

**RBM Working Lunch with representatives from  
present and past Endemic Country Board members  
1 September 2006, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

Chaired by:

- Prof Lambo, Minister of Health, Federal Republic of Nigeria (Chairman, RBM Partnership)

Present:

- Endemic Countries: Representatives from Nigeria, Benin, Senegal and Zambia.
- WHO: Dr Asamoah-Baah, Assistant Director-General HTM, Dr Magda Robalo, AFRO and WHO representatives from Zambia and Senegal.
- UNICEF: Kopano Mukelabai
- RBM Partnership: Prof Awa Marie Coll-Seck, Executive Secretary

Absent: representatives from Tanzania and the World Bank.

**Speaking Points -- Background**

- We are here today to inform you of the exciting changes occurring throughout the Roll Back Malaria Partnership and to make a request from each of you
- The Partnership formed in 1998 when the challenges around malaria control were very different than they are today
  - Together, we raised awareness for the disease in the world community
  - Second, we advocated for funding for malaria, which is now well over ten times what it was eight years ago
  - Now, with world attention and funding increasingly in place, scale-up of malaria interventions is all of our key priority.
  - In order to do so we need make sure available tools, resources, and knowledge are put to best use – and our experience has shown that only by working together can we can make this the case
  - This is about organizations operating at many levels and with many types of assets and expertise focusing on country-level results.
- Thus, the Roll Back Malaria Partnership has embarked on a major change initiative, in order to adapt to the current needs and challenges of the malaria world.
- Today, the RBM Partnership includes organizations from seven different constituencies and, while it is hosted by the WHO in Geneva, it is working with an for all Partners
  - Has a Secretariat of ~20 full-time staff, led by Awa Coll-Seck
  - Led by a Board including UNICEF, the United Kingdom, The Global Fund, and the WHO, with significant endemic countries representation by Benin, DRC, Sudan and Tanzania, as well as India and Venezuela
  - Need for the country perspective to become louder and clearer, and to find new ways of sharing perspectives between the country- and global-levels
- The Partnership is becoming more and more country-focused, and has a Board working on a set of priorities including:

- Assisting Partners to harmonize efforts around a single country-led plan
- Identifying resource gaps in country operational plans and advocating for Partners to fill them
- Strengthening sub-regional networks to support countries
- Strengthening country capabilities in supply chain management
- This is a rare moment in the history of the Partnership – one in which we, as countries, need to lead.
- Request is that you engage in a discussion with us about what your country needs from the Partnership and how you personally and collectively can play a role in redefining it during this change process

### **Speaking Points: Questions to Address**

- The change initiative which we are in the midst of is your opportunity to shape the Partnership’s goals, activities, and processes to better align with your needs
- Based on the work of the Board and discussions we have had with you and your colleagues, the following messages are particularly clear:
  - RBM, as an entity, should not “do it,” but rather ensure that “it gets done”; that is, it facilitates the joint work of Partners, but does not play a technical implementation role in its own right
  - Partnership has a critical role in supporting, strengthening, and, where necessary, developing mechanisms to deliver country-level results while preventing duplication of efforts
  - Key areas of focus are generating additional financial support for malaria control, facilitating communication and access to information, providing forums for unified efforts across different organizations and constituencies, and generating consensus on priorities and approaches in malaria control
  - All of this must evolve around national malaria control programs – both as the drivers and beneficiaries
- We would like to begin to engage with you on the direction of the Partnership and how you would like to be involved. Specifically:
  - What is the value of the Partnership to you and your country?
  - How can the value be improved – which are the main gaps that could be filled by a better coordinated Partnership?
  - How do you currently communicate with the RBM Partnership, with Partners, and with other countries? How could this be improved?
  - How do you currently engage with the RBM Board? Do you get any reporting from the board meetings? How could this be improved?
  - How are you and your team able to work with us at this important time for malaria and for the Partnership?

### **Issues Raised**

- Lack of feedback from the Representatives on the Board

- Accountability
- Communication
- Need to have documents from the Board available simultaneously in English and French

### **Recommendations**

- Use the subregional entities to select Endemic Country representatives to the Board
- Better use of subregional networks to disseminate best practices
- Need of a representative of the RBM Partnership Secretariat at regional level
- Translation into French of all documents, including information on the Website
- Provide for a regional focal point to support the communication between and the contribution from the African endemic country ministers of health.

### **Conclusion**

- Strengthen African endemic country ownership and participation in the various RBM Partnership mechanisms