

Uniting Q1 Board Meeting Minutes

Date and time: 18th February 2021, 14:00 GMT

Board member attendees: Mona Hammami, Peter Stevenson, Ellen Agler, Maimouna Diop Ly, Francisca Mutapi, Silvia Gold, Kieran Daly, Laura Westcott, Rieko Suzuki

Observers: Caroline Harper (Sightsavers),

Secretariat: Thoko Elphick-Pooley, Matt Turney, Jo Hearn

Apologies: Carl Manlan, Mwele Malacela (WHO)

For more information, please contact info@combatntds.org

1. Update on Events – WHO Roadmap launch, World NTD day

- Uniting supported the recent **WHO road map launch** event on 28 January by reaching out to high-level speakers and helping to produce assets.
- The launch was well attended, with over 4000 people viewing and WHO was very pleased with the level of support from partners.
- There are still some documents yet to be published – specifically the WHO investment case, the sustainability framework, and the M&E framework. These are anticipated to be available in the coming months.
- **World NTD day** was a huge success. Supported by the Crown Prince Court, there was a high level of engagement from partners as well as the public. It highlighted the relevance of NTDs and the appetite that exists for other issues within global health other than COVID-19.
- On 30th January, over 60 monuments across almost 30 countries were lit up to raise awareness and join people together in solidarity to end the neglect.
- There was a lot of media coverage of NTDs, including pieces covered by the UK's Daily Mail and the Telegraph. Notable support from leaders included a tweet from His Highness Mohammed bin Zayed, a video statement from UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson, as well as a tweet from Pope Francis.
- Uniting was also chosen to benefit from UK comedian Eddie Izzard's Make Humanity Great Again campaign, which involved her running 32 marathons in 31 days throughout January. This coverage from Eddie Izzard helped Uniting reach new audiences, which was a key aim of the World NTD Day campaign.
- Alongside Youth Combatting NTDs (YC-NTDs), Uniting also helped to organise a youth storytelling competition, encouraging young people around the world to tell their story of NTDs through written, video, audio, and digital mediums. It received over 800 entries from across 39 countries. Uniting is now looking to work with YC-NTDs to showcase the pieces at a virtual arts festival.
- Perhaps the most significant moment, however, was the WHO Executive Board making a draft decision to make World NTD Day an official day celebrated by WHO, thank you to UAE's leadership supported by a number of countries, including Oman and Brazil.

2. Kigali Summit Update

- A meeting with the Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Health took place on 21st January.
- Importantly, health is now a major focus of CHOGM. A High-Level Health Event being included as part of the CHOGM agenda, which will take place on the same day as the Malaria and NTD Summit. It will last 45 minutes and focus on the following key themes:
 - pandemic preparedness
 - the resilience of health systems
 - global health security
 - role of science and international partnerships
- The Government of Rwanda has offered the opportunity to integrate the Malaria and NTD Summit with the High-Level Health Event. This will include the Summit's call to action being part of the Call to Action of the High-Level Health Event.

3. Governance Committee Update

- The Governance Committee met on Tuesday 9th February, and the members elected Peter Stevenson as chair.
- **Decision: Peter's appointment as Chair was approved by the Board.**
- The Terms of Reference of the Board allows a maximum of 12 positions on the Board. There are currently 10 Board members, with 2 openings available.
- The Governance Committee also discussed the appointment of a new Uniting Board Chair.
- Mona has agreed to continue serving as chair for up to 6 months to allow for the orderly transition and recruitment of a new Chair.
- **Board approved commencing the recruitment of a new Uniting Board Chair**
- This recruitment process will look at both existing Board members as well as external candidates.
- The Governance Committee, with input from the Secretariat, put together a profile for the new Chair.
- **Governance committee to reconvene to consider Board suggestions.**