3-Year Forecasting of Commodities (medicines) – Compilation Working Groups Discussion

The proposed methodology for 3-year forecasting is to use the data from 2025 JRSM and determine what will be change in 2026 and 2027. The questions on the next page are proposed to help calculate forecasts for 2026 and 2027.

1. Do you expect to have full funding for MDA?

- **Response Options:** It was suggested to revise the possible answers to "Yes," "No," and "Unconfirmed," with clear definitions provided to reduce ambiguity. Another suggestion was to add more nuanced options such as "Funding in discussion," "Pending," or "Approved" to reflect the status of funding more accurately.
- **Link to IU Planner:** One group recommended linking this question to an IU planner for easier completion and reference.
- **Consideration of MDA Rounds:** Some groups proposed that the question should also inquire about how many rounds of MDA are planned and whether full funding is secured for all rounds. Responses could include "Yes," "No," or "Partial," acknowledging that sometimes different rounds are funded by different partners.
- **Stratification by Drug Package:** It was suggested that the question should be stratified by drug package rather than by disease to account for integrated delivery.

2. Do you expect any changes to the population requiring MDA due to recent surveys?

- **Expansion Beyond Surveys:** The question should not be limited to changes due to surveys but should consider all factors that might influence population changes. The phrasing could be adjusted to reflect this broader scope.
- **Response Options:** Groups recommended adding a "Maybe" option to the existing "Yes" and "No" responses. This would account for situations where the certainty of population changes is unclear.
- **Additional Considerations:** There should be an option to specify what changes are expected, such as stopping MDA, decreasing frequency, increasing frequency, maintaining frequency, or resuming MDA.
- **Alignment with Donor Expectations:** Some feedback emphasized that the question should allow for responses that align with what donors or pharmaceutical companies expect, considering the likelihood of certain outcomes based on survey results.

3. Do you expect to target new population groups?

- **Response Options:** In addition to "Yes" and "No," a "Maybe" option was suggested. Additionally, there should be an option to indicate the certainty of the response.
- **Targeted Population Groups:** The list of population groups should include options such as preschool-age children, school-age children, women of reproductive age, adults, and other specific groups like those in refugee camps.
- **Stratification by Disease:** The targeted population groups should be aligned with the specific disease being addressed, as different diseases may require different population groups to be targeted.

4. For schisto, are you changing to a focal sub-IU? (Are there other diseases where this also applies?)

- **Applicability Across Diseases:** Several groups suggested removing the specific reference to schistosomiasis (SCH) in this question, as it can apply to other diseases, such as lymphatic filariasis (LF). The question could be made more generic to be relevant across multiple diseases.
- **Stratification and Endemicity:** The question should be stratified by disease where applicable and include considerations of endemicity, as this often dictates the number of rounds, treatment frequency, and target populations.
- **Population Targeting:** If the answer is "Yes," the question should prompt the user to specify the new population targeted for the IU. Additionally, the question should consider whether the IU is due for an assessment in the coming year.

Additional Suggested Questions and Considerations:

- **Survey Requirements:** Groups suggested adding a question to determine if a survey is required and, if so, what type of survey is needed and what the expected outcome might be (e.g., stopping MDA, increasing or decreasing frequency).

- **Effective MDA Rounds:** A question should be included to ask about the number of effective MDA rounds conducted to date and the number of expected additional rounds. This information could be auto-populated from existing reports like the JRF.

- **Introduction of Endemicity Data:** It was recommended to introduce information on endemicity, which could be auto-populated from the JRSM, as this often influences the number of rounds, treatment frequency, and target populations.

- **Clarification of Terms:** There was a suggestion to clarify what is meant by "full funding" for MDA, ensuring that respondents understand it as having funding for all activities related to MDA.

- **Feasibility for Countries:** The questions were generally deemed feasible for countries to answer, but it was noted that there would be several assumptions behind each response. Therefore, it is important to make these assumptions clear in the questionnaire.