

RBM Board Meeting July 2017

On 17 July 2017, Roll Back Malaria Partnership held the 6th RBM Partnership Board meeting via teleconference.

At this meeting, the RBM Partnership Board reflected on the revitalized RBM Partnership's accomplishments since its last meeting on 18-19 April 2017. These have included the organization of a side event for the World Health Assembly (WHA) on the 25th of May 2017, co-hosted by the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia entitled "Country-led efforts to end malaria". The CEO presented the new RBM strategy to attending Ministers and the event was a great success and attracted a lively discussion and over 100 participants.

The Board also made a number of key decisions including approval of a strategic initiatives reserves policy, approval of the recommendations of the Strategic Partner Committee (SCPC) for the next phase of the RBM branding review and the Terms of Reference of the RBM Partnership Partner Committee Coordination Group (PCCG).

[Board Meeting Notes](#)

RBM Strategic Plan 2017 – 2020

The RBM Strategic Plan 2017-2020 has been discussed by the Board. The draft plan includes an emphasis on direct engagement with country and regional operations and the involvement of various sectors. The development of this strategy has included extensive consultation with stakeholders from across the Partnership and represents a critical milestone in the evolution of the Partnership.

The RBM Strategic Plan 2017-2020 prepared by the secretariat focuses on:

- **Keeping malaria high on the political agenda** through political support
- **Putting it solidly within regional initiatives**, and
- **Advocating for increased financing, including an emphasis on domestic financing for malaria.**

[DRAFT RBM Partnership Strategic Plan 2017 -2020](#)

Partner Committee Updates

Country and Regional Support Partner Committee (CRSPC) Update

The CRSPC has prioritized support to the malaria Global Fund (GF) application submission to secure resource/capital/grant for the 2018-2020 period, as well as orientation meeting, mock technical review panels (TRPs), consultants and in-country meeting support. Countries from all five WHO regions have received support. The CRSPC held a Mock TRPs Workshop on July 2017 in Nairobi, Kenya. The CRSPC co-chairs reported good progress in proposal writing with good participation.

52 countries submitted their malaria applications in April and May 2017. From these, 49 countries are currently in the grantmaking process with only three sent back by the GF Technical Review Panel for

iteration and resubmission. This reflects the strong quality of applications submitted by countries. As such, an impressive 94% of the countries supported are now supported on the grantmaking stage.

The CRSPC is supporting these countries to accelerate signature before the current grants expire to prevent delays in implementation. Three countries are receiving support to submit their grant applications in August, with the small remainder of countries expected to submit in February 2017.

Advocacy and Resource Mobilization Partner Committee (ARMPC) Update

The ARMPC convened a meeting of the Steering Committee in Geneva on 24th June 2017. Dr. Kesete, RBM's CEO, along with key partners from the Global Fund and PATH, attended. The meeting focused on multi sectoral initiatives by identifying methods to integrate malaria outcomes into sectors outside of health, building on existing political and economic platforms to achieve malaria targets through a regional approach, seeking a better understanding of the financial landscape of current funding, and ensuring the efficiency of the money spent.

The ARMPC has established four work streams on **Leadership, New Donors, Existing Donors and Private Sector** for Partners to join and actively participate. The strategic priorities of these Work streams are to keep malaria high on the political agenda through targeted advocacy, and to increase and sustain financing for malaria globally and domestically.

The ARMPC endorsed the establishment of a Malaria Financing Task Force (MFTF). The aim of the task force is to assist national health sector leadership in the development of a robust "investment case" to seek increased fiscal-space for malaria funding, to apply innovative financing solutions, and to mobilize influential leadership to promote increasing domestic resources.

- [MFTF Terms of Reference](#)
- [MFTF Concept Note](#)

Strategic Communication Partner Committee (SCPC) Update

The focus of the SCPC has been on using targeted communications strategies to help drive overarching RBM goals and reinforce efforts of the country/regional support and advocacy/resource mobilization Partner Committees. The overall aim is to elevate malaria on the global agenda and build momentum amongst leaders and key influencers. This focus is intended to sustain the momentum for malaria programs and support funding mobilization for regional and national elimination efforts.

Recent activity has included ensuring strong and consistent messaging for World Malaria Day 2017, supporting the RBM Board and CEO in key stakeholder engagement and outreach and developing collateral for the RBM World Health Assembly Side Event. In addition, the SCPC is developing an RBM Ambassador programme to promote the messaging priorities of the Partnership.

One critical piece of work the SCPC has been taking forward with the support of international communications experts, is the review of the RBM brand. The SCPC Branding Work stream provided contact with malaria influencers from all RBM constituencies, utilizing various outreach mediums, to solicit widespread input from across the Partnership. After careful consideration of all inputs, the consensus recommendation of the SCPC Branding Work stream is to evolve the RBM brand in a way that keeps salient brand characteristics intact, while adding forward-looking elements that affirm our tie to the elimination agenda and determination to work globally to end malaria for good. At its July 2017



meeting, the RBM Board approved this recommendation and the intention to move forward with a RBM Brand refresh to coincide with the new RBM strategy roll-out to Partners.

Finally, the SCPC Steering Committee made the recommendation to the Board to nominate Michal Fishman to complete the inaugural term, which was approved in June 2017.

Interim Support Team Handover

The Interim Support Team (IST) handover was successfully completed in July 2017 with the transitioning of their responsibilities to the RBM Secretariat Team. Thanks to robust planning and the careful management of cost, it is expected that a significant amount of money from the Transition budget will be transferred back to RBM (subject to approval by the donor). On behalf of the RBM board and the Secretariat, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the IST team for their excellent support to the RBM secretariat and all our partners.

Please note the new central email address for correspondence to the RBM Secretariat is info@rollbackmalaria.com

RBM Secretariat Recruitment Update

We expect the management team of the Secretariat to be fully on board by September 2017. We are confident that we are well on our way to a revitalized management team that will be unwavering in meeting the RBM vision, in building on and expanding a new partnership base - that will passionately drive us forward to a malaria free world.

Looking Forward

The CEO and the Strategic Policy Advisor are attending the “Belt and Road” High Level Meeting for Health Cooperation: towards a Health Silk Road in Beijing, China on 16 – 19 August 2017. The RBM CEO is invited to give an opening speech and present the RBM strategy at the thematic Session on Innovations in eliminating malaria.

WHO AFRO 2017 – The RBM Secretariat is planning a side event at the WHO AFRO Regional Committee Meeting to be held at Victoria Falls in the Republic of Zimbabwe on 30 August. The meeting would provide a platform to update the ministers of health present on the activities of the revitalized partnership.

UNGA 2017 – The Secretariat is planning events at the UN General Assembly in New York City this September. Stay tuned for more information.

Newsletter Refresh – The SCPC will be creating a new look for RBM newsletters going forward. Be on the lookout for the updated RBM branding as part of the re-design.