

Board Meeting, December 3-4, 2009 Ottawa, Canada. Note for the Record

Chaired by Interim Chair Julian Schweitzer
Co-chair Ann Starrs

Hosted by the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics

Held at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the Westin Hotel, Ottawa, Canada

Day 1 - Thursday 3

Welcome and address

André Lalonde, hosting the Board Meeting on behalf of FIGO, thanked participants and welcomed them to the Royal College historical building.

Julian Schweitzer welcomed the renewed Partnership and its partner-centric approach as reflected in the 2009-2011 Partnership workplan. He reminded the Board that the success of The Partnership depends on how its work is aligned with that of other partnerships and organizations, how well it is positioned in the changing global health landscape and how well we can adapt our vision to respond to external changes.

Decisions February Board Minutes approved

Agenda approved

Item 1 - Recent developments in global health and implications for PMNCH's work

Four presentations took place¹:

Discussion

Discussion revolved around the importance of accountability in recent developments and new initiatives in public health, as well creating the links between the global initiatives and the countries - whose leadership is crucial if progress is to be achieved. PMNCH should work towards ensuring that new funds are used to improve MNCH outcomes, ensuring coordination of messages for MDGs 4 & 5 and the continuum of care.

Decisions H4 Plan for technical support to high-priority countries for 2012-2014 to be shared (Daisy Mafubelu)

Request to work with the Millennium Foundation, particularly providing results on the work done on PA3 Commodities.

The Secretariat will share the four presentations with the Board

Item 2 - Implementation of PMNCH 2009-2011 Strategy and Work Plan -

PA1 - Knowledge Management - presented by Wendy Graham

Discussion

There was great appreciation for the work done to date, including the original presentation of the mock portal.

Decisions Approval to proceed with outputs 2 and 3, with the following points to be addressed:

- Portal will be operational; it will be a gateway to existing resources and not a research website.
- The terms of reference should present the strengths and weaknesses and potential costs of two options, eg single portal versus regional hubs
- Languages for the portal should be defined and the needs of francophone African countries taken into account.
- Timelines and budgets for the next phase need to be reviewed.

¹ A) High-Level Task Force on Innovative Financing for Health Systems by Anders Nördstrom; B) Massive Good Initiative by Bernard Salomé; C) H4 Work Plan - Implementation at country level by Daisy Mafubelu and Purnima Mane; D) World Bank's Reproductive Health Action Plan by Sadia Chowdhury.



PA2 - Core Packages of Interventions - presented by Liz Mason and Zulfiqar Bhutta

Discussion:

There was overall agreement on the approach taken and acknowledgment of the impressive work done: from a long list of 200 interventions 25 have been identified for further work.

There should be a focus on the value added and a need to identify existing gaps in current research efforts as well as mobilizing resources for this analysis. Linkages to other initiatives (such as the H4) should be considered.

There is a need to include community-based interventions in the packages (classified "C" due to the lack of evidence). This is especially important where health systems are not functioning properly.

There was agreement to start scaling-up at least the 14 interventions in category "A" by August 2010. This is key to attracting new funds and to studying the impact of scaling-up.

Decision Approval to proceed into next phase, with the following points to be addressed:

- Interventions aimed at changing social and behavioural aspects at community level should be incorporated.
- Review timeline and budget for next phases (original request was probably under- budgeted).

PA3 - Essential Commodities - presented by Laura Laski and Andres de Francisco.

Discussion:

This priority action was designed before the H4 had initiated activities on commodities. The work is now implemented jointly with H4 and includes lists of medicines recommended by H4.

Given the interest of donors and new funding mechanisms in commodity funding, there is a need to incorporate commodities other than medicines into the analysis (e.g., birth kits). There is also a need for trials at the community level to showcase improvements.

Outputs 3 and 4 should be reconsidered because donors and international organizations tend to use the national systems that are already in place.

Decisions Approval to move forward, however Outputs 3 (national supply management) and 4 (global procurement systems) should be removed.

Involvement of the private sector in this area should be explored, especially with regards to their role in distribution of commodities.

PA4 - Human Resources - presented by Monir Islam and André Lalonde

Discussion:

This work should include aspects of quality, deployment and retention, and task shifting. Workforce issues pertinent to both public and private sectors and the value of public private partnerships should be incorporated.

The work undertaken with GHWA and others was welcome and there was encouragement to develop further synergies.

Anaesthesiologists need to be included in the definition of HR resources for MNCH.

Decision Approval to move forward.

PA5 - Advocacy - Presented by Ann Starrs and Helga Fogstad.

Discussion:

Despite the current financial crisis there are significant opportunities for advocacy, such as the IFFIm, Results Based Financing and the Global Health Initiative.

PMNCH advocacy is aimed at domestic funding, positioning MNCH in current Global Fund discussions around expanding its mandate for MDGs 4 & 5 through the health systems platform, positioning MNCH within these new mechanisms for funding and engaging with the private sector (e.g., Massive Good Initiative).

Decision Approval to proceed, with the need to adapt the 2010 workplan to new advocacy opportunities.

CLOSED BOARD SESSION - KEY DECISIONS

PMNCH BOARD CHAIR: Dr Julio Frenk, Dean of the Harvard School of Public Health, was elected by acclamation as the Chair of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health. His two-year term will begin May 2010. Julian Schweitzer will remain as Interim Chair until then.

PMNCH BOARD CO-CHAIRS: Ann Starrs will continue to serve as Co-Chair until the end of 2010. A call for nominations for the second co-Chair will be issued in January 2010.

Day 2 - Friday 4 December

Item 2 (Cont'd) - Implementation of PMNCH 2009-2011 Strategy and Work Plan

PA6 - Accountability and Transparency - presented by Andrés de Francisco (Framework for Accountability) and Mickey Chopra (Countdown)

Discussion (Accountability Framework)

Although there are challenges inherent in this work, PMNCH is well placed to add value by identifying gaps in current studies.

The following Board members expressed an interest in moving this area of work forward: Mickey Chopra, Al Bartlett, Zulfiqar Bhutta, Afsana Kausar, France Donnay. It was suggested that Peter Berman (World Bank) also be approached. Lead Partners will be the WB and the Gates Foundation.

Decisions **On Output 1** - The World Bank to become a lead partner for this PA. Initial work will entail a consultation (done by Julian Schweitzer and Secretariat) with key players and institutions to gather initial ideas on the Partnership's added value (by February). A wider group (as above) will also be consulted for feedback and a full proposal presented to the EC for approval.

On Output 2 - Wendy Graham and France Donnay will present by February a concept note on the value added for this outcome.

Discussion (Countdown to 2015)

Clarifications were requested on the role of PMNCH at Women Deliver and on the relationship between PMNCH and Countdown (CD). These are two different entities, although there is significant overlap in membership of steering committees and coordinating bodies and Board membership.

A Board decision is needed on whether funding for Countdown activities should go via the Partnership.

Decisions Approval to move forward with plans for CD events.

Description of CD working groups and WD steering committee(s) to be shared (Secretariat).

Core Functions - presented by Flavia Bustreo.

Discussion

There were words of appreciation for work of the Secretariat, particularly to the Director. It was highlighted that there was good communication and responsiveness - particularly through the challenging times of the transition. Regular email communication with updates was appreciated.

There will be a Partners' Forum in 2010.

Secretariat to continue to provide support to the different constituencies on development of content for their meetings.

Decisions Options for holding the Forum during 2010 to be developed by the Secretariat and submitted to the EC for decision.

Secretariat to present tentative dates for 2010 Board meetings and share with the Board for decision.

Director to provide a Director's Report to future Board meetings.

Email updates for the Board and wider membership to be continued.

Item 4 - Reports of Committees of the Board

Finance Committee - presented by André Lalonde on behalf of the Finance Committee. The FC met on Dec 2, 2009.

Discussion

There is potential for conflict of interest if contracts are awarded to Lead Partners without competition.

There was general agreement that the budget and work plan implementation are well on track. However, several of the PAs may have been under-budgeted and under funded should upcoming changes to activities be approved. Also, there is a need to further develop communication across PAs and amongst Lead Partners.

The EC plays a role in managing some aspect of budget implementation, also there is a delegation of authority with regards to approving any planned over-spending which may arise during the year. (Up to 10% approval by the Director, 11 to 20% by the Chair and Co-Chairs, over 20% by the full Board).

The Partnership raises funds for the workplan as far as possible rather than for individual ear marked activities; however, funds can be earmarked to a particular PA.

Funding announcements

Norway announced a contribution of US\$3m for 2009-2010 (including US\$500,000 for the Countdown) and US\$1m for 2011.

Gates Foundation announced US\$3.5 total notional approval for 2010-2011, to include US\$1.5m for the Countdown.

Decisions Approval of the interim financial report for 2009.

PA Lead Partners to revise workplans according to Board discussions. Secretariat will liaise with Lead Partners and will submit to the EC a revised 2010 budget proposal for discussion and approval.

Secretariat to prepare a policy paper for Board members on conflict of interest based on WHO's rules and regulations for contract awarding.

Executive Committee - presented by Ann Starrs

Discussion:

The different levels of engagement and consultation within constituencies was noted. It was agreed that it is EC members' responsibility to seek consultation within their constituency. The Country Representative asked for support from the Secretariat to effectively engage their constituency.

The balance between allowing good functioning of the Board via the EC -- and having Board Members who are not members of the EC involved -- was discussed. It was agreed that, if necessary, the Board can be convened on the phone should an emergency arise.

The Board has delegated certain authorities to the EC, and in these areas the EC may take decisions. However, the EC does not take decisions on governance issues, rather the EC *advises* the Board on governance issues.

Decisions Secretariat to make all EC agendas and minutes available to Board Members (agendas to be shared in advance) and will post these to the website.

Secretariat to liaise with Lead Partners and submit revised budget proposals to the EC for recommendation to the Board.

Item 6 - Governance issues

Reported: Helga Fogstad (donor), Afsana Kausar (NGO), Bridget Lynch (HCPA), Jane Schaller (ART), Medhin (country).

Discussion, rotation by constituency

- Donor constituency

2010: Canada will rotate off the Board and DFID will join. US will sit on the EC

2011: Norway will rotate off, and Sweden will sit on the EC.

2012: US will rotate off.

2013: Sweden (SIDA) will rotate off the Board.

Further, the Gates Foundation will remain on the Board for another two years, after which the MacArthur Foundation will join.

- NGO constituency- Currently there are four seats, and three active representatives (FCI, BRAC, CARE). Nominations have been invited, the deadline is Dec 7. There is special interest in identifying a representative from the newborn health field.

- HCPA constituency - anaesthesiology and nursing have not indicated interest in joining the Board. Rotation of individuals in organizations will take effect as follows:

2010: FIGO representative (André Lalonde) will rotate off - new Member will be nominated.

2011: ICM (Bridget Lynch) will rotate off, but ICM will remain

2012: Zulfiqar Bhutta will rotate off in 2012, to be replaced by another IPA representative.

Note: During the June HCPA constituency meeting, it was decided that FIGO, ICM and IPA will remain on the Board, members will rotate.

- ART constituency- Wendy Graham is developing terms of reference for the maternal health representative. There are 53 organizations in this constituency and they have been contacted by letter. The deadline for nominations is Feb 1. Regarding expansion of this constituency, Vinod Paul is tasked with drafting terms of reference which will be sent to constituency members and posted to the website. 2010: Wendy Graham (maternal health seat) rotates off.

2010: Jane Schaller (child health representative) rotates off

2011: Vinod Paul (newborn health representative) rotates off

- Country constituency- Bolivia & Mali are rotating off, due to poor attendance. Nigeria and India are new members.

Discussion

ARTs would like to follow a similar process the NGOs have done to expand membership. They will work with the Secretariat. It was pointed that there could be more focus on implementation rather than on academic expertise alone.

There was a call for a cross-cutting constituency to bring into the Board health systems and policy research expertise, reaching out to the Alliance for HS and policy research, for example.

Announcement

Helga is replacing Tore Godal on the Board. There will be a formal communication.

Decisions Processes for expanding constituencies to be finalized by next Board Meeting
Secretariat to provide guidance on alternates.

Item 5 - Paper on partner engagement

Presented by Helga Fogstad

Discussion

Forum of Partners - There was widespread agreement that a forum in 2010 is needed (with title "Get to know your partnership"). There is budget for the Forum within PA5. There will be options to attach the Forum to other events such as Women Deliver (June 6-9, Washington DC), to the November PMNCH Board Meeting, Maternal Health Taskforce meeting in India (August). The request to consider regional hubs (and forums) was brought up.

Communication to wider membership- Regular communication to full membership in the form of an E-newsletter (once every two months with special messages to highlight special events or news) to partners was appreciated. Regular updates are also appreciated.

Focal point partner organizations- This idea has merit, it would be useful, for example, to engage members on PAs, although cost may be an issue. It was suggested to have focal points from constituencies seconded to the Secretariat instead.

Request to add private sector engagement in the next board meeting agenda.

Decisions Next Partners Forum will take place in 2010, possibly attached to the second Board Meeting

EC to assess options and present recommendations to the Board.

Item 7 - AOB -

India offered to host second Board Meeting in 2010 and Forum of partners.

BRAC offered to host the first Board Meeting in 2010.

Decisions Secretariat to explore board venues and time and report to the EC
Secretariat to present to the EC a plan for next year's forum, taking into consideration current capacity.

Sum up of decisions - presented by Andrés de Francisco

The Chair thanked, on behalf of the Board, Wendy and Dr Tedros for their service on the Board, Ann Starrs for her offer to remain as co-Chair one more year. BRAC and India were also thanked for their invitations to host next year's Board Meetings. Thanks were given to André Lalonde for the hosting arrangements (including extra activities and side events) as well as to the Secretariat and CEPA for preparations and support.

Full list of Documents on PMNCH's website:

http://www.who.int/pmnch/about/steering_committee/boardmeeting_091202_03/en/index.html

Participants

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
BRAC
CARE
CIDA/Canada
Family Care International
Government of Ethiopia
Government of India
Government of Nigeria
International Confederation of Midwives
International Federation of Obs/ Gyn
International Pediatric Association
Norway
Sweden/SIDA

UNFPA
UNICEF
World Bank
USAID
WHO
Expert, Maternal Health
Expert, Newborn Health
Expert, Child Health (interim)

France Donnay
Kaosar Afsana (for Abed Fazle Hasan)
Kwamy Togbey
Phedra Moon-Morris (for Melanie Galvin)
Ann Starrs (Co-chair)
Medhin Zewdu (for T. Adhanom, Co-Chair)
Pankaj Saxena (for Sh. Ghulam Nabi Azad)
Babatunde Osotimehin/NKeiru Onuekwusi
Bridget Lynch
André Lalonde
Zulfiqar Bhutta
Helga Fogstad (representing T. Godal)
Anders Nördstrom (day 1 morning) /Anneka Knutsson -
(via video link)
Purnima Mane
Mickey Chopra
Julian Schweitzer (Chair)
Al Bartlett (for Richard Green)
Daisy Mafubelu
Wendy Graham
Vinod Paul
Jane Schaller

Alternates and other participants

Family Care International
Government of Nigeria
FIGO
UNFPA
WHO
World Bank
The Millennium Foundation

Debra Jones
NKeiru Onuekwusi
Pius Okong
Laura Laski
Liz Mason, Monir Islam
Sadia Chowdhury
Bernard Salomé

Observers

Canadian Parliament
CIDA
Consultant, Cambridge Economic Policy Associates
MSH
FIGO
Consultant

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Geoff Black, Madani Thiam, Karine Tardif (part day1)
Nebojsa Novcic
Diana Silimperi (part day 1, phone)
Dorothy Shaw (day 1)
Francesco Aureli (day 1)

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