



United Nation Multi-Partner Trust Fund to Catalyze Country Action for Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health

First Meeting of the Steering Committee

Monday 8 November 2021, 16.00-17.30 CET

A. Objectives and participants

1. The First Steering Committee Meeting of the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund to Catalyze Country Action for Non-Communicable Diseases and Mental Health (MPTF) was held on 8 November 2021, co-chaired by Zsuzsanna Jakab, Deputy Director-General, WHO and Haoliang Xu, Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP. Participants and observers are listed in Annex 1.
2. The objectives of the meeting were: (i) for Steering Committee (and ex-officio) members and Founding Strategic Partners (Kenya, Thailand, and Uruguay) to receive an update on progress regarding the MPTF since the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by WHO, UNDP and UNICEF (the Participating UN agencies [PUNOs]) in May 2021; and (ii) to discuss emerging issues on policy and strategy, resource mobilization, and governance, with agreed ways forward.

B. Welcome and introductions

3. An opening call to action was provided by the WHO co-chair. Remarks from the UNDP co-chair, UNICEF, the MPTF Office and the Founding Strategic Partners followed. All welcomed the establishment of the MPTF and the approach set out in the Terms of Reference, including the catalytic and multisectoral nature of the MPTF, and the importance of ensuring that the Fund is responsive to country needs. The importance of capitalizing the MPTF was emphasized.

C. Update on Trust Fund activities

4. The MPTF Secretariat provided an update on progress since the MoU was signed, including current thinking around policy, strategy and operations, current activities around resource mobilization, and issues emerging regarding the structure and membership of the Steering Committee.

D. Discussion and decision points

Policy, strategy and operations

5. The Steering Committee supported the current thinking around the MPTF that has emerged following discussion between the Secretariat, PUNOs, the MPTF Office and development partners, including:
 - The need to start operations early – once USD 250,000 is mobilized in the MFPT – to demonstrate the Trust Fund’s proof of concept as a catalytic financing mechanism; and that

there should be an incremental increase in number and size of grants as the Fund is further capitalized. In the first instance it would be most efficient to invite a small number of LMICs to apply for funds to manage expectations – but that criteria should be developed for transparency in this process. In addition, initial proposals should focus on NCDs and mental health in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery;

- An agreement to allow broad earmarking of contributions to specific outcomes or windows (e.g., cervical cancer, for the joint UN response to support the WHO-led CCEI) – in line with the ToRs;
 - That significant portion of funds disbursed by the MPTFO through WHO, UNDP and UNICEF should go to national governments and CSO implementing partners;
 - That the MPTF would be a financing mechanism to support country action based on country priorities, which may require support to broader global or regional programmes, and that the MPTF would not develop its own programmes or become an implementing entity;
 - The importance of developing mechanisms for transparency and management of conflict-of-interest.
6. The Steering Committee agreed that an operations guidance note that takes into account the points above, be developed for sign off by the Steering Committee by the end of Q1 2022.

Action

D1. Secretariat to work with PUNOs, MPTF Office, Founding Strategic Partners and other development partners (as required) to develop an operational guidance note for the Steering Committee to review by Q1 2022.

Resource Mobilization

7. The Steering Committee agreed that: (i) each PUNO makes resource mobilization a priority, engaging with at least one ‘donor’ (OECD Development Assistance Committee [DAC]); and (ii) Founding Strategic Partners support efforts to mobilize resources. The Steering Committee requested concrete timelines for the above.
8. The Steering Group agreed that one or more high-level launches should happen as soon as possible – in the first instance as soon as an anchor donor is in place.

9. The Steering Committee agreed that a resource mobilization strategy be developed for sign off by the Steering Committee by the end of Q1 2022.
10. The Steering Committee agreed that a short compelling name for the MPTF was needed for advocacy and fundraising purposes, taking note of a proposed name from the Secretariat that had emerged from a broad consultative process. The Steering Group welcomed this work but requested additional proposals before making a final decision. UNICEF offered to provide support for developing communication material through their Communications Team.

Action

D2. Each PUNO to agree one or more DAC countries that they each would take responsibility for engaging with for resource mobilization purposes, with a clear timeframe, proposed set of activities, and support required from the Secretariat and the MPTF Office.

D3. Secretariat along with PUNOs and the MPTF Office to support Founding Strategic Partners to identify opportunities for resource mobilization, with an agreed timeframe and proposed set of activities.

D4. Secretariat to continue discussions with Founding Strategic Partners on appropriate financial contributions from LMICs.

D5. Secretariat to work with PUNOs, MPTF Office, Founding Strategic Partners and other development partners (as required) to develop a resource mobilization strategy for the Steering Committee to review by Q1 2022.

D6. Secretariat to work with UNICEF Communications Team and others to develop further options for a short name for the MPTF.

Governance

11. The Terms of Reference set out the structure and membership for the Steering Committee while indicating that this was still for discussion. The Secretariat shared emerging thinking on structure, including a limited expansion of the numbers of membership and observers, including a rotating third co-chair from a LMIC. The MPTF Office stated that it was important to balance inclusivity and efficiency and that limited expansion was appropriate.
12. As a result of the discussion, the Secretariat was asked to prepare a short paper on the structure and membership of the Steering Committee.

Action

D7. Secretariat to work with PUNOs and the MPTF Office to develop a short paper on limited expansion of the Steering Committee for the Steering Committee to review by Q1 2022.

E. Date and time of next meeting

13. The MPTF Office indicated from previous experience that MPTF Steering Committees often need to meet more frequently in the startup phase of an MPTF. It was agreed that the Second meeting of the Steering Committee would be held in the first quarter of 2022 and that the Steering Committee will use email to engage in any discussions until then if/when required.
14. Ahead of the Second Meeting, a summary of the First Meeting would be prepared and made publicly available.

Action

E1. The Secretariat to prepare a summary of the First Meeting for review by Steering Committee members and Founding Strategic Partners ahead of being made publicly available.

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Annex. List of participants and observers

Participants

Steering Committee Members

WHO (co-chair): Zsuzsanna JAKAB, Deputy Director-General

UNDP (co-chair): Haoliang XU, Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Policy and Programme Support

UNICEF: Omar ABDI, Deputy Executive Director

Founding Strategic Partners

Kenya: Patrick AMOTH, Director General, Ministry of Health

Thailand: Thaksaphon THAMARANGSI, Director, International Health Policy Program, Office of the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Health

Uruguay: Dr. Miguel ASQUETA, Director General de la Salud, Ministerio de Salud Pública

Steering Committee Ex-Officio Member

Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

Jennifer TOPPING, Executive Coordinator

Multi-Partner Trust Fund Secretariat, Global NCD Platform, WHO

Svetlana AKSELROD: Director, Global NCD Platform

Mamka ANYONA, Policy and Strategy Lead

Nick BANATVALA: Head of Secretariat, UN Inter-Agency Task Force on NCDs

Linda MERIEAU, Resource Mobilization Lead

Observers (agencies and names in alphabetical order)

UNDP

Roy SMALL: Policy Advisor, Health and Innovative Financing

Dudley TARLTON: Programme Specialist, Health and Innovative Financing

Douglas WEBB: Manager, Health and Innovative Financing

UNICEF

Raoul BERMEJO: Health Specialist, Child, Community Health and NCDs, Health Section

Zeinab HIJAZI: Senior Mental Health Technical Advisor, Child Protection Section

Rory NEFDT: Senior Advisor Health, Head Child, Community Health and NCDs, Health Section

WHO

Tea COLLINS: Cross-Cutting Lead, Global NCD Platform

Guy FONES: Team Lead, Global Coordination Mechanism on NCDs, Global NCD Platform

Menno van HILTEN: Cross-cutting Lead Strategy (NCDs)

Devora KESTEL: Director, Mental Health and Substance Use

Alexey KULIKOV: External Relations Officer, UN Inter-Agency Task Force on NCDs
Susana MARTINEZ: Lead, Interagency Collaboration, Funds, Banks and Multilaterals, Coordinated Resource Mobilization
David Graham McNeill: Coordinator, Funds, Banks and Multilaterals, Coordinated Resource Mobilization
Bente MIKKELSEN: Director, NCDs
Mark VAN OMMEREN: Coordinator, Mental Health
Cherian VARGHESE: Cross-Cutting Lead, Office of the Director, NCD

Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office

Olga ALESHINA: Senior Portfolio Manager

Kenya

Dr. Joseph LENAI, Ag. Director of Health Sector Coordination and Intergovernmental Relations, Ministry of Health

Thailand

Naiyana CHAITIEMWONG: Director, Center for International Cooperation, Department of Health, MoPH
Nattakorn JAMPATHONG: Director, Khonkaen Rajanagarindra Psychiatric Hospital, Department of Mental Health, MoPH
Ratthawoot NANTHAIKUAKOOL: First Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Pasin PIRIYAHAPHAN: Foreign Relations Officer, Practitioner Level, Center for International Cooperation, Department of Health, MoPH
Siriwan PITAYARANGSARIT: Deputy Director, Division of Non-Communicable Diseases, Department of Disease Control, MoPH
Chatdanai SORNCHAI: Public Health Technical Officer, Practitioner Level, Sritanya Hospital Department of Mental Health, MoPH
Thitirat WONGKAEW: First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Thailand to the UN in Geneva

Uruguay

Gabriela GOMEZ: Director of International Relations and Cooperation, Ministry of Health
Luis GALICIA: Program Coordinator, Ministry of Health
Soledad MARTINEZ: Health Attaché, Permanent Mission of Uruguay to the UN in Geneva