**MINUTES OF THE WORLD BANK MEETING WITH CPHL 19TH APRIL 2018 IN THE ED’S BOARDROOM**

**AGENDA**

1. Prayer
2. Introductions
3. Brief over view of UNHLS
4. Over view of NMRL
5. Communication from World Bank
6. Discussion and way forward
7. Facility tour

**Min 1: Prayer**

Prayer was led by Mr. Pimundu Godfrey

**Min 2: Brief over view of UNHLS**

The ED welcomed the guests and gave an overview of the CPHL in terms of its mandate and organizational structure.

She emphasized on the role of NMRL in support to disease surveillance and outbreak response in the country and its collaboration with other national reference laboratories such as UVRI, NADDEC, JCRC and COVAB.

**Min 3**: **Challenges of NMRL**

These were summarized as:-

* Biosafety level 3 laboratory is not yet completed and not functional
* Lack of a mechanism for a steady acquisition of supplies to operationalize molecular testing for key agents which are difficult to culture such as Anthrax, Brucella and Campylobacter.
* Lack of critical reagents for testing both routine and surveillance samples
* Lack of reliable means of transport for the laboratory to respond quickly to outbreaks and other public health events
* Majority of the staff in Microbiology laboratory work as volunteers
* Need for additional capacity building for the Microbiology staff in specialized areas like Molecular testing techniques

**Min4: Remarks from World Bank team**

The World Bank Representative inUganda Dr. Peter Okweroshared the background of the EAPHLN which is financed with a loan from the World Bank. He said that at the time of the project inception laboratories were selected in each of the East African country to be supported by the project. He added that it was onlyin Uganda that the national public health laboratory (CPHL) was not selected to be supported for the reason that it already appeared to have been adequately supportedby other partners at that time.

The EAPHLN project is composed of three major components which are;

1. Laboratory services
2. Training /Capacity building
3. Operational research

Additional financing geared towards strengthening capacity is also available to support disease surveillance. This money isnot easily accessible and therefore, the need to follow up with the Ministry through the PS/Minister, so that it can be put in use to sort out some of the challenges of NMRL.There has also been an observation of poor coordination and when laboratories are assessed, most of them are found to lack work plans and they do not meet their service delivery targets. Dr. Okwero therefore advised that TWGs be formed to support specific areas within the project scope.

In response to the operationalization of the BSL3 lab, he said it was hard to handle this within the existing scope of the project.

Supplementing Dr.Okwero’s remarks, Dr. Martin Matu added that the project is supporting AMR surveillance and all other aspects of AMR control He added that CPHL/UNHLS needs to be cautious on the funding conflicts and therefore, there is need to look at the project documents carefully. The project is only left with 2 years and therefore CPHL needs to work very fast to access the funds available which implies that by 15th/May/2018 the work plans and budgets from CPHL-NMRL should havebeen submitted to the project secretariat Caution should be taken not to be over ambitious in what is requested from the project

The project team advised that the plans should be focused to;

* Massive production of quality culture media for national consumption
* Training in critical lab areas related to disease and AMR surveillance
* EQA panel production
* Procurement of critical supplies.

**ACTION POINTS**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| N0. | Action Item | Responsible person | Timeline |
| 1. | Submit the budgeted work plan before May 15th so that all the process are done in timely to increase on the chances of approval | ED and Dr. Najjuka Grace | 2 Weeks |
| 2. | Follow-up on formation of TWG to support and implement proposed project activities | ED | 1 Week |
| 3. | TWG to meet and review project documents and align it with other funding agencies | ED | 2 Weeks |

**ATTENDANCE LIST**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Organization** | **Email** |
| DR SUSAN NABADDA | ED UNHLS | sndidde@yahoo.co.uk |
| STEVEN AISU | SLA UNHLS | nyondodu@gmail.com |
| G.P MUJUZI | STA | gmujuzi@yahoo.com |
| PIMUNDU GODFREY | SMLTA | gpimundu@hotmail.com |
| FRED URINGTHO | LQMS ADVISOR | freduringtho@gmail.com |
| MUYIGI TONNY | LAB TECH | Mutonik545@gmail.com |
| NALTIN MATU | PROJECT COORDINATOR | mmaru@ecsa.or.tz |
| MUSHI BENEDICT | M&E SPECIALIST | bmushi@ecsa.or.tz |
| PETER OKWERO | WORD BANK | pokero@worldbank.org |
| JOSEPH SENZOGA | OP OFFICER EAPHLNP | senzogajoseph@yahoo.co.uk |
| DR GRACE NAJJUKA | NMRL DIRECTOR | gnajjuka@gmail.com |