



## **GAVI Alliance Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting**

11 July 2013

Geneva, Switzerland

### **FINAL MINUTES**

#### **1. Chair's report**

- 1.1 Finding a quorum of members present, the meeting commenced at 08.45 Geneva time on 11 July 2013. Sania Nishtar, Committee Chair, chaired the meeting.
- 1.2 Standing declarations of interest were tabled to the Committee (Doc 01a).
- 1.3 The Committee noted the minutes of its meeting of 5 July 2012 (Doc 01b and Doc 01c). These minutes were approved by no objection on 20 August 2012.
- 1.4 The Chair welcomed Samba Sow, attending an EAC meeting for the first time. She also expressed her thanks to Alan Hinman, whose term on the EAC had come to an end and who was therefore not attending the meeting, in particular as he had presented the Chair's report to the June 2013 Board meeting in her absence.

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#### **2. Update from the Secretariat**

- 2.1 Nina Schwalbe, Managing Director, Policy and Performance, updated the EAC on a number of important issues which are currently at the forefront of GAVI business.
- 2.2 She referred to a recent decision by the Board that the Alliance should play a role in the global polio eradication initiative, in particular in relation to the introduction of Inactivated Polio Vaccine (IPV).
- 2.3 She reported that the Board had also approved changes to the grant application, monitoring and review processes which will include the introduction of an Expression of Interest (EoI) phase and a more active grant monitoring process.
- 2.4 As data quality is an issue of concern for the Alliance the Secretariat had organised a data summit in January 2013. The report of the meeting will be shared with the EAC.

- 2.5 The Secretariat had also organised a meeting on the value of vaccines, looking not only at deaths averted or cases averted but also at the broader benefits of vaccines and exploring how they can be quantified. The report of the meeting will also be shared with the EAC.
- 2.6 The EAC was informed that emphasis is being put on routine immunisation and as the Alliance has supported a number of campaigns and will potentially be supporting polio eradication, further work will be done on looking at how campaigns impact routine immunisation.
- 2.7 The EAC was also given some information on the GAVI Alliance Mid Term Review to be hosted by Sweden on 30 October 2013, on recent announcements made in relation to agreements with industry on reduced prices for pentavalent and HPV, and finally on the new GAVI Alliance strategy process which will lead to the submission to the Board in June 2014 of the 2016-2020 strategy for approval.

#### *Discussion*

- EAC members noted with interest that the GAVI Alliance would appear to be heading towards a shift in its business model in relation to a number of important issues.
- EAC members agreed on the importance of reliable data and one member strongly recommended increased emphasis on surveillance and disease incidence in immunisation monitoring.
- EAC members agreed that the idea of GAVI potentially considering 'poor people' rather than 'poor countries' is compelling but noted associated challenges in implementing such an approach and look forward to hearing more about this as the debate evolves.

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### **3. Evaluation of graduated countries**

- 3.1 Laura Stormont, Programme Officer, M&E, presented this item, asking the EAC to provide guidance on the proposal scope and evaluation questions of the evaluation.

#### *Discussion*

- The EAC noted that the Request for Proposals (RFP) would include the evaluations of both Bosnia & Herzegovina and Ukraine and bidders would be able to submit bids to do one or both. Therefore the two evaluations may be completed by the same or different evaluators.
- The EAC noted that the China evaluation has been used quite extensively and that this has been a valuable piece of work.

- The EAC noted that the results of the Ukraine evaluation may give insight into some of the issues in other countries in that region.
- The EAC recommended proactive engagement of civil society organisations in both evaluations.
- One member suggested that it might be useful to consider defining sustainability and also to include resource tracking in the evaluations i.e. what kind of budgetary expenditures existed in the countries before and after GAVI support and what had been approved by governments.

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#### **4. AMC impact evaluation**

- 4.1 Abdallah Bchir, Head of Evaluation, M&E, presented this item, asking the EAC to provide guidance on the high level scope and key evaluation questions for the evaluation.

##### *Discussion*

- EAC members discussed the timing of this evaluation and expressed concern on the ability to carry out a meaningful evaluation at this stage particularly taking into account supply challenges and subsequently delayed introductions. EAC members also considered carefully the overarching goal of the pilot AMC and concluded that it is premature to conduct an impact evaluation of the AMC. The AMC process and design evaluation has just been completed. The impact evaluation would be richer and more useful if conducted at a later date, with more evidence available on the outcomes and impact of pneumococcal vaccination (e.g. more country years of PCV3 coverage estimates and more data from impact assessments, targeted studies and the full country evaluations).
- In this context the EAC requested that the AMC donors be consulted about the possibility of postponing the evaluation from 2014 to 2015.
- EAC members agreed on the importance of strengthening the ongoing monitoring of the AMC, and noted that the AMC process and design evaluation put forward recommendations regarding how such monitoring can be strengthened. The Secretariat responded that it is presently working on strengthening the ongoing monitoring of the AMC, as recommended in the process and design evaluation.

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#### **5. Health systems strengthening (HSS) evaluations**

- 5.1 Abdallah Bchir presented this item, asking the EAC to provide guidance on the set of key common questions to be included in the HSS country grant evaluations.

### *Discussion*

- EAC members noted that the evaluations should include an assessment of the strength of the M&E of the grant in question
- EAC members expressed an interest in the evaluations showing to whom the funding was disbursed and how it was used, in particular if some of the funding was disbursed to civil society organisations.
- The EAC noted that equity issues will be addressed in the evaluations.
- In terms of country involvement in the evaluation process the EAC noted that Ministries of Health and partners will be providing comments on the RFP. In addition, the results will be discussed at country level with all stakeholders.

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## **6. Targets for measles indicator**

- 6.1 Peter Hansen, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, presented this item, reminding the Committee that the Board had requested the Secretariat to develop an indicator for measles routine immunisation coverage for review by the EAC and that there is now a need to determine the targets for 2013-2015.

### *Discussion*

- EAC members expressed concern on determining a target based solely on coverage estimates, whilst acknowledging that this is already used by GAVI for other vaccines.
- EAC members discussed the fact that while the indicator is for routine immunisation, and the WHO/UNICEF estimate of coverage intends to estimate coverage from routine delivery only, data from countries can sometimes also include data from campaigns.
- The EAC agreed that while they had approved the indicator developed by the Secretariat they would not be comfortable approving a target as outlined in the paper. The EAC therefore asked the Secretariat to explore additional outcome indicators to build on coverage as part of the development of the 2016-2020 strategy and agreed that this would be further discussed at the next EAC meeting.

### **Decision One**

The GAVI Alliance Evaluation Advisory Committee:

- a) **Approved** the indicator for measles routine immunisation coverage for the GAVI Alliance's 2011-2015 strategy as set out in Annex 1 to Doc 06.; and

- b) **Agreed** that in view of the short time period (2013-2015) it would not be meaningful to quantify an associated target for measles.

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## 7. GAVI Alliance Evaluation Workplan 2014

- 7.1 Peter Hansen presented the proposed evaluation workplan for 2014 as follows: AMC impact evaluation (to be postponed if the AMC donors agree [see Item 4]); Evaluation of graduated countries; Evaluation of the co-financing policy; Full Country Evaluations (FCE).

### *Discussion*

- EAC members noted that the HSS country evaluations are not included in the workplan. The Secretariat explained that these evaluations will be carried out in all countries receiving new HSS grants. It is not envisaged that these evaluations will be submitted to the Board nor therefore to the EAC.
- EAC members noted that campaign evaluations are not included in the workplan as it is also considered that such evaluations should be routine.
- EAC members discussed the possibility of carrying out evaluations in countries in the graduation phase, in particular where there may be issues of concern. This could be useful to take appropriate actions in a timely manner. It was agreed that the Secretariat will consider this on a case by case basis.
- In the context of the workplan EAC members agreed that their 2014 in person meeting should be held in March/April to enable them in particular to consider the quality and usefulness of the FCE annual report before the June Board meeting.

### **Decision Two**

The GAVI Alliance Evaluation Advisory Committee:

- **Approved** GAVI's evaluation work plan for 2014 as presented at the meeting.

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## 8. Review of Decisions

- 8.1 Joanne Goetz, Senior Manager, Governance, reviewed the decision language with the Committee, which they subsequently approved.

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## 9. Any other business



## Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting

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The Chair thanked the Committee and the Secretariat for their support and, also on behalf of the Committee, thanked Nina Schwalbe and wished her well, on both a personal and professional level in the context of her upcoming move back to the United States.

As there was no further business, the meeting was brought to a close.

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Ms Debbie Adams  
Secretary to the Board



## **Participants**

### **Committee Members**

- Sania Nishtar, Chair
- Stanley O. Foster
- Gonzalo Hernandez
- Mira Johri
- Rob Moodie
- Samba O. Sow

### **Secretariat**

- Abdallah Bchir
- Joanne Goetz
- Peter Hansen
- Nina Schwalbe
- Laura Stormont

### **Regrets**

- Fred Binka
- Angela Santoni