



RBM Partnership Board Teleconference 3 November 2004

REPORT

Participating Constituencies:

- **DRC**
- **UK**
- **USA**
- **UNF**
- **CORE**
- **Private sector**
- **WHO**
- **UNICEF**
- **Research & Academia**
- **GFATM**
- **EXS**

Proposed Agenda

- 1) CoArtem shortage - introduced by UNICEF and WHO (see annex).
- 2) Preparations for the Working Group TOR review by WG Chair and Co-chairs 8 & 9 November 2004. (see annex WG review by Malaria Consortium)
- 3) Synthesis of feedback through web-consultation of RBM Global Strategic Plan 2005 - 2015 (see attachments). Preparations for the RBM Board drafting subcommittee to convene 9 & 10 November 2004.

The agenda was approved.

Agenda Item 1: CoArtem shortage

Summary:

At present, there is a global shortage of artemisinin and pharmaceutical manufacturers of ACTs are not able to fill global orders. WHO introduced the subject by summarizing steps they have taken to inform countries concerning the anticipated shortage (see annexed

information note). WHO also indicated that the ADG HTM has held talks with Chinese (PR) authorities regarding availability of current artemesia annua stocks to the global market. WHO estimates that for 2004, the ACT demand was 4.5 million treatments but that due to unavailability of raw material to ACT manufacturers, only 2.4 million treatments will be available in the market. The shortfall of 2.1 million treatments will hit hardest the 5 countries that are implementing ACT policies: Zambia, Mozambique, Ethiopia, Surinam and Myanmar. A recent WHO meeting in Bangkok with Chinese (PR) pharmaceutical manufacturers indicated that there is a large unmet need for assistance regarding Chinese ACT prequalification.

UNICEF informed the Board that their Head of Procurement has been to China (PR) to address similar issues. It was mentioned that also MSF is attempting to open dialogue with China (PR) to contribute to the discussion of making available to global markets currently available artemesia annua raw material.

Novartis indicated that it is meeting with Chongqing Holley and Kunming Pharmaceutical Corporation, currently producers of non-prequalified artemisinin monotherapies and ACTs, in November to identify ways of improving availability of artemisinin. Novartis indicated also that they would provide an update on the supply situation to WHO by the end of November 2004.

The Board recognized that it will be difficult for the RBM Partnership to resolve this issue at best before March 2005.

The WHO called upon the Partnership as a whole to ensure that by March 2005 all barriers leading to the ACT shortage have been removed.

With regard to the macroeconomic recognition of ACTs as a Global Public Good, the World Bank informed the Board that it had initiated a study that will document the negative costs of using artemisinines as monotherapy.

Action:

The RBM Secretariat, through MMSS indicated that it will be visiting with WHO/EDM China (PR) in December to meet with major ACT manufacturers (Chongqing Holley Holding, Guilin Pharmaceutical Works). The meeting will identify steps likely to accelerate the prequalification of ACTs produced in China (PR), which in turn will increase availability of prequalified ACTs on the global market.

The ACT availability will be reviewed at each teleconference based on information made available by MMSS.

Agenda Item 2: Working Groups

Summary:

The 6th Board meeting requested the Secretariat to update the TORs of RBM Working Groups to be in line with Board recommendations. The Board was informed that all Chairs and Co-Chairs of RBM Working Groups will be meeting 8 & 9 November 2004. The purpose of the

meeting will be to review WG progress since March 2003, discuss the Working Group review undertaken by the Malaria Consortium and the requirements of the RBM Global Strategic Plan.

Action:

The Secretariat to provide the Board with a report on the WG meeting and to submit revised TOR for adoption.

Agenda Item 3: Feedback on "RBM Global Strategic Plan 2005 - 2015"

Summary:

The web forum was accessed regularly and the draft strategic plan was downloaded more than 60 times. However, through the forum only UK, UNICEF and WHO HQ provided comments on the draft Strategic Plan. Main areas of weakness identified were:

- i) Vision and mission
- ii) The seven strategic components provide no direction on "how" they will be accomplished by partners. In particular, the plan does not indicate how existing but underutilized human resources at country level can be mobilized.
- iii) The added value of the RBM Partnership so far is not synthesized and documented through country / global examples
- iv) Little indications on how the RBM links with global financial initiatives such as the GFATM, and R&D initiatives such as MMV, MVI, MIM and TDR.
- v) Too Africa focused
- vi) The roles and responsibility of partners, and the partnerships governance and support mechanisms is not detailed enough
- vii) Table 1 & 2 to be developed further to assist partners in engaging; clarify partnership milestones;
- viii) M&E on implementing the strategy and on achieving results to be improved

Action:

The RBM Board drafting subcommittee will convene 9 & 10 November 2004 to address the identified weaknesses. The overlap with the WG chair meeting will allow the clarification of the "what and how" issues.

The Secretariat will edit a new final draft 15 to 17 November 2004

The draft will be re-circulated for clearance to the drafting subcommittee 18 to 21 November 2004. Concurrently, the Secretariat to produce a first draft in French for consumption by francophone Board members representing malaria endemic countries.

The final version of the subcommittee's draft will be sent to all Board members on 23 November 2004, prior to the regular end of the month Board teleconference.

The TC on 24 November to identify deadlines to finalize content, prior to layout and printing work in December.

Meet with MERG for input and coordination