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## Commodities Task Team on Access to RMNCAH Commodities



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3 November, Dar es Salaam

FOURTH INVESTORS GROUP MEETING

# Purpose of Review

- GFF Investors Group (IG) request to the Commodities Task Team was two-fold:
  - GLOBAL
    - Develop a landscape of key activities and organizations involved in improving access to RMNCAH commodities
    - Use landscape analysis to help identify areas where there are gaps and/or areas that require greater coordination
  - COUNTRY LEVEL
    - Review country investment cases (that were final or close to final)
    - Identify common bottlenecks and potential options for global/regional interventions to support a needed RMNCH commodity agenda across countries

# Commodities Task Team Membership

Name	Organization
David Sarley	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Andrew Dawe and Aminur Rahman	Canada
Meena Gandhi	DFID
Prashant Yadav	Expert Consultant
Lauren Franzel and Aurelia Nguyen	GAVI
Rama Lakshminarayanan	GFF Secretariat
Viviana Mangiaterra	Global Fund
Farouk Shamas Jiwa (Mato)	Merck (representing private sector)
Mari Grepstad	NORAD
Amie Batson	PATH (representing CSOs)
Pascal Bijleveld	RMNCH Trust Fund
Gifty Addico and Sennen Hounton	UNFPA
David Muhia, Athieno Ojoo and Mark Young	UNICEF
Jennifer Adams* (Chair), Debbie Armbruster and Aye Aye Thwin	USAID
Lisa Hedman	WHO

# Commodities Task Team Process

- The Task Team had 3 conference calls (July 28, September 15 & October 11) since the last IG meeting in June 2016.
- Given the limited time-frame, the Task Team focused its efforts on the specific asks from the IG to identify the main issues common across countries. Please note that it did not delve into detailed implementable solutions to resolve RMNCAH commodity access.
- In instances where the Task Team members were not in full consensus, GFF secretariat, under the guidance of the Chair, included content to best reflect collective viewpoints. Please note that the outcomes may not reflect organizational positions of task team members.

# Global Landscaping of Commodity Activities

- Preliminary landscape developed based on inputs of GFF Commodity Task Team members and quick review of technical reports, presented to the IG in May 2016
- Detailed review included additional inputs from GFF Commodity Task Team members, additional technical experts and a more comprehensive review of technical reports
- Landscape focuses primarily on RMNCAH commodities but also includes activities which are system wide or may have a strong indirect implication on RMNCAH commodities

# GLOBAL

Various CSOs, DFID, USAID, WHO

WHO, CHAI, RMNCH-ST, USAID, DFID, Gates Foundation, PATH, UNICEF, UNFPA, Concept, RHSC, FP2020, Global Fund, GAVI, UNITAID

CHAI, RMNCH-ST, USAID, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNCOLSC, Global Fund, GAVI, UNITAID

WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Bank, Gates Foundation

USAID, UNFPA, UNICEF, IPC, DFID, RHSC, Global Fund, GAVI

USAID, UNICEF, RMNCH-ST

USAID, UNCOLSC, UNICEF, UNFPA, Gates Foundation

ISG, Gates Foundation, UNCOLSC, UNICEF, World Bank, RHSC, WHO, People that Deliver, Global Fund, GAVI



Various CSOs, DFID, USAID, WHO

CHAI, PSI, PATH

USAID, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNCOLSC

WHO, USAID, USP

USAID, UNFPA, UNICEF, WB

USAID, UNFPA

USAID, World Bank, DFID, Gates Foundation, UNICEF, Private Sector

# IN COUNTRY

- Further details regarding each activity are available in the attached spreadsheet
- Range of activities and actors are different for globally-funded commodities versus domestically-funded commodities

\* Typically market shaping would include forecasting, planning, quality and all such aspects. However, given the nature of actors involved, these are spelt out separately from market shaping which here includes only activities that create risk-sharing, long-term contracting, volume guarantees and other innovative instruments.

# Global Landscaping: Discussion Points

- Commodity access is achieved through a continuum of activities across markets that affect multiple countries.
- Historically, actors have been often limited to specific activities or commodities, which limits success and sustainability.
- RMNCAH commodities must be viewed in the context of current trends where demand for medicines is increasing significantly and where the impact on country systems will require broader approaches.
- The global landscape analysis coupled with the analysis of GFF investment cases suggests that leveraging knowledge and information developed at global level needs greater support and more effective targeting to be effectively used at the country level.
- Approaches to improve commodity access from vertical programs such as HIV, Malaria, Immunization and Contraceptives may not be the best fit for overall RMNCAH commodity strategy due to technical and cost reasons:
  - Many RMNCAH medicines have multiple indications, requiring different forecasting, treatment guidelines and system optimization approaches.
  - Procurement for many RMNCAH commodities is largely carried out using domestic resources, nationally or often sub-nationally from a combination of local, regional and global suppliers.

# Country Investment Case Review

- Investment cases that were final or close to final were reviewed
- The review looked at the following areas within ICs:
  - Regulatory and quality strengthening
  - Importation and customs challenges
  - Financing for RMNCAH commodities
  - Quantification and planning
  - Procurement
  - Storage and Inventory Management
  - First-level distribution
  - Last-mile distribution
  - Registration and Governance
- In addition to review of ICs, supplemental documentation available at country level was reviewed and interviews with in-country key experts were conducted.

# Investment Case Review: Discussion Points

- Investment cases primarily focused on broader health system constraints (HRH, infrastructure, service delivery weaknesses) and were not designed to delve deep into commodity procurement and distribution.
- Key issues identified included frequent stock-outs of select RMNCAH commodities at national and sub-national levels resulting from :
  - Poor planning and budgeting for commodities
  - HMIS and LMIS challenges including lack of consistent and harmonized data collection
  - Lack of funding for training workers for logistics management, warehousing, and supply management.
  - Last mile distribution challenges
  - Product registration challenges
  - Weak governance and transparency

# Investment Case Review: Discussion Points

- Additional challenges identified in the analysis of ICs included
  - ICs do not usually include commodities as a line item in the proposed budgets
  - Historic and persistent gaps in data have led to financing scenarios in ICs that cannot be substantiated in terms of demand or need
  - General medicines procurement systems, which is where RMNCAH commodities are most often purchased, do not easily accommodate visibility into individual commodities.
  - Sub-national procurement and financing posed a unique challenge in decentralized settings

# Preliminary Recommendation 1

***Strengthen the in-country technical capacity for countries to address RMNCAH commodity bottlenecks and invest in resolving them.***

*Rationale: With the increasing demand on medicines, the supply chain for RMNCAH commodities and other essential medicines faces tremendous pressures. Additional vertical supply chains have high opportunity costs and may not be feasible.*

- Seeking guidance from IG on supporting the Inter-Agency Supply Group (ISG) in their facilitation of collaboration around relevant and timely issues, especially to help countries move towards a unified supply chain. Work done to strengthen the various components of supply chains can be aligned to benefit RMNCAH commodities as well.
- The ISG has expressed their willingness to collaborate with the GFF, countries and partners in this role, noting the benefit of leveraging the ISG as a platform for coordination across agencies on investments and technical assistance.

# Preliminary Recommendation 2

## *Support better translation of global knowledge into sustained country level use*

*Rationale: Feedback from countries and the task team confirms that additional efforts are required to improve commodity markets, procurement and supply chain knowledge transfer to countries. This will require a multi-pronged approach.*

- IG to note that a *Life-Saving Commodities Practitioners Network* was launched in August with the aim of bringing together knowledge and expertise among and between global and country level.
- IG to note that some agencies working on RMNCAH commodity access are exploring the development of a *RMNCAH Healthy Markets Consortium*. Discussions for the structure, activities and hosting of such a consortium are still in early stages.
- GFF IG should explore the impact of different mechanisms for addressing this. Below are some options:
  - Global knowledge network
  - Regional collaboration platforms- Regional cooperation bodies, such as EAC, ECOWAS and SADC could be effective partners for advocacy on healthy markets for RMNCAH
  - Country based knowledge networks (building on the Country Platform)
  - Targeted national and sub-national technical assistance including support for stronger country level PSM coordination (building on the Country Platform)

# Preliminary Recommendation 3

## *Support governance mechanisms around commodities*

*Rationale: Improving access to RMNCAH commodities sits in a context where overall demand is increasing significantly, including the associated and increased risks for poor governance and monitoring failures.*

- Create stronger linkages between RMNCAH commodity procurement and distribution to existing programs engaged in good governance of medicines.
- Medicines shortages are noted in *WHA69.25* which should be used to leverage agendas around improved data quality and supply management.
- GFF IG should support existing platforms for governance and data quality for better use of data in commodity supply related decision making.
- CSO partners to be more engaged in activities related to governance of the commodity sub-system.
- IG should receive periodic status and progress updates from GFF partners working on commodity access issues.

# Preliminary Recommendation 4

## ***GFF Secretariat to better guide countries to technical resources and partners on RMNCAH commodity issues***

*Rationale: If future investment cases are to be more developed and precise on RMNCAH commodity access issues, GFF secretariat needs to have some internal capacity to be able to point countries to where the appropriate technical resources exist (which partners).*

- Important that investment cases have sufficient level of technical detail on commodities and IC guidelines are strengthened in this respect
- Pointing countries to the right tools, processes, partners and resources for resolving commodity bottlenecks, linking to global and regional platforms

# Action Points for IG

- On behalf of IG, the Chair to request the ISG to coordinate across agencies on efforts to improve access to RMNCAH commodities within the unified supply chain, specifically to improve in-country technical capacity in this area
- GFF secretariat to strengthen Investment Case guidelines to include stronger focus on commodity access

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