

Board Meeting Summary

Date: Thursday 14th May 2020

Board Member Ellen Agler, Max Gasteen, Mona Hammami (Chair), Ilona Kickbusch, Carl Manlan,

Attendees: Francisca Mutapi, Peter Stevenson (Vice-Chair), Reiko Suzuki Kitaoka, Wang Yu

Observers: Caroline Harper (Sightsavers), Mwele Malecela (WHO)

Guests: Diogo Martins, Wangeci Thuo (Consultative Forum)

Secretariat: Thoko Elphick-Pooley, Hugh Mehta, Finlay White, Andy Wright,

Apologies: Kieran Daly, Maimouna Diop Ly, Silvia Gold, Wang Yu

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1. Welcome and introduction

- Mona Hammami welcomed everyone and gave an overview of the agenda.

2. Update on Board meeting actions

- An update on action items from the previous Board meetings was provided, as documented in the agenda papers. It was noted that many of the items were for discussion during the meeting.

3. Recommendation from the Consultative Forum on prioritisation criteria for the partnership strategy

- Following the Board meeting in February, the Board had formally asked the Consultative Forum to work together to recommend prioritisation criteria for the new partnership strategy, in support of the new WHO Roadmap on Neglected Tropical Diseases 2021-2030.
- Wangeci Thuo and Diogo Martins, who have been acting as co-facilitators for the task, attended the meeting to present the recommendations of the forum. They gave a short presentation on the approach that had been taken:
- The goal was to coordinate the input of all the Consultative Forum members in a structured and inclusive way.
- Initially an online survey was created to help focus the initial discussions. This included questions around whether Uniting should be disease focused or if it should use a platform-based approach focusing on cross-cutting issues and critical gaps in the Roadmap or use another approach.
- Group discussions were then held to reach consensus on recommendations from the Consultative Forum.

Recommendations from the Consultative Forum

- Uniting should support all 20 diseases in the WHO NTD Roadmap
- Uniting should focus on the enablers in the 'heatmap' of the WHO NTD Roadmap to identify priorities for future work and how best to support the response to the most urgent needs of the

global NTD community, and to monitor progress towards those priorities.

- The forum suggested that the key enablers for Uniting to consider and prioritise are: Advocacy and Funding, Collaboration and Multisectoral Action, and Capacity and awareness building. The forum believes these could be the areas where Uniting could make a unique contribution.
- The forum considered how flexible Uniting should be in terms of responding to the WHO Roadmap and suggested that Uniting should be ready to pivot and to flex to changing landscapes and should use the planning periods 2021-2023, 2023-2025 and 2025-2030 to align with the checkpoints in the Roadmap.
- The forum put forward further areas for the board to consider including: Uniting's ability to monitor and evaluate progress and impact of any work related to the enablers, particularly when measuring advocacy.
- To use the enablers in the heatmap the forum suggested Uniting could focus its work on specific target groupings, for example WASH and consider the type of interventions against multiple NTDs.
- The forum offered the Board continued support as needed.

Conclusions

The Board clarified that the Consultative Forum's recommendation was to:

- Focus on enablers, whilst finding a balance between horizontal and vertical approaches
- Expand the partnership's mandate to cover all 20 neglected tropical diseases
- Further work is needed to explain what the partnership might actually do to support the advocacy and fundraising and collaboration and multi-sectorial action enablers in the heatmap. What are the likely metrics that might be needed to measure success?
- Further thought should be given to the feedback from the Board that successful advocacy and fundraising often needs to be tailored to the specific context/target.
- It was agreed that the Consultative Forum should discuss the suggestion to review the capacity and awareness building enabler, following the Board's feedback that this might be out of scope for Uniting as defined in the WHO NTD Road Map.
- The Board agreed to continued consultation with the Consultative Forum and suggested that the Secretariat share the emerging strategy and thinking to help with further conversations.

Actions

- The Consultative Forum to discuss the feedback from the Board, with a view to refining the recommendation around how Uniting should focus on the enablers in the WHO Roadmap heatmap

4. View from WHO – how Uniting can support the new roadmap and supporting documents

- Dr. Mwele Malecela provided the Board members with an overview of the new Roadmap and supporting documents - the sustainability framework and the investment case.

Board Responses and questions

- The Board asked about the next steps for the Sustainability Framework. It was noted that WHO will work with selected countries to develop the framework in order to provide examples of it might be like in practice.
- The Board asked how Uniting can best support this workplan. Dr. Malecela advised that the partners of Uniting can have a big role and there is an opportunity for Uniting to build on what the WHO does rather than duplicate it.
- The Board asked what WHO will do with regards to demand creation from the beneficiaries of the services as an important element of sustainability is to have the individuals prioritising the necessity for services. It was noted that demand creation is included in each of the subsections of the sustainability framework.
- The Board asked about the investment case and the focus on critical gaps in the heatmap and if this brought any risks for diseases which are green and near to elimination. It is necessary to look at the heatmap with the disease summaries in mind as this defines where the weaknesses are and where we need to make the changes. The focus is not just on red and orange, it is on the critical gaps even within the diseases that have had more progress.

5. Update on strategy and operational plan development timeline

- Andy Wright provided an update on the timeline for the strategy and operational plan.
- Once the work between the Board and the Consultative Forum has concluded, the strategy will be updated and put onto the website with a survey to gather further feedback from the Partner Network. This work does have implications for the timeline of the development of the strategy and operational plan.
- To aid the process, the Secretariat suggested that it could work more intensively with a task team made up of Board and Consultative Forum members. It was agreed that a task team involving both Board and Consultative Forum members would be preferable.

Actions

- The Board and Secretariat to work together to form a task team to drive the strategy and operational plan forward.
- The Secretariat to update the timeline for the development of the strategy and operational plan as required

6. Proposal for additional members on the Consultative Forum

- The recommendations for nominations to the Consultative Forum were posed to the Board and an overview of each recommendation was given. The recommendation had been discussed and agreed by a search committee that included the Board Chair and Vice-Chair.

Decision

- Board members gave personal support to the specific individuals that had been recommended.
- The Board approved the recommendation to appoint the following people to the open seats on the Consultative Forum:
 - Youth seat: Gerald Chirinda
 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH): Mamadou Diallo
 - Endemic country seats: Aminu Garba, Rashad Abdul-Ghani, Nay Yi Yi Linn
- The Board approved the recommendation to keep two seats open with a view to finding someone with health systems strengthening expertise and another person from Latin America.

7. Update from the Finance Committee meeting

- The Vice-Chair provided an update on the first Board Finance Committee meeting, which had taken place on 5th May
- A Terms of Reference (ToR) for the committee was put to the Board for approval, with an amendment to say that it should be reviewed every two years.
- The committee is undertaking a search to find a third external member, who should bring a strong finance background
- A brief overview of the Secretariat's expenditure in 2018 and 2019 was shared, alongside a projected spend for 2020.
- It was agreed that the slides from the presentation would be sent out to the Board.

Decision

- The Board approved the Finance Committee ToR

Actions

- The Secretariat to share the Finance Committee forecast and expenditure slides with the Board