

Geneva, 24 May 2024

RBM/B30/2024

MINUTES

30TH MEETING¹ OF THE RBM PARTNERSHIP BOARD

Geneva, Switzerland

09.00-17.00 CEST, 23 May and 09.00-15.00 CEST, 24 May 2024

ATTENDANCE LIST

DAY 1 (23 May 2024)

1. The **Board Chair** opened the meeting and welcomed participants², in particular new Board Member Dr. Jigmi Singay (Asia-Pacific) and Alternate Board Member Dr. Rose Nani Mudin (Asia-Pacific), following their appointment to the Board on 1 May 2024. In addition, the Chair noted that it was the last meeting of Civil Society Board Member, Dr. Oluwafunmilola Dare, whose term would conclude at the end of May 2024.

ITEM I ADOPTION OF THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA [RBM/B30/2024/01]

a) Declarations of interest: status and updates

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/B30/2024/02](#).

b) Apologies

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

c) List of special invitees and observers [RBM/B30/2024/rev.03]

5. The **Board Chair** noted that no objections had been received to the list contained in [RBM/B30/2024/rev.03](#).

d) Adoption of the agenda - for decision

6. The **Board Chair** presented the revised agenda, as set out in [RBM/B30/2024/rev.01](#), for decision.

¹ Please find here the [full set of meeting slides](#) presented during the 30th Board Meeting.

² Please find here the [attendance list](#) of the 30th Board Meeting.

7. The **Board** adopted the second revised agenda.

DECISION POINT DP01 – Adoption of Agenda

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board adopted the second revised agenda, as circulated on 18 May 2024.

ITEM II 29th BOARD MEETING FOLLOW-UP

a) Tabling of minutes

8. The **Governance Officer** informed the Board that comments had been received from one Board Member in relation to the 29th meeting minutes circulated under document [RBM/B30/2024/04](#), and presented the proposed amendment to the Board (see [meeting slides](#)).
9. The **Board** welcomed the proposed amendment and formally approved the minutes.

DECISION POINT DP02 – 29th Board meeting minutes

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board formally approved the 29th Board meeting minutes, incorporating the amendment presented during the meeting, and tasked the Secretariat with their finalisation and publication.

b) Electronic decisions since the last meeting

10. The **Governance Officer** presented an update on the e-decisions taken since the last meeting, as set out in Annex B to document [RBM/B30/2024/04](#). The **Board** noted the decisions approved electronically since the 29th meeting.

c) Status of decision points

11. The **Governance Officer** presented an update to the Board on the status of the implementation of the decisions taken at the 29th Board meeting (see [Decision Points](#)), highlighting the completion of 11 out of 12 decision points approved, as set out in Annex C to document [RBM/B30/2024/04](#).
12. The **Board** noted the update and the implementation of the decision points.

ITEM IV PARTNER UPDATES [RBM/B30/2024/RP03]

a) CEO and Secretariat updates

13. The **CEO** presented an overview (see the [meeting slides](#)) of strategic actions taken by the RBM Secretariat in 2024, as set out in the CEO Update document contained in Annex A of document [RBM/B30/2024/05](#).
14. During his update, the **CEO** highlighted the perfect storm of challenges facing malaria (including funding gaps and climate change) and outlined the strategic actions taken by the Secretariat since the last Board meeting, including: (i) performing a functionality review of RBM structures, (ii) developing the data dashboard initiative with partners to provide a "one-stop shop" for malaria data, (iii) finalising a new resource mobilisation strategy focused on retention
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and diversification, (iv) strengthening Secretariat staffing, with 26 out of 30 positions now filled and improved gender balance in leadership, (v) engaging in advocacy efforts under the Zero Malaria campaign and through joint country missions with partners, and (vi) collaborating with partners on initiatives like the multi-sector engagement toolkit.

15. In terms of looking to the future, the **CEO** discussed tactical shifts planned at the Secretariat, including rebuilding partnerships, improving country engagement, and developing an accountability framework. He also mentioned plans for a Big Push towards malaria elimination in collaboration with partners to drive the malaria agenda through 2030, with the Secretariat potentially taking on a custodian role and convening partners around its implementation.
16. The **Board Members** congratulated the CEO on the ongoing progress and reiterated their broad support for the work of the Secretariat while identifying priority areas for future focus, such as enhancing country engagement as well as advocacy for malaria ahead of Global Fund replenishment.
17. In response to questions from Board Members, the **CEO** reiterated RBM's commitment to strengthening consultation with the Board and, in general, improving coordination, transparency, engagement with countries and communities, and use of data across partnerships.
18. The **Board** took note of the CEO's Update.

b) Data initiative update

19. 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 progress in entering into data sharing agreements and convening partners to align efforts and outlined plans for the initiative's next phase to improve usability and strengthen the country support data focus.
20. The **Board Members** welcomed the update on the data initiative, underscoring the importance of ensuring the dashboard meets partner and country needs and supports demand planning. In response, the **Data Initiative Manager** committed to further socialising the initiative to drive utilisation while also exploring partnerships that could enhance functionality.
21. The **Board** took note of the update on the Partnership's Data Initiative.

c) Updates from Partner Committees

CRSPC, ARMPC, SCPC

22. The **Partner Committees** presented updates on activities undertaken in 2024, challenges faced, and priorities for 2024 (see meeting slides and Annex B of document [RBM/B30/2024/05](#)). The CRSPC Co-Chair, Dr. Peter Olumese, noted that it was his final Board meeting following 15 years of service and welcomed new Co-Chair, Dr. Hana Bilak, who had assumed her Co-Chair role in April 2024.
 23. In response to the CRSPC update provided by the CRSPC Co-Chair, **Board Members** thanked the outgoing Co-Chair for his commitment throughout his years of service. In addition, they asked for further details on aspects such as the deployment of innovations in countries and
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the management of CRSPC workstreams. The **Co-Chair** reiterated that CRSPC provides a platform to countries for discussion around innovations while supporting them in reflecting such priorities in their national strategies.

24. In terms of the governance of CRSPC, including its workstreams, the **Board Chair** highlighted the availability of relevant information on endmalaria.org and reminded members that the Partnership Bye-Laws provide that Partner Committee Co-Chairs may convene workstream teams as required for the execution of their Board-approved work plans.
25. In response to the [ARMPC](#) update, the **Board** asked for more information on measuring the impact of advocacy campaigns.
26. In response to the [SCPC](#) update, the **Board** welcomed efforts in terms of messaging in the community and asked about coordination with the campaigns of other Partner Committees.
27. The **ARMPC** and **SCPC Co-Chairs** welcomed the feedback from the Board and indicated that the issues raised would be carefully considered. In particular, the **SCPC Co-Chair** highlighted the close collaboration with the ARMPC and relevant Working Groups to maximise impact and coordination of efforts. In turn, the **ARMPC Co-Chairs** indicated that the Partner Committees jointly define impact measures and referred to the targets for resource mobilisation at a global, regional and country level set out in the Report on Resource Mobilisation for Malaria (see Annex B in document [RBM/B30/2024/07](#)).

(d) Updates from Working Groups

28. The RBM Working Groups on Social Behavioural Change, Malaria and Pregnancy and Case Management also presented updates on activities undertaken in 2024, challenges faced, and priorities moving forward (see meeting slides and Annex B of document [RBM/B30/2024/05](#)).
 29. In response to the Working Group updates, **Board Members** congratulated the groups on their excellent work and reiterated the importance of collaboration across different groups. In particular, the Board encouraged, with Secretariat support, further aligning the activities of the Working Groups and ensuring cross-fertilization between them and with Partner Committees and suggested disseminating information around opportunities for engagement with their work, such as their annual meetings.
 30. The **Working Group Co-Chairs** welcomed the suggestion to strengthen collaboration among themselves and would disseminate information on their annual meetings through the RBM Secretariat.
 31. The **Board Chair** reiterated the importance of continuing to more closely integrate the Working Groups into the architecture of the RBM Partnership in order to fully leverage their expertise and experience.
 32. The **Board** took note of the updates provided by the Partner Committees and Working Group Co-Chairs.
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ITEM IV PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK FOR SECRETARIAT

33. As requested by the Board at its 29th meeting (see [Decision Points](#)), the **Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist** presented the Performance Framework for the Secretariat and refined Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for decision (see meeting slides), as contained in document [RBM/B30/2024/06](#).
34. The **Board Members** appreciated the extensive work that went into developing the Framework and M&E Plan and provided feedback on opportunities to simplify the Key Performance Indicators moving forward while focusing on impact and outcomes. The **Board** also acknowledged the time and resources that would be required to perform the data collection and reporting under the frameworks.
35. Overall, the **Board** welcomed the documents as an important starting point that could be refined during implementation, requesting clarity and structure in terms of future evolutions of the frameworks. In addition, a **Board Member** offered to work with the Secretariat in obtaining further support for the refinement of the frameworks.
36. The **Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist** thanked Board Members for their feedback, indicating that it would be taken into due consideration during the implementation and refinement of the documents. In turn, the **CEO** noted that the frameworks had been developed internally at the Secretariat to ensure ownership and accountability, while acknowledging that they would continue to be improved based on implementation experience.
37. The **Board Chair** suggested that the frameworks be provisionally approved as developing models, and, to address the comments of Board Members, asked that the Secretariat report back at the December 2024 Board meeting with potential refinements.
38. The **Board** agreed to provisionally approve the Frameworks to allow the Secretariat to move forward with implementation while continuing to improve them over time based on lessons learned and feedback.

DECISION POINT DP03 – Secretariat Performance Framework and M&E Framework

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board provisionally approved the RBM Secretariat Performance Framework and the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework as an ongoing, developing model to be refined and simplified by the December 2024 Board meeting, and tasked the Secretariat with their immediate implementation.

ITEM V RESOURCE MOBILISATION [RBM/B30/2024/07]

(a) Report on Resource Mobilisation for Malaria

39. The **ARMPC Co-Chair**, Olivia Ngou, presented the key recommendations from an external report on resource mobilisation for malaria (see slides), as set out in Annex B to document [RBM/B30/2024/07](#).
40. The **Board** took note of the presentation and the content of the external report.

(b) Resource Mobilisation Strategy and Plan for RBM Secretariat

41. As requested by the Board at its 29th meeting (see [Decision Points](#)), the **Partnership & Resource Mobilization Manager** presented the Secretariat's new Resource Mobilisation
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Strategy for approval (see meeting slides), as contained in Annex A to document [RBM/B30/2024/07](#).

42. The **Partnership & Resource Mobilization Manager** suggested that, should the Board approve the Strategy, an implementation progress report would be provided to the Board at its meeting in December 2024. Subsequently, in December 2025, the Secretariat would present a new Resource Mobilization Strategy aligned with the future RBM Partnership Strategy 2026-2030.
43. The **Board Members** welcomed the presentation and provided input to support the Strategy in achieving its resource mobilisation outcomes, including consultation with current donors. The **Board** also highlighted the need to seek funders from endemic countries to increase regional diversity and the importance of coordinating work on the Performance Framework and resource mobilisation to ensure that indicators support fundraising goals.
44. In addition, the **Board** highlighted the potential opportunity to consider how the RBM Secretariat's resource mobilisation strategy would reflect future evolutions of the Big Push and its potential to feed into the RBM investment case.
45. The **Partnership & Resource Mobilization Manager** noted the feedback, which would be taken into consideration during implementation of the Strategy.
46. The **Board** agreed to proceed with immediate implementation of the strategy, asking that the Secretariat provide updates on implementation progress at the next Board meeting in December 2024. Subsequently, in December 2025, the Secretariat would present a new Resource Mobilization Strategy anchored to the new strategic implementation plan timeline covering 2026-2030.
47. **Board** agreed to approve the Resource Mobilisation Strategy.

DECISION POINT DP04 – Resource Mobilisation Strategy

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board approved the RBM Secretariat Resource Mobilisation Strategy, incorporating the feedback provided by Board Members, and tasked the Secretariat with its immediate implementation.

(c) New Board Committees [RBM/B30/2024/12]

48. The **Governance Officer** presented an update on the implementation of the Board's decision at its 29th meeting (see [Decision Points](#)) to establish a Resource Mobilisation Committee (RMC) and provided an outline of a proposal to establish an Ad-hoc Board Committee on Global Fund Replenishment and Allocation in line with draft Terms of Reference circulated to the Board for approval under document [RBM/B30/2024/12](#).
 49. The **Board Chair** noted that the RMC currently had 3 members and invited the Board Members to express their interest in joining the Committee.
 50. The **Board** noted the nomination of Private Sector Alternate Ian Boulton to join the Committee.
 51. The **Board** agreed to approve the Terms of Reference for the GFAC and underscored the importance of its work.
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DECISION POINT DP06 – Ad-hoc Advisory Committee

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board approved the ToR of the Ad-hoc Advisory Committee on Global Fund Allocation and Replenishment and tasked the Secretariat with its implementation.

Day 2 (24 May 2024)

52. At the opening of Day 2, the **Board Chair** reminded the members that consultants from Boston Consulting Group would join the discussion for Item XI, Five Year Plan.

ITEM VI CRSPC LEADERSHIP [RBM/B30/2024/rev.08]

53. The **CEO** outlined the selection and nomination process to replace the outgoing CRSPC Co-Chair (see meeting slides), as set out in document [RBM/B30/2024/rev.08](#). The **Board Chair** indicated that the CV of the nominated candidate had been circulated via email on 23 May 2024.

54. The **Board Chair** noted that based on discussions at the Board retreat on 21-22 May 2024, she expected that the functions of CRSPC may be expanded to meet evolving country needs. In that regard, she proposed the extension of the outgoing Co-Chair in order to allow for a smooth transition and handover of functions between Co-Chairs.

55. The **Board** took note of the selection and nomination process and approved the nomination of Dr Dorothy Achu and the extension of the outgoing Co-Chair.

DECISION POINT DP06 – CRSPC Co-Chair Appointment

The RBM Partnership Board:

(i) approved the nomination of Dorothy Achu to the post of CRSPC Co-Chair for a 3-year term, effective 1 December 2024; and,

(ii) approved the extension of the term of Peter Olumese as CRSPC Co-Chair until the incoming Co-Chair assumes her position.

ITEM VIII FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE [RBM/B30/2024/rev.09]³

56. The **Finance Committee Chair** and the **Finance and Administration Manager** presented a finance update (see meeting slides) covering the RBM Finance Committee meeting held on 9 May 2024, where the Q1 2024 financial report and risk register update were discussed, as contained in document [RBM/B30/2024/rev.09](#).

57. The **Finance and Administration Manager** outlined the key priorities for 2024, including financial management efficiency, streamlined financial reporting, alignment of the new performance framework to the work plan and budget, measuring impact, and increasing resource mobilisation efforts through a proactive risk management approach and donor engagement.

³ At the request of the Board Chair, the Board Vice Chair took over as chair of the meeting.

58. **Board Members** welcomed the update and underscored the importance of monitoring low budget execution given its relevance to resource mobilisation and the need to develop mitigation plans for the risk of lower financing.
59. The **Finance Committee Chair** and **Finance and Administration Manager** noted the feedback from Board Members, in particular in relation to implementing accrual accounting and strengthening conflict of interest policies. In follow-up, the Finance Committee would continue the discussions in more detail at its next meeting.
60. In addition, following their endorsement by the Finance Committee prior to the Board meeting, the **Finance Committee Chair** recommended the approval of Updated Finance SOPs (on cost allocation, financial management, and sustainability and strategic resources) and the 2022 Financial Audit Terms of Reference, as set out in document [RBM/B30/2024/rev.09](#).
61. The **Board** agreed to approve the Financial Audit Terms of Reference and Updated Finance Standard Operating Procedures.

DECISION POINT DP07 – Financial Audit Terms of Reference

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board approved the 2022 Financial Audit Terms of Reference as submitted for its consideration by the Finance Committee Chair.

DECISION POINT DP08 – Updated Finance Standard Operating Procedures

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board approved the updated Finance Standard Operating Procedures on (i) cost allocation, (ii) financial management, and (iii) sustainability and strategic initiative resources as submitted for its consideration by the Finance Committee Chair.

ITEM IX FUNCTIONALITY [RBM/B30/2024/10]

(a) RBM Partnership Structure: Partner Committees and Working Groups

62. As requested at the 29th Board meeting (see [Decision Points](#)), the **CEO** presented the functionality review as set out in document [RBM/B30/2024/10](#). He discussed efforts to improve the functionality of Partner Committees and Working Groups and proposed merging the ARMP and SCPC while requesting deferring the approval of the Working Group SOPs.
63. In relation to CRSPC functionality, the **CEO** highlighted efforts to analyse past Technical Assistance activities to inform future capacity building approaches and the updating of its Steering Group composition.
64. The **Board Members** welcomed ongoing efforts to strengthen CRSPC and provided input on strengthening capacity building (to ensure countries become more independent over time), technical assistance support, and coordination with Working Groups. In that regard, a suggestion was made to provide CRSPC and other committees a structured framework to effectively build capacity in countries.
65. The **CEO** acknowledged the feedback and would continue to implement measures to strengthen CRSPC functionality and report back to the Board at its December 2024 meeting.
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66. In relation to Working Group functionality, the **CEO** suggested that, before approving the SOPs, a white paper be developed outlining how to better leverage working groups and improve collaboration between them and other Partnership structures. The Board supported the proposal to defer the approval of the Working Group SOPs and, recognising the importance of these groups, indicated that any proposal to evolve them be consultative.
67. In relation to the merger of ARMPC and SCPC, the **CEO** highlighted the overlap between the Committees and the need for a more unified approach. He proposed having two Co-Chairs for the merged Committee, with even representation of resource mobilisation/advocacy and communications among its Co-Chairs, Steering Group and work streams to avoid any dilution of functions. In addition, to facilitate a smooth transition, he suggested completing the merger by 1 January 2025 to allow ARMPC and SCPC to complete their 2024 work plans while in parallel developing the Terms of Reference for the merged committee.
68. The **Board** welcomed the proposed merger and underscored the importance of ensuring continuity in the implementation of the 2024 Partner Committee work plans and requested that the timeline for the transition be incorporated into the decision point.
69. The **Board** approved the consolidation of ARMPC and SCPC and extended the term of Gareth Jenkins as ARMPC Co-Chair throughout the transition.

DECISION POINT DP09 – Consolidation of ARMPC and SCPC

The RBM Partnership to End Malaria Board:

(i) decided to establish a single Partner Committee for advocacy, resource mobilisation and strategic communications replacing the Advocacy and Resource Mobilization and Strategic Communications Partner Committees (the "Former Partner Committees"), which shall be disbanded as and when the Board approves updated Terms of Reference for the new Partner Committee;

(ii) requested the CEO, in consultation with the Co-Chairs of the Former Partner Committees, to take the necessary steps to bring about the transition to a single Partner Committee by the Board meeting in December 2024, including by submitting to the Board any (electronic) decisions that may be required to implement this change, including an appropriate name for the new Partner Committee; and,

(iii) extended the term of Gareth Jenkins as ARMPC Co-Chair until the Terms of Reference for the new Partner Committee become effective.

ITEM X GOVERNANCE

(a) *Constituency Support Guidance [RBM/B30/2024/11]*

70. As requested at the 29th Board meeting (see [Decision Points](#)), the **Governance Officer** presented a Constituency Support Guidance document (see meeting slides) as contained in document [RBM/B30/2024/11](#).
71. **Board Members** welcomed the guidance document and reiterated the important role of Constituency Focal Points, suggesting that they be allowed to attend Board meetings. In addition, the members highlighted the importance of engaging the voices of civil society, providing spaces for Board Members who are not directly associated with a constituency, and promoting cross-fertilization among different constituency groups.
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72. The **Board** took note of the Constituency Support Guidance.

ITEM XI FIVE YEAR PLAN

73. The **CEO** presented a brief background to the plan before inviting Boston Consulting Group to deliver its presentation (see meeting slides).

74. While several **Board Members** saw potential value in the catalysing action of the plan, many had constructive questions about alignment with other strategies, country engagement timelines, technical aspects, and capacity/resource implications if RBM took a custodian role. In addition, the **Board Chair** indicated that as a constituency-based Board, each constituency should be consulted on the plan through the relevant Board Member.

75. The **CEO** addressed concerns around timelines and processes and he recognized that if RBM were to take the role of custodian of the plan, some additional capacity may be needed at the Secretariat.

76. The **BCG consultants** welcomed the input of Board Members and emphasized that the development process of the plan had only just started and was focused, at that time, on fact-finding, not development, stressing the importance of inclusive country and stakeholder engagement going forward.

77. The **Board Vice Chair** noted that the Board supported the need for the plan but required more information in order to fully understand the implications for the Secretariat should it take on a custodian role for the plan.

ITEM XII DECISION POINTS

78. The **Governance Officer** presented the draft decision points to the Board, highlighting amendments that had been incorporated to reflect the discussions during the meeting.

79. The **Board** approved the Decision Points as set out herein.

ITEM XIII UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

2024 meeting dates/location

80. The **Board Vice Chair** noted that the Board had been previously informed that the 31st meeting of the RBM Partnership Board would be held on 4-5 December 2024. The Alternate Board Member for Affected Countries/Americas extended an invitation to hold the 31st meeting in Colombia. In that regard, the **CEO** indicated that the Secretariat would further analyse the cost of holding the meeting in Colombia and report back to the Board.

81. The **Board** approved the meeting dates and expressed appreciation to the Alternate Board Member for his invitation.

ITEM XIV AOB

82. No items were raised in AOB.

ITEM XV CONCLUDING REMARKS

83. The **Board Chair** expressed her appreciation to the meeting participants for their valuable inputs throughout the meeting and their commitment to the fight against malaria, to the CEO for his continued leadership and guidance, and the RBM Secretariat for its hard work in preparing and delivering the meeting.
84. In recognition of her outstanding service to the Board and the wider malaria community, the **Board Chair** presented a gift to Dr. Oluwafunmilola Dare, Civil Society Board Member.

ITEM XVI CLOSED SESSION

85. At the close of the meeting, the **Board Members** agreed to hold a closed session.

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