

# Q3 Uniting Board Meeting

**Date & Time:** Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 2 PM BST

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

**Observers** Caroline Harper (Sightsavers)

**Apologies** Mwele Malecela (WHO), Maimouna Diop Ly

**Secretariat:** Thoko Elphick-Pooley, Matt Turney, Mark Warrillow-Thomson

**Donor Seat support team:** Max Gasteen (Gates Foundation)

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## 1. Welcome and introduction

- Mona Hammami welcomed the Board to the meeting
- Mona provided an overview of the agenda
- Mona provided an update on Board actions

## 2. Implementation of Operational Plan

Year 1 progress

- An overview was provided of key challenges and responses in year one of the operational plan. These included the uncertainty and eventual postponement of the Kigali Summit on malaria and NTDs, the budget cut and exit of UK on NTD funding and, on a cross cutting basis, COVID19.
- Progress highlights under Aim 1 include – Increase the relevance of NTDs in global and regional agendas, The Africa Union (AU) Continental Framework and Common Africa Position on NTDs – Uniting is in the process of entering into an MOU with the AU. Postponement of CHOGM, a formal agreement was in place with the Government of Rwanda on a high-level health event. USA passed a bill on NTDs and NTDs were included on the Germany global development strategy. Key donors were mobilised as spokespersons for NTDs as well as African heads of state. This underlined the importance of highlighting demand in affected countries and the impact of cuts to funding.
- Under Aim 2 – Mobilise international and national resources. The USA saw an increase in funding from \$102m to \$110m, a new ECOWAS NTD programme announced by Germany and addition funding for ESPEN by Japan.
- Aim 3 - Facilitate an engaged partnership. A baseline survey was conducted which reported overall favourable responses with suggestions leading to planned actions for improvement. Partnership working was reinforced with the restructuring of the Communications Coordination Group, defining the partner engagement process and extensive consultations on the Kigali Declaration.

## Year two priorities and workplan

- The secretariat provided a summary of the proposed workplan categorised by priority area, with further details on the workplan, funding status and links to aims in the strategy.

### 3. Kigali Summit and Kigali Declaration

#### a) Kigali Summit 2022

- There is no update yet on a new date for CHOGM.

#### b) Kigali Declaration on NTDs

- At the Q2 Board meeting the Board approved exploring the launch of the Kigali Declaration outside of the Summit, to maintain momentum and to kick off the signature process around World NTD Day on 30 January, with additional signatures announced at the Summit.
- Legislators from the target high burden and strategic countries are being encouraged to join the Global Parliamentary Group to Combat NTDs and can therefore support with the signing process. In addition, Ministers of Health and other key country representatives are being actively engaged in the consultation process for the Kigali Declaration.
- It was highlighted that input from the Board on how commitments and endorsements are obtained and framed would be welcome.

#### c) Communications Campaign

- The secretariat provided an overview of the 100% committed campaign that uses World NTD Day as a catalyst to create an ongoing movement to mobilise new financial and political commitments, be led by affected countries supported by activations and with the Kigali Declaration at the heart of the campaign.
- The overview detailed the key moments in the campaign, its principles, aims and outcomes, key audiences, how the approach is being developed, the ingredients involved in the campaign and how partners are being engaged.
- The Board was requested to support the Secretariat's efforts and lend its voice to the campaign (e.g. either be a spokesperson at an event, or pen a ghost-written op-ed, or share on social media etc.)

An example of commitments by the Ibero-American secretariat was highlighted which recently included Chagas as a programme.

#### Action

Board members to let the secretariat know whether they can lend support to the 100% committed campaign

### 4. Finance Committee Update

- The Finance Committee provided an overview of the approved budget
- The secretariat will schedule a Finance Committee meeting to discuss funding status and what that means for year 2, with a view to updating the Board by the end of the year.

## 5. Governance Committee Update

An update was provided on outreach for Board Chair for Uniting to Combat NTDs

### Board member terms

- The Governance Committee recommends the recruitment of one Board member and the criteria to include suitability to join and Chair the Finance Committee.

### Consultative Forum terms

- There are also some Consultative Forum member terms coming to an end on 31 December 2021. Terms are for two years, renewable once. Seven open seats are coming to an end as well as six constituency seats.
- The Governance Committee recommended the current representatives in the open seats be offered to renew their terms.

### Action

Secretariat to contact Consultative Forum members to renew terms and rotate representatives as appropriate