

Cross Party Group on Malawi
Wednesday 5th February 2014
13.30-15.00
Scottish Parliament, CR3

MINUTES

Attendees:

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| 1. Maureen Watt MSP | 8. Elaine Mullan(Concern Worldwide) |
| 2. Liam McArthur MSP | 9. Elspeth Pentland (SMP Director) |
| 3. Barry Allsop (Sue Ryder) | 10. George Wootton (Africa Health Trust) |
| 4. Brian Ferguson (Sue Ryder) | 11. Joyce Nicol (MMF/Audit Malawi) |
| 5. Charlie Bevan (Scotland Malawi Partnership) | 12. Josephine Munthali (Child Support Project) |
| 6. David Stevenson (SMP Member) | 13. Martyn Edelsten (SMP Member) |
| 7. David Hope-Jones(Scotland Malawi Partnership) | 14. Peter Jeffries (GalvMed) |
| | 15. Peter Wells(GalvMed) |

1. Welcome and minutes from previous meeting

Maureen Watt MSP (MW) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were noted from: Peter West , Jackie Baillie MSP, Sarah Boyack MSP, Annabelle Ewing MSP, Hugh Henry MSP and Claudia Beamish MSP

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the 11th December were noted as accurate by the group.

3. Presentation Peter Jeffries, Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed)

MW welcomed Peter Jeffries, Chief Executive of the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed), to the CPG on Malawi. GALVmed's objective, currently funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development, is carried out in partnership with numerous other organisations and individuals, from university researchers through to multinationals.

The Centre for Ticks & Tick-borne Diseases (CTTBD) is the African Union-owned centre of excellence based in Lilongwe, Malawi, offering support to the whole of Africa. Ticks cause major economic loss in cattle as they damage hides, reducing the value of the animal and, more importantly, carry a range of parasitic diseases which are transferred to cattle when the ticks feed. Although there are a number of diseases carried by ticks in Africa, by far the most important is East Coast Fever, which affects cattle from southern Africa through to Ethiopia. In infected areas, mortality can be around 50%. Fortunately, a vaccine, or more correctly, an infection and treatment approach is available, which confers solid, life-long immunity. The Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed) has worked with the CTTBD to re-equip their laboratories and facilities, as well as providing management and technical guidance, to ensure that reliable supplies are produced from the centre after an extended period out of production. The first batch is due to be released in July 2014. Despite this good news, there remains a lot which can be done to improve both the vaccine and the manufacturing site.

The CTTBD supports the production of vaccines (predominantly East Coast Fever vaccine) and is owned by the African Union. It is a Malawi-based organisation meeting Africa's needs. East Coast fever (ECF) is the single biggest killer of cattle in Africa, killing more than 1 million cattle each year. The ECF vaccine is highly effective but

is expensive to administer and difficult to store (it requires to be kept cool in liquid nitrogen). However GALVmed see this as a great basis for building a private sector veterinary service, and is looking to invest in this area in order to protect livestock and therefore improve human lives.

The slides for the powerpoint presentation can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).

4. Q and A with Peter Jeffries, Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicines (GALVmed)

PJ was asked questions regarding the distribution of the vaccine in Malawi, in which he recognized there is currently a challenge with regards to supply chains and the refrigeration requirement of the nitrogen. He was also asked to comment on the why GalvMed had chosen to set up as a not-for-profit company, and whether they had looked as more cooperative models. PJ informed the meeting that GALVMed do indeed train their clients in groups, although they weren't necessarily cooperatives. PJ also answered questions relating to the preemptive controlling the spread of the tick, the opportunities for further vaccine manufacturing in Malawi and securing sustainable funding for this area of work.

5. AOB

DHJ gave an update on the recent Malawi Scotland Partnership events held in Malawi in January 2014, including their AGM and Annual Symposium and festivities around the Queen's Baton relay in Malawi.

Date of next meeting: 11th June 2014, 5.30-7pm, CR4. The topic of the meeting will be Malawi's 2014 elections.