



5th Steering Committee Meeting of the Working for Health Programme

Host: OECD
By video conference

Monday, 9th March 2020, 14:30-16:30

Minutes

Participants

WHO

Jim Campbell
Paul Marsden
Kenza Zerrou
Ayat Abu-Agla
Ibadat Dhillon
Khassoum Diallo
Laurence Codja
Pascal Zurn

ILO

Alette van Leur
Oliver Liang
Christiane Wiskow
Maren Hopfe

OECD

Stefano Scarpetta
Nick Tomlinson

NORAD (Norway)

Ingvar Olsen
Priya Lerberg
[+ NORAD head of
global health]

Silatech (Qatar)

Faisal Mohamed
al-Emadi
Banan Massoud

MPTF Office

Olga Aleshina

Meeting Minutes

The meeting was chaired by Stefano Scarpetta.

Opening remarks and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair opened the 5th Steering Committee meeting by welcoming WHO, ILO, UNDP-MPTF, NORAD and Silatech, and welcomed Olga Aleshina, UNDP-MPTF Office to her first meeting of the Steering Committee.
2. With the spread of COVID-19 and measures in place to reduce its spread, the Steering Committee meeting was held by video conference.
3. The Committee joined the chair in paying tribute to the late Peter Salama, whose guidance and inspiration would be sorely missed.
4. It was noted that the 5th Steering Committee meeting objective was to discuss the vision, direction, orientation and adoption of the Working for Health (W4H) programme at all three levels of implementation (country, regional and global).

Decision points:

- The agenda for the meeting was adopted.

Adoption of the 4th Steering Committee meeting minutes

5. WHO presented an overview of actions taken responding to the decision points of the previous meeting. All decision points enlisted had been addressed or were covered in this meeting agenda.
6. NORAD indicated that they were content subject to three small amendments: (1) on their request for clarity on how the country support contributes to better data availability; (2) on how the transfer of knowledge and skills is addressed; and (3) on new concept notes arrangement, process and timelines. Similarly, Silatech was also content subject to two main clarifications: (1) on the status update request for the number of anticipated jobs – direct and indirect – created by 2020/2021 – and the criteria for country selection; and (2) on their request at the previous Steering Committee for the Secretariat to share detailed implementation plans within two months.
7. Subject to addressing the points raised by NORAD and Silatech, the Chair proposed to move ahead with the agenda, and revisit the minutes for adoption.

Decision points:

- The minutes of the last Steering Committee meeting (9 October 2019) were adopted, with the amendments mentioned in 6, above.

Item 1.1 MPTF Funding Framework

8. The MPTF Office expressed their thanks and appreciation to NORAD and Silatech for their financial contribution to the Working for Health programme.
9. The MPTF Office briefly introduced the Working for Health MPTF Funding Framework document that had been circulated prior to the meeting, that reflected the latest funding status and allocations. With the donations foreseen in 2020 there would be approximately \$1.8m available to fund new work.
10. WHO emphasized the importance of continuity, and in adopting a phased approach to sustaining and maximizing the effectiveness of the project's work at country, regional and global levels. In particular, building on emerging results and the added value off the project's catalytic support and multisectoral engagement processes to drive investments and action. The proposed secretariat budget also needed to be considered against the significant staff resources already committed by the three organizations.
11. The MPTF Office suggested that, as with other Trust Funds, concept notes could be approved, on a no-objection basis within 5 working days, by email. The Steering Committee welcomed the suggestion, recognizing such a mechanism retains the ability to address comments from donors during the approval process.

Decision points:

- Future concept notes to be approved 'virtually' (by e-mail) by SC members, on a no objection basis, within 5 working days.

Item 1.2 Overview of National, Regional and Global activities

12. WHO presented the highlights of progress with the programme of work, which began in

May 2019. In the subsequent discussion the Steering Committee noted that progress in the first six months was very encouraging: there was a good balance of country, regional and global work and the emerging results from the inception phase, that will be included in the project's 1st annual progress report, bode well for future resource mobilisation efforts. The secretariat was asked to include overall summaries of this work in the progress report and to sign-post expected achievements for 2020. The MPTF Office noted the deadline for the MPTF Office to submit the final 2019 consolidated progress report to the donors was 31 May 2020, and that each participating organisation needed to submit a financial report for 2019, to the MPTF Office, by 30 April 2020. NORAD looked forward to receiving the consolidated annual report after the meeting, which is due by 31 May 2020.

13. WHO presented details of the 43 countries seen as furthest away from achieving UHC, based on an analysis of UHC index measurement from the global UHC Monitoring Report, and the available health worker density data from National Health Workforce Accounts (NHWA). The Steering Committee agreed that future country level work should prioritise these 43 countries, but the decisions on funding within this group of countries should be based on additional criteria such as those countries demonstrating strong political commitment and leadership.

Decision points:

- The Secretariat was requested to:
 - a. ensure that internally approved financial statements are submitted to the MPTF Office by each of the three implementing agencies by 30 April 2020;
 - b. update the existing project selection criteria for future country level funding, to include prioritisation based on the '43-country list', to be circulated with the draft minutes for comments; and
 - c. share the PowerPoint presentation of the Steering Committee meeting together with the draft meeting minutes.

Item 2 Resource Mobilisation Strategy

14. WHO presented an update to the Working for Health Resource Mobilisation strategy. In discussion, both Silatech and NORAD were content to facilitate discussion with other potential donors, as proposed in the strategy. NORAD highlighted the need to plan a meeting with potential Nordic and other donors. They suggested not only to include the Nordic countries but to broaden the group of potential donors to other countries such as Germany and the Netherlands. They also emphasised the importance of a performance assessment of the MPTF after their three years' funding cycle, as a basis for determining their next phase of support. It was proposed to update the Working for Health brochure, drawing on material from the 2019 progress report. It was agreed that the Secretariat would develop a short narrative on how the Working for Health programme could contribute to further country preparedness and health system strengthening in light of the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak. It was also agreed to emphasise links with the 2020 Year of Nursing and Midwifery as a key theme for targeting health workforce investment opportunities. Silatech offered to work bilaterally on an updated RM and communications plan.

Decision points:

- Update the Working for Health brochure, as part of a revamped Communications plan;
- Organise a meeting with potential donors, in Geneva or Oslo;
- develop a short narrative on the Working for Health programme contribution to further country preparedness and health system strengthening in light of the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak; and
- Include a forward-looking paragraph on RM efforts in the annual progress report.

Item 3: Any other business and conclusions

15. It was agreed that the pending approval of the Secretariat Concept Note submitted in the Steering Committee meeting 9 October 2019 would be handled electronically via the adopted no objection approach.
16. The next Steering Committee meeting is scheduled to take place in October 2020 and will be hosted and chaired by ILO, in Geneva. The exact dates would be determined based on the availabilities of the Members.
17. It was agreed to circulate the draft minutes to Steering Committee members by 23 March 2020.