approval:

- **#30 – Reinforcement of the Guinean Red Cross – UNDP/WHO/Guinean Red Cross**
This proposal focused on strengthening logistics, coordinating for community to deal with reticence and support for safe burials.
 - The overall request for this proposal is: \$ 1,327,633
 - Favorable proposal to support #30 at: \$ 1,000,000
 - **DECISION – SUPPORT, subject to clarification requested by the Advisory Committee members**

- **#31 – Preparedness for Ebola in Niger– UNICEF - WHO**
 - The overall request for this proposal is: \$ 3,360,131
 - Favorable proposal to support #31 at: n/a
 - **DECISION – PUT ON HOLD, no funding available to support this proposal.**

- **#32 – Ensuring Safe and Dignified Burials in Guinea – International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**
 - The overall request for this proposal is: \$15,983,243
 - Favorable proposal to support #32 at: \$ 4,500,000
 - **DECISION – SUPPORT, subject to clarification requested by the Advisory Committee members**

- **#33 – Restoring Midwifery services in Liberia – UNFPA**
Strengthening the non-Ebola Health Care focusing on midwifery restoration services.
 - The overall request for this proposal is: \$ 7,033,736
 - Favorable proposal to support : \$ 1,000,000
 - **DECISION – NOT REACHED.** No funding is available in the Recovery Window, though \$ 1mln is expected from the Russian Federation.

- **#34 – Support to Ebola Survivors – Pink Cross Sierra Leone**
Supporting Ebola survivors in urban areas in Sierra Leone. The proposal focused on psychological support after recovery from Ebola.
 - The overall request for this proposal is: \$ 176,930
 - Favorable proposal to support : \$ 150,000
Subject to identification of a UN Entity as a Recipient Organization
 - **DECISION – SUPPORT, subject to clarifications requested by the Advisory Committee members**

- **#35 – Campaign of Sensitization and early detection of Ebola suspected cases – WHO Guinea**
This proposal has not been circulated to the ACM participants in advance of the meeting due to a late submission. It was discussed at the Advisory Committee and circulated immediately after the meeting.
The purpose of this proposal is to support an emergency campaign to control the epidemic by the end of 45 days.
 - The overall request for this proposal is: \$ 490,000
 - Favorable proposal to support #35 at: \$ 400,000

- **DECISION – POSITIVE FEEDBACK, subject to review of the proposal**
- **#6 (Regional) and #8 (Liberia) – Cost Extension – Programme for Payments for Ebola Response Workers (PPERWs) - UNDP**
The request of extension is related to additional assistance and support to the Ebola Response Workers consolidating the system currently in place and to support early recovery.
 - The cumulative request for this extension is: \$ 700,000
 - Favorable proposal to support #6 and #8 at: \$ 500,000
 - **DECISION – IN PRINCIPLE POSITIVE; Clarification requested by the Advisory Committee members and UNMEER based on which final decision would be made**
- **#11 QIPs Replenishment in Guinea and Sierra Leone - UNMEER**
The request of cost extensions focused on additional activities for quick, flexible and effective actions on the Ebola Response with a direct impact on the communities.
 - Additional funding requested for QIP Guinea is: \$ 1,000,000
 - **DECISION – SUPPORT**
 - Additional funding requested for QIP in Sierra Leone is: \$ 500,000
 - **DECISION – SUPPORT**
- **#27 – Preparedness for Ebola in Côte d'Ivoire - proposal in the pipeline previously submitted to the Advisory Committee Meeting.**
 - The overall request for this proposal is: \$ 3,951,595
 - **DECISION – PUT ON HOLD, no funding available to support this proposal.**
- **#26 – Ebola Response through Small Grants - proposal in the pipeline previously submitted to the Advisory Committee. This proposal has been resubmitted by UNDP significantly changing the scope.**
 - The overall request for this proposal is: \$ 2,500,000
 - **DECISION – PUT ON HOLD, and subject to available funding**

Final remarks

Country Offices

- Participants from UNMEER-Liberia, UNMEER-Sierra Leone, UNDP-Liberia expressed gratitude for the work of the Trust Fund.
- Ebola Crisis Manager for Guinea thanked the Chair and his team for support. He invited the Chair to participate to the Campaign “Ebola ça suffit”. Although unable to attend, the Chair acknowledged the participation of Head of the UNMEER, Mr. Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed and WHO Assistant Director-General, Mr. Bruce Aylward in this campaign.

Ambassadors

- **Liberia – H.E. Ms. Kamara, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Liberia to the UN**

Thanked for the UN Ebola Response MPTF Interim Report and for the additional reports shared by the Chair. She was pleased by the proposals submitted, hoping for more fund mobilization in order to fulfill the needs. She supported the proposals on preparedness and she was positively impressed about what has been said about psychological and social support of the Pink Cross proposal in Sierra Leone and the related impact especially in post-conflict countries.

- **Sierra Leone – H.E. Mr. Amadu Koroma, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the UN**

Thanked for the detailed information provided. He was pleased with the efforts devoted to his country to fight Ebola where there were evident signs of reduction in transmission. He expressed hope that the outbreak would end soon. The hope was to see children in school shortly. He expressed gratitude for the support to the Pink Cross project for which he conveyed his endorsement.

- **Guinea – H.E. Mr. Mamadi Touré, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guinea to the UN**

Thanked for the UN Ebola Response MPTF Interim Report and was looking forward to receiving additional material from the Special Envoy, as well as more information on the assessment and the impact on Mano River Union (MRU). He also acknowledged the positive feedback of the epidemiological update feeling encouraged by the analysis and hoping that the positive trend will continue.

Donors

- **UK - Ms. Jo Scott-Nicholls, Representative of UK**

Expressed support and appreciation for work on the Ebola Response MPTF and shared UK's feedback on the discussed proposals includes:

Support: #30 – Reinforcement of the GRC; #31 – Preparedness for Ebola in Niger; #32 – Ensuring Safe and Dignified Burials IFRC; #34 – Support to Ebola Survivors – Pink Cross Sierra Leone – subjected to partner with an NGO/UNICEF; #8 (Liberia) – Cost Extension – PPERWs - UNDP

Interest but not current priority of “Getting to Zero”: #33 – Restoring Midwifery services – UNFPA Liberia

Conditional support: #27 – Preparedness for Ebola in Côte d’Ivoire subjected to reduction of some activities and questions about other under-prepared countries such as Burkina Faso and Guinea Bissau

- **Sweden - Ms. Andreas Hilmersson, Representative of Sweden**

Expressed positive feedback about the work on the Ebola Response.

Strong Support to: #34 – Support to Ebola Survivors – Pink Cross Sierra Leone; and #35 - Campaign of Sensitization and early detection of Ebola suspected cases – WHO Guinea – subjected to the review of the proposals

Shared interest but highlighted that proposal #33 “Restoring Midwifery services in Liberia” was not current priority of “Getting to Zero” and suggested to defer it to the future allocation rounds.

Conclusions

The Chair concluded the 6th Advisory Committee meeting thanking the Members for their participation. He proposed to hold another Advisory Committee Meeting shortly hoping in more mobilization of funds.

