

Q2 Uniting Board Meeting

Date & Time: Thursday 20th May, 2 PM BST

Board Members: Mona Hammami (Chair), Peter Stevenson (Vice-Chair), Maimouna Diop Ly, Kieran Daly, Carl Manlan, Ellen Agler, Rieko Suzuki Kitaoka, Laura Westcott, Francisca Mutapi,

Observers Caroline Harper (Sightsavers)
Mwele Malecela (WHO) Max Gasteen (Gates Foundation)

Apologies Silvia Gold

Secretariat: Thoko Elphick-Pooley, Matt Turney, Mark Warrillow-Thomson, Dirk Engels, Andy Wright, Jo Hearn

Agenda

1. Welcome, agenda and actions from previous meeting
2. FCDO Update
3. Update on securing additional medicines for NTDs.
4. Kigali Update
5. Finance Committee Update
6. Governance Committee Update

If you have any queries, please contact the Uniting Secretariat on info@combatntds.org

2. FCDO Update

- An update was provided on the FCDO cuts.
- Uniting's calendar for engagement was outlined from April to September onwards
- Uniting has taken three approaches to influence key decision makers directly and indirectly –
 - behind-the-scenes advocacy targeting key decision makers in the UK and country voices in Africa.
 - public-facing communications targeting both key decision makers in the UK, the broader public, and mobilising country voices in African countries affected.
 - partner engagement and outreach.
- Current activity includes engaging in high profile broadcast and editorial opportunities – including Sky news, the Sunday Times and BBC Africa.
- It was noted that the END Fund will be hosting a conversation around what African leadership looks like in the context of FCDO cuts.
- The secretariat invited the board to suggest further actions it should be undertaking; no additional suggestions were presented to the secretariat.

3. Update on securing additional medicines for NTDs

- An overview was provided of the work that has been undertaken by Peter Stevenson, Andy Wright, and Dirk Engels to understand the current landscape of drug donations and how to go about securing further medicines for NTDs.
- Three questions were considered:
 - How can Uniting pursue efforts to seek new diseases that the partnership is supporting e.g. ivermectin for scabies, itraconazole of mycetoma, snakebite anti-venom, and dog vaccines

for rabies?

- How can Uniting help encourage and support pharma companies to maintain the existing donations and extend them through to 2030 and beyond?
- How could Uniting play a role in developing a new model to address the long-term sustainability of NTD medicine supply?
- A core mandate of Uniting is maintaining current donation programmes. In the short term, efforts should be prioritised to focus on the programmes most at risk, such as deworming medicines.

4. Kigali Update

- The secretariat gave an update on the Kigali Summit and its recent postponement, and outlined some key considerations going forward.
- The board asked the secretariat to consider a Declaration launch around the world NTD day and the Reaching the last mile event – both scheduled for 2022.
- The secretariat agreed to comments that the key criteria for the event is endemic country leadership and ownership.
- The secretariat put forward a second recommendation – to consider launching a Pooled Funding mechanism for NTDs.
- It was considered whether, in light of recent FCDO cuts, a pooled funding mechanism for NTDs would be more secure.
- The secretariat informed the board that external consultants would be needed to perform this study. The board advised that any study would need to consider existing mechanisms and would need to show how such a mechanism would ultimately lead to increased resources for NTDs.

5. Finance Committee Update

- This agenda item was omitted due to time constraints and slides and request for approval for a recommended reporting and meeting schedule have been circulated by email.

6. Governance Committee Update

Board Chair for Uniting to Combat NTDs

- Mona's term has been extended and Mona has graciously agreed to stay on as Board Chair until September.
- The Governance Committee was tasked with reviewing the list of candidates proposed by Board members and stakeholders, as potential Chairs of the Board, and producing a shortlist.
- Following a review of the proposed candidates against the agreed criteria, a shortlist has been recommended by the Governance Committee, together with the order in which to commence informal confidential outreach.
- The Governance Committee also proposes that the Board recommends a deadline for the outreach and the decision to recruit or advertise the role, should a decision be taken not to progress with the recommended candidates
- Support was given by some board members to this recommendation, but as the meeting was overrunning and some Board members had left the meeting, the request for approval of the recommendation on the outreach to proposed nominations will be circulated to Board members by email.
- It was agreed that all agenda items not fully covered at the meeting would be followed up by email.