
High Level Meeting of the Global Polio Partners Group (PPG) Thursday, 8 November 2012

Venue: World Health Organization – Salle B
Geneva, Switzerland

CHAIRS' STATEMENT

On 8 November 2012, a high-level meeting of the Polio Partners Group of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative met in Geneva at the World Health Organization headquarters. Discussion focused on the development of the Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan and legacy options, with strategic advice provided by the PPG members on the content and orientation. In the course of the meeting PPG partners:

- Acknowledged the tremendous work undertaken to date towards polio eradication, and expressed appreciation for the efforts of hundreds of thousands of individuals who have worked to reduce the prevalence of the disease over twenty years by some 99%.
- Recognized the positive impact the May 2012 World Health Assembly declaration that polio eradication is a programmatic emergency for global public health was having in the three polio-endemic countries and other polio-affected states, including the development and implementation of emergency plans, the reaching of more children, and augmenting accountability at the field level.
- Underscored that significant challenges remain and continued vigilance was required to mitigate against re-infection and sustain the momentum for eradication efforts.
- Expressed appreciation to GPEI for incorporating input provided to date by PPG stakeholders on the evolving *Polio Eradication & Endgame Strategic Plan*, which had resulted in plans for significant revisions to the plan's structure and scope.
- Endorsed the general direction of the *Polio Eradication & Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018*, including the preliminary cost calculations of \$5.5 billion, and recommended that GPEI pay particular attention to:
 - Effectively communicating the strategic rationale for the switch from OPV to bOPV and IPV introduction, and IPV production and procurement, and the program's long-term plan for certification and containment.
 - How best to take advantage of new technologies, including environmental surveillance.

- The need for a compelling narrative that articulates to decision-makers that further investment in polio eradication and the endgame delivers value-for-money, including articulating the benefits of the absence of disease and the Return on Investment.
 - The development of a contingency plan in the event some of the milestones are not attained.
 - The necessity of ongoing accountability, and fostering a governance framework that is light but ensures effective monitoring of the program.
 - The value of the legacy piece addressing the link with routine immunization and GAVI, how GPEI can benefit other development areas beyond health, and the management of the transition of GPEI assets (such as staffing, surveillance systems, communication networks and information systems) for the post-eradication period.
- Encouraged continued stakeholder input throughout the process of developing the *Polio Eradication & Endgame Strategic Plan*, and agreed to hold a consultative workshop on December 18-19, 2012, in Geneva at the Permanent Mission of Canada. This workshop will be an essential final opportunity for PPG input to strengthen or refine the text in advance of its submission to the WHO Executive Board in January 2013.
 - Called on GPEI to produce an additional document – a short, sharp, compelling investment case that will present the eradication and endgame strategy to Member States. The PPG also recommended that GPEI convene a briefing for missions in advance of the January 2013 WHO Executive Board meeting to increase familiarity with the strategy document.
 - Welcomed new commitments of in-kind support and funding, including those from the Islamic Development Bank, Brazil and Canada
 - Took note of plans to convene a Vaccine Summit in April 2013 as a key opportunity for resource mobilization, and urged all donor partners to attend the Summit and contribute to the maximum extent possible to the long-term funding requirements of the polio program, estimated at \$5.5 billion over six years.
 - Encouraged all countries affected by polio to contribute to the maximum extent possible domestic resources for their respective polio programs.
 - Asked the PPG Co-Chairs to send the Chairs' Statement to the GPEI Polio Oversight Board, the Polio Emergency Steering Committee, and the Independent Monitoring Board for their consideration.