
Polio Partners Group of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The purpose of the Polio Partners Group (PPG) is: (1) to serve as the stakeholder voice for the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) in the development and implementation of short-term and long-term polio eradication strategic plans and emergency action plans; and (2) to foster greater engagement among polio-affected countries, donors and other partners with the objective of utilizing their political, communications, programmatic and financial capabilities to ensure GPEI has the necessary political commitment and financial resources to reach the goal of polio eradication.

Role

The PPG will:

1. Provide input and guidance on the development and implementation of GPEI strategic plans, emergency action plans and the polio eradication “endgame” plan to the Polio Oversight Board and the Strategy Committee;
2. Review, call for revisions as necessary and endorse GPEI work plans and budgets;
3. Track epidemiologic and program data and assess progress, risks, and management, logistic and financial gaps with a view to identifying areas for PPG and/or GPEI interventions;
4. Support and undertake diplomatic and advocacy interventions to mitigate political and programmatic risks.
5. Support and undertake diplomatic and advocacy interventions to mobilize the necessary short-term and long-term financial resources for polio eradication, including the “endgame.”

The PPG will meet in-person at least two times per year, with the possibility of holding additional ad-hoc conference calls or meetings. Decision-making will be by consensus. Written summaries of the meeting discussions will be distributed to stakeholders.

Membership

Membership is inclusive and will be comprised of senior representatives of the Strategy Committee, agencies (World Health Organization, UNICEF, Rotary International,

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), donors/prospective donors, polio-affected countries and key non-governmental organizations/foundations working in polio eradication.

Meetings and Operational Procedures

Chair: The Chair (or Co-chair) is a member of the PPG but not a representative of one of the core polio implementing partners (i.e., WHO and UNICEF). The Chair is elected by the PPG.

PPG Meetings: The PPG meetings are high-level meetings held at the ambassadorial/senior-officials level. Results are reported to the Polio Oversight Board. The high-level meetings focus on strategic issues that require senior comment and orientation, building on the outcomes of the Working Group.

PPG Working Group Meetings: The PPG Working Group meetings are open-ended and convened at the programmatic/technical level. Results are reported to the PPG.

Meeting topics: Main discussion items at PPG and/or PPG Working Group meetings will typically include a review and discussion of: 1) global, regional and country-level program risks and priorities, including risks in polio-free countries; 2) strategy and work plans to address these risks and priorities; 3) recent and future advocacy to improve implementation by enhancing operational quality; 4) financing and financial risks; and 5) recent and future advocacy to mobilize financial resources for the program. Key meeting outcomes will include input into strategic and action plans and endorsement of work plans and budgets; identification of concrete actions that individual participants, and their organizations, can take to help mitigate risks; and the identification of mechanisms to ensure these actions are coordinated with those of other PPG members, to ensure maximum coherence and impact.

Sources of information for meetings will include: GPEI Independent Monitoring Board (IMB) reports; Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) documentation; GPEI's weekly EPI/program situation analyses and monthly risk analyses; GPEI quarterly monitoring of strategic plan milestones and indicators; quarterly assessments of risks to the quality of polio surveillance and supplementary immunization activities conducted by the US CDC; Financial Resource Requirements (FRR) documentation; and UNICEF's quarterly reports on communications indicators.

Links with other polio coordination/monitoring groups

The PPG in-person meetings generally will take place in conjunction with one or more meetings of other groups working on issues related to GPEI, such as the SAGE or IMB, so that PPG attendees have the opportunity to be fully informed on the polio program. PPG members will be invited to the open sessions of the IMB and the polio sessions of the SAGE. PPG members are encouraged to request their organization's participation in Interagency Coordinating Committee and Technical Advisory Group meetings in key polio-affected countries, to ensure synergy between headquarters and country operations.