

RBM/B29/2023/MIN.1

Geneva, 18 December 2023

MINUTES

29TH MEETING OF THE RBM PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Hilton Dubai Palm Jumeirah, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

09.00-18.00 GST, 4 December and 09.00-14.00 GST, 5 December 2023

ATTENDANCE LIST

DAY 1 (4 December 2023)

1. The **Chair** opened the meeting and welcomed participants.

ITEM I DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: STATUS AND UPDATES [RBM/B29/2023/RP01]

2. The **Board Chair** invited Board Members to declare any conflicts of interest and, subsequently, noted that no conflicts of interest had been raised at the meeting.
3. The **Board** took note of the information on conflicts of interest contained in document [RBM/B29/2023/RP01](#).

ITEM II ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA CORRIGENDUM VERSION 3 [RBM/B29/2023/DP01]

4. The **Chair** presented the revised agenda, as set out in [RBM/B29/2023/DP01](#).
5. The **Board** adopted the revised agenda.

DECISION POINT DP01 – Adoption of Agenda

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board adopted the provisional agenda corrigendum, third revised version, as circulated on 3 December 2023.

a) Apologies

6. The **Chair** informed the Board of the apologies received from members (see [Attendance List](#)).

b) List of special invitees and observers [RBM/B29/2023/RP02]

7. The **Chair** noted that no objections had been received to the list contained in [RBM/B29/2023/RP02](#).

ITEM III 28th BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND VOTING SINCE THE LAST MEETING [RBM/B29/2023/DP02]

8. The **Chair** noted that no comments had been received in relation to the minutes, as contained in document [RBM/B29/2023/DP02](#), which were thereby approved.

DECISION POINT DP02 – 28th Board meeting minutes

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board approved the 28th Board meeting minutes and tasked the Secretariat with their finalisation and publication.

ITEM IV UPDATES [RBM/B29/2023/RP03]

a) Secretariat updates

9. The **CEO** presented an update (see the [meeting slides](#)¹) on the activities of the RBM Secretariat in 2023, as set out in document [RBM/B29/2023/RP03](#). In his presentation, the CEO referred to (i) efforts to increase the staff complement, (ii) the bolstering of the governance structure of the Partnership, (iii) the strengthening of the Partnership through a focus on resource mobilisation and increased engagement with partners, and (iv) the development of the 2024 Workplan and Budget.
10. The **CEO** requested more time from the Board to review the functionality of the Partner Committees (PCs). The **Chair** tabled a new Decision Point to allow 6-12 months to perform the review of the PCs. However, in line with Board Members' comments, the **Board** agreed to revise the wording of the DP with a view to capturing a broader range of operational structures, including Partner Committees and Working Groups.
11. The **Board Members** congratulated the CEO on the progress achieved since assuming his position and expressed broad support for the work of the Secretariat.
12. In response to questions from Board Members, the **CEO** indicated that to strengthen the measurement of impact, the Secretariat planned to place greater emphasis on results-based reporting and, furthermore, the country focus was a priority across all the Secretariat's areas of activity.
13. The **Board** took note of the CEO's 2023 Update.

¹ The full set of meeting slides are available [here](#).

DECISION POINT DP03 – Partner Committee and Working Group Functionality

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board requested the RBM Secretariat, in consultation with the Partner Committees and Working Groups, to:

- a) review the functionality of the Partner Committees and Working Groups, including by identifying any synergies, complementarities, overlaps and/or duplications in their activities in line with the strategic plan, and propose to the Board at its meeting in May 2024 any necessary refinements to their Terms of Reference and how they coordinate activities and operate together; and,
- b) ensure that their work accommodates a cross-section of constituencies represented at the Board.

[Secretariat note: the above was presented and approved during AOB]

b) Data initiative update

14. The **Data Initiative Manager** presented an update (see meeting slides) on the Partnership's Data Initiative and the Global Malaria Dashboard. In her presentation, she highlighted several improvements made to the Dashboard in 2023 and looking forward to 2024, underscored the need to continue improving data quality and user experience as well as providing further training on data storytelling and dashboard development.

[Secretariat note: the meeting slides for agenda item 4(b) were updated after the meeting]

15. The **Board Members** welcomed the update on the data initiative, underscoring the potential for data to be leveraged as a tool for engagement and resource mobilisation. In addition, they suggested that user feedback should be collected with a view to ensuring the dashboards were meeting user needs.
16. The **Board** took note of the update on the Partnership's Data Initiative and the Global Malaria Dashboard.

c) WHO World Malaria Report 2023

17. **Dr Ngamije** presented the [WHO World Malaria Report](#) for 2023 to the Board (see meeting slides). He informed the Board that global malaria cases had increased in 2022 and outlined challenges, such as the impact of climate change on transmission, the consequences of funding gaps for country capacities. However, he also noted the potential for vaccines and next-generation nets to have a positive impact.
18. In response to the World Malaria Report, Board Members expressed interest, among other things, in:
 - (i) understanding factors leading countries to achieve progress in malaria elimination;
 - (ii) ensuring the report's messages are discussed at country level;
 - (iii) the correlation between climate change and the prevalence of malaria in countries; and
 - (iv) community acceptance of tools.
19. In relation to progress in malaria elimination, Dr Ngamije highlighted the importance of early access to treatment, preventative tool coverage, and the strength of primary healthcare

systems. In addition, he welcomed the suggestion that more advocacy was required to synchronise interventions among countries and underscored the importance of engaging communities and leaders in order to ensure acceptance of interventions.

d) WHO GMP Operational Strategy 2024-2030

20. **Dr Ngamije** presented the new Global Malaria Program Operational Strategy for 2024-2030 (see meeting slides), outlining the GMP's mission, role, and the support provided to stakeholders.
21. In response to the GMP Operational Strategy, the **Board Members** expressed support. This included support for influencing the market shaping of new tools and ensuring coordination and alignment among health ministers and finance ministers to ensure malaria is a top priority.
22. **Dr Ngamije** noted that the Strategy would use data-guided decisions to understand transmission determinants and identify the optimal mix of interventions.

e) Updates from Partner Committees

CRSPC, ARMPC, SCPC

23. The Partner Committees presented updates on activities undertaken in 2023, challenges faced, and priorities for 2024 (see meeting slides).
24. In response to the CRSPC update provided by the CRSPC Co-chair, **Board Members** asked for further details on aspects such as the integration work at a country level and mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of interventions. The **Co-chair** highlighted the challenge of high staff turnover in some country programmes.
25. In response to the ARMPC update, **Board Members** suggested developing a narrative for resource mobilisation that goes beyond malaria and questioned the focus on GAVI for malaria vaccines.
26. The Co-Chairs welcomed the feedback from the Board and indicated that the issues raised were being carefully considered.
27. In addition, the **Board** asked for clarity on the Committees' roles and its areas of focus and highlighted the need for better coordination and integration between committees to avoid duplication, in particular in terms of resource mobilisation efforts.

(g) Updates from Working Groups

28. The RBM Working Groups also presented updates on activities undertaken in 2023, challenges faced, and priorities for 2024 (see meeting slides).
 29. In response to the Working Groups updates, **Board Members** suggested that mapping of the working groups activities could help avoid duplication in between their activities.
 30. The Multi-Sectoral Working Group and Vector Control **Working Group Co-Chairs** welcomed the suggestion to further collaborate on manufacturing initiatives in Africa.
 31. In general, the **Working Group Co-Chairs** acknowledged the challenge of encouraging participation while also avoiding duplication and outlined their efforts to collaborate among themselves.
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32. The **Chair** reiterated the importance of avoiding duplication of efforts and ensuring the efficient use of limited resources by Partner Committees and Working Groups.

33. The **Board** took note of the updates provided by the Partner Committees and Working Group Co-chairs.

(f) CRSPC Co-chair selection [RBM/B29/2023/DP03]²

34. As previously referred to by the CEO, the **Chair** reminded the Board of the Co-Chair selection and nomination process to replace the outgoing CRSPC Co-chairs (see meeting slides), whose terms conclude on 30 May 2024, as set out in document [RBM/B29/2023/DP03](#). In addition, she noted that, to ensure a smooth transition, the incoming Co-Chair would be engaged from 1 January 2024, six months in advance of the start of her term.

35. The **Board** took note of the selection and nomination process and approved the nomination of Dr Hana Bilak.

DECISION POINT DP04 – CRSPC Co-chair appointment

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board approved the nomination of Dr Hana Bilak to the post of CRSPC Co-chair for a 3-year term effective 1 June 2024.

ITEM V FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT [RBM/B29/2023/RP04]

36. The **Finance Committee Chair** and the **Finance and Administration Manager** presented a finance update (see meeting slides), which included (i) the 34th Finance Committee meeting report, (ii) a Q3 2023 financial report, and (iii) an updated risk register, as contained in document [RBM/B29/2023/DP03](#).

37. The **Chair of the Finance Committee** highlighted that while progress had been made, there was still work to do on financial processes and policies.

38. The **Board Members** appreciated the level of detail and transparency in the financial reporting and encouraged the Secretariat to continue its efforts to bolster its operational efficiency based on the lessons learned in 2023.

39. The **Board** took note of the report.

ITEM VI RBM BOARD STRATEGY COMMITTEE FORMATION [RBM/B29/2023/DP04]

40. The **CEO** presented the proposal for the formation of a Board Strategy Committee, as contained in meeting slides, and provided information on its draft terms of reference and membership, as set out in document [RBM/B29/2023/DP04](#).

² At the request of the Chair, item IV(f) was discussed after item IV(g) on the updates from Working Groups.

41. In response to the proposal, the **Board Members** sought to better understand the scope and purpose of the proposed Committee and how it would complement the activities of the Board.
42. In consideration of the Board Members' comments, the **Chair** suggested that, before considering the associated Decision Point, the Secretariat clarify the points raised by Board Members and revert to the Board with an alternate proposal.
43. The **Board** agreed to request that the Secretariat prepare an alternate proposal to be tabled for consideration before the end of the meeting.

DECISION POINT DP05 – Resource Mobilisation Committee

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board approved the establishment of an RBM Board Resource Mobilization Committee, with the associated Terms of Reference to be presented to the Board by electronic decision point early in 2024.

Acknowledging the urgent need to engage this Board Committee in the ongoing resource mobilisation activities and in the development of the Secretariat's Resource Mobilization Plan (to be presented to the Board in May 2024), the Board will endeavour to populate this Committee with people with the appropriate resource mobilisation skills, following the adoption of the Terms of Reference early in the 2024 year.

[Secretariat note: the above was presented and approved during AOB]

ITEM VII STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2024-2025 AND PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK [RBM/B29/2023/DP05]

44. The **CEO** presented the Strategy Implementation Plan 2024-2025 and Performance Framework (see meeting slides), highlighting the desired impacts, outcomes and strategic objectives for 2024-2025, as set out in document [RBM/B29/2023/DP05](#). In particular, he emphasised that the plan and performance framework had been developed through extensive consultation with partners and, in that regard, sought to reflect a Partnership-wide perspective.
 45. The **Board Members** supported the general approach of the plan and performance framework, while also seeking clarification on how the proposed Performance Framework and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework would fit together.
 46. **Board Members** acknowledged that the framework was a new tool that would continue to evolve, but requested more details on measuring impact, specifically for the Secretariat, and suggested that intermediate progress measures should be included in the performance targets.
 47. The **Chair** suggested that the Decision Point be revised so that the Strategic Implementation Plan be provisionally approved pending the development of a Secretariat-specific performance framework.
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DECISION POINT DP06 – Strategy Implementation Plan 2024-2025 and Performance Framework

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board provisionally approved the proposed RBM Strategy Implementation Plan 2024-2025 and the associated Performance Framework, pending the development of a Performance Framework for the Secretariat to be presented at the May 2024 Board Meeting, and tasked the Secretariat with the immediate implementation of the plan and provision of semi-annual updates to the Board.

[Secretariat note: the above was presented and approved during AOB]

ITEM VIII 2024 WORKPLAN, BUDGET AND M&E FRAMEWORK [RBM/B29/2023/DP06]

48. The **CEO** and **Secretariat Managers** presented the 2024 Workplan, Budget and M&E Framework (see meeting slides), with its associated human resources requirements as per the CEO's 2023 Update (item IV), outlining the key activities planned under each strategic objective and enabler and highlighting the ambition to develop a more robust impact evaluation framework.
 49. As set out in document [RBM/B29/2023/DP06](#), the proposed 2024 budget totals USD 16.6 million. However, the **CEO** emphasised that the Work Plan also included ambitions that were activities that would be implemented if additional resources, beyond those included within the USD 16.6 million, were mobilised.
 50. **Board Members** welcomed the progress achieved in terms of developing a measurement framework retroactively, while also acknowledging that it was a work in progress that would be refined to define more measurable impact.
 51. Furthermore, in relation to the M&E Framework and the previously discussed Performance Framework, **Board Members** asked how external factors outside of RBM's control would be accounted for in assessing performance.
 52. The **CEO** noted the feedback from Board Members, welcoming ongoing engagement with the Board in order to improve both frameworks.
 53. The **Chair** suggested that the Decision Point be divided into two: one to approve the Workplan and Budget, and another on the M&E Framework, with a focus on the Secretariat and its contribution to the Partnership.
 54. The **Board** agreed to approve the 2024 Workplan and Budget and requested that the Secretariat amend and draft the revised decision points as proposed by the Chair (see paragraphs 45 and 51 above).
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DECISION POINT DP07 – 2024 Workplan and Budget

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board approved the proposed RBM Partnership 2024 Workplan and Budget amounting to USD 16,663,610 and tasked the Secretariat with its implementation.

DECISION POINT DP08 – Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for 2024 Workplan and Budget

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board requested the Secretariat to present to the Board at its May 2024 meeting a refined version of the 2024 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework that enables measurement of the Secretariat's contribution to the Partnership.

[Secretariat note: the above was presented and approved during AOB]

DAY 2 (5 December 2023)

ITEM IX RESOURCE MOBILISATION APPROACH FOR THE RBM SECRETARIAT [RBM/B29/2023/DP07]³

55. The **CEO** presented the Resource Mobilization Approach (see meeting slides), which included the finalisation of the Resource Mobilization Plan before May 2024, as set out in document [RBM/B29/2023/DP07](#). In addition, he encouraged the Board to support the Secretariat's efforts to raise resources.
56. The **Board Members** suggested that the final plan include an option for earmarked funding for specific programs or activities and highlighted the need to further clarify the role of different organisations within the Partnership.
57. The **CEO** acknowledged the importance of communicating the value of coordination to donors and underscored that the Secretariat and the Board would continue outreach efforts to explore fundraising opportunities with partners.
58. The **Board** approved the Resource Mobilization Approach for the RBM Secretariat.

³ Due to time constraints, item IX was discussed at the start of Day 2.

DECISION POINT DP09 – Resource Mobilisation Approach for the RBM Secretariat

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board agreed to:

Endorse the resource mobilisation approach for RBM operations as shared with the Board, encouraging critical fundraising activities to be launched based on this, while a longer-term and more detailed Resource Mobilization Plan is finalised.

Commit to support efforts to increase and diversify resources that make possible the critical work of the RBM Partnership.

Request the CEO, in consultation with the Board Chair and working closely with the appropriate Board Committee, to present a final Resource Mobilization Plan for Board approval at its meeting in May 2024.

ITEM X GOVERNANCE

(a) Support to the RBM Board constituencies [RBM/B29/2023/DP08]

59. The **CEO** presented the proposal to support Board Constituencies (see meeting slides), providing the background on the new governance model and outlining the different ways in which the Secretariat would seek to support constituencies, as set out in document [RBM/B29/2023/DP08](#).
 60. **Board Members** welcomed the proposal to provide support to Board constituencies and highlighted the challenges faced by broader constituencies and also underscored the opportunity to clarify the role of the Secretariat in the proposed guidance document.
 61. The **Chair** referred to the opportunity to leverage virtual platforms to facilitate engagement between Board members.
 62. In response to comments, the **CEO** committed to making resources available to support the constituencies under the new governance model and noted that the Governance Officer would be leading to support engagement efforts with constituencies, which would include consulting each constituency to determine the appropriate level of formalisation required.
 63. The **Board** approved the proposal on support for RBM Board constituencies, subject to the inclusion of new language in the decision point to make it clear that any such support would be subject to the availability of funding.
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DECISION POINT DP10 – Support to the RBM Board constituencies

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board agreed to:

- a) require that constituencies are inclusive, robust, well-organised and transparently run. The Secretariat will contribute by making coordination or other resources available to constituencies in need of such support, subject to availability of funds, and
- b) require the assessment in 2026 and every three years of the functioning of the constituency model, including whether the level of representation on the Board and whether the organisations supporting constituencies have adequate capacity and resources to fulfil the support function.

Request the CEO, in consultation with constituency platforms, to develop and provide to constituencies, no later than June 2024:

- i. A guidance document to present the expectations of the constituency support function;
- ii. Clarity on the allocation of responsibilities between the Board support function at the Secretariat and the role of the constituency support platforms;
- iii. Planning tools to help ensure constituency platforms have advance knowledge of when RBM Board materials will be available;
- iv. An overview of members of Partner Committees and Working Groups by constituency for sharing with constituency platforms.

[Secretariat note: the above was presented and approved during AOB]

(b) Working Groups Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) [RBM/B29/2023/DP09]

64. The **CEO** presented the proposal on the Working Groups SOPs (see meeting slides), as set out in document [RBM/B29/2023/DP09](#).
65. **Board Members** requested additional clarity on the changes incorporated into the proposed SOPs and suggested that the proposed revised version only be approved once the associated Terms of Reference have been updated.

The **Board** agreed to bring the SOPs back to the Board for approval once the associated Terms of Reference had been approved.

DECISION POINT DP11 – Working Group SOPs

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board requested that the CEO engage with Working Group Co-chairs and Coordinators to update the associated set of Terms of Reference for all Working Groups by the May 2024 Board meeting (as set out in RBM/B29/2023/DP04). Upon approval of the CEO, these will be included as Annexes to the proposed Standard Operating Procedures.

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board noted the Standard Operating Procedures for the Working Groups as attached to document RBM/B29/2023/DP09 and requested that they be brought back to the Board for approval once the Terms of Reference above have been updated.

[Secretariat note: the above was presented and approved during AOB]

(c) Mini Malaria Summit

66. The **CEO** provided a debrief to the Board on the Mini Malaria Summit that was organised by the RBM Secretariat in September 2023 in New York on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly. The Board Members highlighted that the Summit had demonstrated the Partnership's convening power and emphasised the need for a coherent narrative for partners to get behind. The **Gates Foundation Representative** committed to providing funding to help move the related discussions forward.

ITEM XI AOB

67. In AOB, at the request of the Vice-Chair, the **Governance Officer** presented the final decision points to Board Members.
68. The **Board** approved the Decision Points as set out herein.

2024 meeting dates/locations

69. The **CEO** proposed that the 30th meeting of the Board be held in May 2024, before the World Health Assembly, and the 31st meeting be held in November/December in a malaria-endemic country, depending on the availability of a host, given limited financial resources.
70. The **Board Members** requested that holding Board meetings on weekends be avoided, when possible.
71. The **Board** agreed that the Secretariat revert back to Board Members with a proposal on the May meeting dates.

ITEM XII CONCLUDING REMARKS

72. The **Chair** expressed her appreciation to the United Arab Emirates for its hospitality and hosting the Board meeting, to the meeting participants for their valuable inputs throughout the meeting and their commitment to the fight against malaria, to the CEO for his leadership and guidance since starting in his role, and the RBM Secretariat for its hard work in preparing and delivering the meeting.
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ITEM XIII CLOSED SESSION

73. At the close of the meeting, the **Board** members agreed to hold a closed session.

[The Board Alternates, CEO, RBM Secretariat and all other invitees left the meeting room and Zoom meeting]
