



## INFORMATION

RBM/WG/2009/INF.10  
06 JUL 2009  
Final document

General distribution  
English Only

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# Forecasting Task Force of the Procurement and Supply Management Working Group

## Terms Of Reference

### Background

The board approved PSM WG Terms of Reference and work plan attribute a key role to forecasting, and this has been confirmed in further board and Executive Committee discussions. During the October 11-12 2007 PSM WG meeting, it was decided to create "a task force on forecasting, quantification and procurement of commodities".

ACT Forecasting was the first activity to be undertaken by this task force, which was short, named the Forecasting Task Force or FTF. The FTF developed its work plan, led by CHAI, during the first meeting held in Geneva on January 22-24 2008, and contributed to the AMFm task force discussion on forecasting. The AMFm Interim Progress Report was further discussed by the Executive Committee who provided authorized guidance which is reflected in the current terms of reference. The FTF has since then worked towards creating more accurate forecasts for ACTs by seeking inputs from various RBM partners and different technical groups engaged in demand forecasting. For other malaria commodities such as ITNs and RDTs, the FTF is working towards leveraging the forecasting expertise of RBM partners to generate and widely disseminate global forecasts.

### Task force members

(Lead) MIT-Zaragoza : Prashant Yadav, Michael Laverty  
CHAI : Inder Singh, Justin Cohen, Ankita Deshpande, Megan O'Brien  
FIND : Evan Lee  
I + Solutions : Henk den Besten  
JSI: Ralph Rack  
MMV: Renia Coghlan  
MSH: Rima Shretta  
Sanofi Aventis: Rene Cazetien  
UNICEF: Francisco Blanco, Bianca Kamps,  
UNOPS: Elisabetta Molari  
WHO/GMP: Andrea Bosman, Silvia Schwarte,  
RBM Secretariat: Jan Van Erps, Philippe Verstraete

**The purpose and objectives of the task force are to:**

- Develop accurate forecasts for ACTs;
- Coordinate with multiple organizations engaged in forecasting demand for RDTs and LLINs;
- Support global production planning by suppliers, but also operations planning, and funding by donors;
- Provide forecasts for suppliers, program planners, NGOs, and endemic countries;
- Proactively identify new data sources and gather data to enhance forecast accuracy.

**The scope of the task force is described in these principles:**

- Focus initially on improving forecasts for commodities that are high volume drivers;
- Create transparency on data sources, methodology and assumptions;
- Endeavor to communicate results widely and coordinate communication with other forecasting groups;
- Define forecast related terminology clearly (e.g. what is public/ what is private).

**Areas of collaboration**

- Ongoing harmonization of specific source data (e.g. global & key country public sector forecasts; private sector forecasts with AMFm)
- Collaborative data extraction efforts (e.g. Global Fund) – linked to above
- Coordination with AMFm secretariat and other groups (e.g. ACTWatch) to gather inputs on specific data needs for forecasting in private sector
- Coordinate operations/market research activities, and track status
- Coordinate to gather information about required timelines for forecast from AMFm, Global Fund, other donors etc.
- Communicate the collaborative efforts to donors and the broad RBM audience
- Potentially jointly publish forecasts and discuss difference in interpretation/ methodology
- Establish a formal framework for sharing of results or data across forecasting groups
- Share release timelines, perhaps make them available via the RBM website
- Create mechanism to receive feedback by suppliers (a wide set of suppliers).

**Deliverables**

- Periodically updated global forecasts for ACTs