

Teleconference Executive committee (34 Ex Comm. -- 7 December 2011)

Agreed Minutes

Attended:	Not able to attend:	Secretariat
Blessi Kumar (Vice-Chair of Board) Amy Bloom Jeremiah Chakaya Michael Kimerling Mario Raviglione Cheri Vincent	Rifat Atun (Chair) Ken Castro Giorgio Roscigno	Lucica Ditiu Anant Vijay Shirley Bennett Alan Esser
Minutes of Discussion	Decision	Action
1. GDF		
<p>At the 20th meeting held in Washington, DC, March 2011, the Coordinating Board requested GDF and the Partnership to explore the possibility of undertaking procurement itself, subject to approval by WHO, in lieu of using a procurement agent, as is the current arrangement.</p> <p>Several constructive discussions have been held between WHO and the Partnership on this issue. The last meeting resulted in a request from WHO for further information related to the background, results and future direction of GDF, as well as an assessment of alternative options regarding the placement of GDF's procurement function, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GDF procuring drugs and diagnostics in-house - directly; 2. Maintaining the current system of using Procurement Agents with the possibility of reducing the 2 Procurement Agents currently used to 1; 3. GDF Procurement functions moved to WHO Central Procurement Services (CPS),- the WHO Procurement structure currently under re-location to Kuala Lumpur; 4. Placing the procurement function in a third partner institution. <p>It was noted that certain matters of a managerial and programmatic nature have emerged that have complicated further restructuring of GDF along the lines envisioned by the Board. Several areas such as building of the stockpile of First Line Drugs and establishing the Early Warning System for raising the alarm on potential stock outs and a Forecasting System had been delayed because of lack of timely action and a dysfunctional approach used by the current manger that had alienated some staff.</p> <p>In light of the above, the Executive Secretary requested the Executive Committee's guidance and approval to move forward to stabilize the GDF Staff situation by: (i) continuing exploration of alternative arrangements for the placement of the procurement function while also continuing negotiations with WHO, as requested by the Coordinating Board, regarding the possibility for GDF to procure drugs and diagnostics itself rather than through an agent as at present; (ii) taking action on a temporary re- assignment of staff into teams - following the advise from BCG - one team dealing with pure Procurement led by the current manager; the other with programmatic issues, and work on early warning systems and building stocks reporting directly to the Executive Secretary.</p>		
The Executive Committee felt it important that the Coordinating Board be in a position to hold an informed discussion regarding the various options for the placement of the procurement function at its next meeting in January 2012, Bangkok,	The Executive Committee requested to see the paper presenting options for the placement of the procurement function of GDF. A consultant should be contracted	Secretariat to circulate the options paper developed by the Partnership Secretariat soon. Executive Committee and Secretariat to work to identify independent consultant to fine-tune the options

<p>Thailand. The urgent need to make a decision about the future of GDF was underlined. To ensure that the options available are prepared in an objective manner, discussion revolved around the possibility of hiring a consultant to undertake an independent analysis.</p> <p>Concern was also expressed regarding the personnel element, especially the very deep dissatisfaction felt by a majority of staff with the current situation and the negative effect was having on GDF's work.</p>	<p>to fine-tune the analysis of options paper based on the Secretariat's work.</p> <p>At the next Coordinating Board meeting there should be a closed-session on the future directions of GDF. During this session it is expected that a task-force composed of members from CB but also from other partner organizations and donors - USAID, MSH will be created to guide the Executive Secretary and the CB on all GDF related matters. This may include independent external experts.</p> <p>Given the expected time needed before the options paper has been finalized and a definitive decision has been made by WHO regarding placement of the procurement function, the Executive Committee agreed that the Executive Secretary should do whatever is needed in the interim to stabilize the situation and build confidence in GDF staff regarding its stability. Given the extent of dissatisfaction and the loss of confidence among the majority of staff, it was felt that it is imperative for the Executive Secretary to take action.</p>	<p>paper.</p> <p>Secretariat to amend the agenda of the Coordinating Board meeting to include closed-session on GDF.</p> <p>Executive Secretary to move forward immediately with measures to stabilize the situation in GDF regarding personnel and management to reduce the severe dysfunction that is currently affecting work.</p>
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2. Any other business

Due to time constraints other agenda items were not discussed. The Secretariat is to arrange the 35th teleconference of the Executive Committee in early January 2012.