Overview of country planning: Progress and Challenges

Mike McGovern
Chair, Transition Management Group
Meeting of the Polio Partners Group
Geneva, 8 December 2017
Outline

- Overview of progress in the development of country plans
- Challenges and how TMG is planning to address them
## Progress at a glance: Then... (end of 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Communication initiated</th>
<th>Governing body established</th>
<th>Mapping of assets</th>
<th>Mapping of priorities</th>
<th>Transition strategies agreed</th>
<th>Transition plan drafted and costed</th>
<th>Transition plan finalized and funding agreed</th>
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Afghanistan is an endemic country. Planning expected after interruption of transmission.

Pakistan is an endemic country. Planning expected after interruption of transmission.

Country Planning Dashboard as of Dec 8, 2016
### Progress at a glance: Now...(end of 2017)

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Country Planning Dashboard as of December 1, 2017
Are we measuring what matters?

Quality of the process

• Is the plan fully owned by the Government?
• Are all stakeholders fully engaged in the planning process, providing input (MoH, MoF, development partners)?

Quality of the plans

• Is the plan aligned with national health priorities and processes?
• Does the plan have a realistic and sustainable financing strategy, including domestic resources, and with a detailed budget for specific activities?
• Does the plan entail elements for national capacity building, with a gradual transfer of responsibilities to the Government?
• Is there a plan for ensuring sustainable implementation of the polio essential functions, mainstreaming into existing structures (e.g., broader disease surveillance and outbreak response mechanisms)?
Draft country plans at a glance

- 8 countries have draft transition plans
- 4 include details on how polio essential functions will be mainstreamed
- 3 include a detailed budget
- 5 have a financing strategy
- 7 include provisions for domestic funding

Most of these are early drafts, to be discussed further at country level.

We expect them to go through significant refinement in the next six months.
Challenge 1: Timing

- The planning process is taking longer time than initially foreseen. Not all countries will have draft plans by end 2017

- Dilemma between “moving fast” and “ensuring quality”

**PROPOSED WAY FORWARD:**

- Re-inforce messaging on the ramp down – “GPEI budget reductions are a reality”

- Targeted advocacy and support to those countries lagging behind
Challenge 2: Country Ownership

• The process is still being led at the “technical level”. There is a not sufficient high level ownership of the process

PROPOSED WAY FORWARD:

• Develop a detailed high level advocacy strategy to better engage Ministers (Health/Finance/Budget & Planning) and WHO/UNICEF Country Representatives

• Build WHO and UNICEF Regional Office and Country Office capacity to lead, with the goal of having them drive the process by June 2018.
Challenge 3: Quality

• Many of the plans assume WHO/UNICEF support will continue over the long term, at the same levels
• Polio essential functions still need to be fully embedded into the draft plans

• PROPOSED WAY FORWARD:
  • Communicate **quality indicators**, emphasizing the importance of national capacity building and sustainability
  • Share **best practices** (e.g. Nepal’s plans to build government ownership over time)
  • Share **PCS guidance** with countries, detailing roles and responsibilities of countries to sustain a polio-free world
Challenge 4: Sustainability

- Few draft plans have identified sustainable financing options. There is an expectation for external funding support to continue.

- Few plans include domestic funding options and are requesting resource mobilization support/guidance.

- Likely for plans to remain on the shelf in fragile and conflict-affected states, with limited funding options.

PROPOSED WAY FORWARD:

- Engage the TIMB to help expand the scope of discussions, especially for joint approaches to supporting fragile, conflict-affected countries.

- Advocate for domestic funding options (e.g., Africa Immunization Business Case).

- Communicate upcoming in-country stakeholder meetings (e.g., Cameroon in early December).
Targeting **June 2018** for final plans, while building regional and country office ownership.

- **2017**
  - **OCT**
  - **Nov**: 2nd TIMB
  - **Dec**: PPG

- **2018**
  - **JAN**
  - **Jan**: POB in-person
  - **FEB**
  - **Feb**: POB decision: TMG sun setting
  - **MAR**
  - **Mar**: TMG check-in to assess progress in building ownership of ROs/COs in country planning
  - **APR**
  - **May**: Global Transition Forum at the WHA: funding commitments
  - **JUN**
  - **Jun**: Final Transition plans expected from 13 non-endemic priority countries
  - **JUL**
  - **Jul**: TMG dedicated TA support beyond AF/PAK concludes
  - **AUG**
  - **Aug**: Work plan due to SC
  - **SEP**
  - **Sep**: Assess LL 2019 needs
  - **OCT**
  - **Oct**: TMG check-in to assess AFG/PAK support for 2019
  - **NOV**
  - **Nov**: Assess AFG/PAK concludes
  - **DEC**
  - **Dec**: TMG to strengthen RO/CO role in country planning support

- **2019**
  - **MAR**
  - **Mar**: UNGA
  - **APR**
  - **Apr**: Leadership F2F
  - **MAY**
  - **May**: Leadership F2F
  - **JUN**
  - **Jun**: Leadership F2F
  - **JUL**
  - **Jul**: Leadership F2F
  - **AUG**
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  - **Dec**: Leadership F2F

**LESSONS LEARNED ACTIVITIES CONTINUE**

**STREAMLINED SUPPORT FOR AFG AND PAK BASED ON BEST PRACTICES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES**
THANK YOU