GAVI Alliance Evaluation Advisory Committee Meeting

5 July 2012
Geneva, Switzerland

FINAL MINUTES

1. Chair's report

1.1 Finding a quorum of members present, the meeting commenced at 09.45 Geneva time on 5 July 2012. Sania Nishtar, Committee Chair, participating by videoconference, chaired the meeting. Rob Moodie co-chaired.

1.2 Standing declarations of interest were tabled to the Committee (Doc 1a). Alan Hinman noted that the Novartis research grant reported was for rabies rather than measles.

1.3 The Committee noted the minutes of its meeting of 19-20 January 2012 in Geneva (Doc 1b) and its teleconference of 13 February 2012 (Doc 1c). These minutes were approved by no objection on 23 April 2012.

1.4 The Chair updated the EAC on the GAVI Alliance Board meeting which had taken place in Washington D.C. in June 2012 and at which she had reported on the activities of the EAC. The Board had approved the Evaluation Policy and considered the EAC engagement with the evaluation of GAVI support to CSOs as quite productive. She had updated the Board on the EAC's role in reviewing and approving the Request for Proposals for the Advance Market Commitment for Pneumococcal Vaccine Process and Design Evaluation, as well as the process in relation to the Full Country Evaluations.

1.5 During a short meeting with Dagfinn Høybråten, GAVI Alliance Board Chair, the EAC Chair had briefly discussed the work of the EAC feeding into policy as well as the changing landscape of health with respect to the post MDG landscape. A short discussion on the latter is recorded under Item 9.

---

2. Update from the Secretariat

2.1 Nina Schwalbe, Managing Director, Policy and Performance, reported to the EAC that the Secretariat has been working on updating the mission indicators and that the Board has been provided with progress reports on Key Performance Indicators and the GAVI Alliance risk register.

2.2 During their annual retreat in April 2012 the GAVI Alliance Board had considered a paper outlining possible options for future directions for GAVI investment and had reviewed the governance structure of the Alliance. It has been decided that there will be a light-touch review of the Board Committee Charters and of the EAC Charter for the Board to discuss further at their meeting in December 2012.

2.3 At the Board meeting in June 2012 the CEO had reported that GAVI is on track to deliver on its mission. He had highlighted a number of issues including supply constraints, that there will be a HSS focus in 2012/2013, and the implementation of a cross-cutting approach within the Secretariat.

2.4 Key decisions from the June Board meeting related to the GAVI programme funding policy, the 2013-2014 business planning process, approval of a revised introduction grant and operational support for campaigns, continued funding for special studies, and approval of additional financial support for measles vaccination in GAVI-eligible countries prior to the full roll out of the MR vaccine.

2.5 The EAC was informed that Sweden and Australia had recently carried out very positive evaluations of GAVI and that a draft of a MOPAN review which is ongoing is expected in September 2012.

Discussion

- The Chair commented that she had very much appreciated having been invited to attend the Board retreat at which there was open discussion. In the context of the governance review she had pointed out that the EAC does not get the opportunity to talk to the PPC and had suggested that it would be useful to create communication between the two committees. Alan Hinman pointed out that all of the Committee Chairs had been invited to a joint meeting around the Board meeting in June and that it is foreseen that this will be a regular meeting at Board meetings in the future and will therefore be an opportunity to improve communication between the committees.

The Committee temporarily adjourned the meeting to consider commercially sensitive items concerning Agenda Item 3 *Full Country Evaluations.*

---

4. Monitoring & Evaluation of graduating and graduated countries

4.1 Abdallah Bchir, Head of Evaluation, presented information to the EAC for guidance on monitoring and evaluation of graduating and graduated countries highlighting that GAVI is trying to help sustainability at country level. The evaluation approach being proposed would have two main components – an in-depth review to take place during the transition/graduation period; a

comprehensive evaluation on selected countries to be conducted once countries have fully graduated from GAVI support.

Discussion

- EAC members agreed that this is a very important issue and suggested that the approach should be framed in such a way as to highlight country ownership.

- It was agreed that clarity is needed on what is done on a continuous basis and that there is a need to be clearer in relation to different types of activities and the varying intensity and objectives of the different types of review being carried out.

- The importance of carrying out a risk assessment or review of country risk and readiness to be fully graduated for every country in transition was highlighted.

- It was asked whether it might be appropriate to look at the five countries who have already graduated in relation to sustainability. It was pointed out that the countries which have graduated so far did so before either the graduation policy or the co-financing policy were implemented. It was suggested that a light-touch assessment of some of these countries, such as a desk review, might be useful in particular where there is some existing information which could be useful in going forward.

- In relation to the indicators it was asked whether it might be possible to have a more programmatic approach whereby, through an online system, graduated countries build on data collected during the 3 to 4 years prior to their graduation. Through such a system it should be possible to identify where there are problems and subsequently carry out a more in-depth evaluation. It was suggested that there are some indicators that may turn out to be predictors of success in achieving sustainability.

- It was pointed out that some of the indicators are part of a draft dashboard being developed by the Immunisation Financing and Sustainability task team. The M&E team is engaged with them and will ensure that the indicators are operational.

- It was suggested that ‘legislative foundation for immunisation programmes’ should be added to the indicator ‘political commitment’.

- Countries encountering difficulties in maintaining sustainability will be looked at on a case by case basis.

---

5. Impact of evaluations on GAVI Policy

5.1 Laura Stormont, Programme Officer, Evaluation, informed the EAC that at the request of the EAC Chair, the Secretariat has conducted an overview of how evaluations have informed the revision and development of GAVI policies, programmes and strategic planning processes for submission to the GAVI Board. The nine most recent evaluations were included in the overview.

5.2 The Chair added that her request had come in the context of an understanding that not all Board members fully appreciate the value of evaluation and it is an important message to highlight that evaluation is an exercise that yields evidence used for policy formulation and programme modification.

Discussion

- EAC members agreed that this was an interesting document which should be submitted as a paper to the Board without further adding to the workload of the Secretariat. They discussed and agreed on the importance of framing the context in which the paper had been produced and making it clear that there are also recommendations that did not lead to new policies.

- They also recommended that the paper include a paragraph outlining how the Secretariat deals with recommendations and the checking and tracking carried out by the Executive.

---

6. GAVI Alliance Evaluation Work plan 2013-2014

6.1 Peter Hansen presented the proposed evaluation work plan 2013-2014 highlighting that evaluation activities must be included and budgeted in the business plan.

Discussion

- EAC members discussed the proposed evaluation workplan, noting that of the five proposed evaluations only the AMC evaluation is contractually binding.

- It was noted that the recommendation of the EAC report on the GAVI Phase 2 evaluation had been to shift to more prospective evaluations to supplement them with smaller evaluations focused on specific topics and conducted in a timely manner rather than waiting five years and conducting a large bolus of backward looking evaluations.

- EAC members agreed that although they had themselves previously suggested an evaluation on partnership it would be prudent to prioritise other activities and to perhaps consider this as a component of the full country evaluations. To the extent that there is need to understand better the partnership dynamic at global level, this could be considered at a later date.

Decision Two

The GAVI Alliance Evaluation Advisory Committee:

- **Approved** GAVI's evaluation workplan for 2013-2014 attached as Annex 1 to Doc 6, excluding the proposed evaluation on partnership (2014).

---

7. EAC Twelve Month Workplan

7.1 Peter Hansen presented the proposed EAC twelve month workplan.

Discussion

- Nina Schwalbe highlighted that one of the responsibilities of the EAC is to review the quality and usefulness of evaluation reports and in this context there will be up to three evaluation reports submitted prior to the next Board meeting. EAC members agreed that it would be appropriate to obtain their input to forward to the Board through email consultation and, if necessary, by teleconference.

- EAC members did not identify any additional items to be added to the workplan at this stage and in this context agreed that the next meeting of the EAC would be held in Geneva on 10-11 July 2013.

- EAC members noted that they have no formal additional role in the full country evaluations procurement process but agreed that they should receive annual reports to enable them to report to the Board on their quality and usefulness, in accordance with the Committee charter. The Secretariat will share the outcome of the inception phase with EAC members and a teleconference will be organised on 23 January 2013 for EAC members wishing to have an informal update on the process and to input on the content.

---

8. Review of Decisions

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

---

9. Any other business

Discussion

- The Chair informed EAC members on a brief discussion she had had with the GAVI Alliance Board Chair in June on looking at the wider landscape in relation to what is happening in the health sector and in particular

sustainability beyond the MDGs. She had conveyed her interest in engaging in this through a written communication to the Chair and in this context asked EAC members whether they wished to input on this.

- EAC members agreed that whilst this is indeed an interesting topic and one that GAVI needs to be addressing it is not within the remit of the committee and it would also not be appropriate for the Secretariat to provide support on this. EAC members encouraged the Chair to communicate her views to the Board Chair, inviting her to contact them if she so wished on a personal level.

The Chair thanked the Committee and the Secretariat for their support and as there was no further business, the meeting was brought to a close.

_____
Ms Debbie Adams
Secretary to the Board

Participants

Committee Members

- Sania Nishtar, Chair
- Stanley O. Foster
- Alan Hinman
- Mira Johri
- Rob Moodie

Secretariat

- Abdallah Bchir
- Joanne Goetz
- Peter Hansen
- Susie Lee (Agenda Item 4)
- Nina Schwalbe
- Laura Stormont