



GLOBAL TASK FORCE ON CHOLERA CONTROL

Global Task Force on Cholera Control Independent Review Panel Terms of Reference

1. Principles and Purpose

- 1.1. The GTFCC reviews will be governed by four key principles: consistency, transparency, objectiveness, and independence. To reflect these principles, the GTFCC has developed a set of review criteria that will be applied to every NCP review.
- 1.2. The Independent Review Panel (IRP) is an independent, impartial team of experts appointed by the GTFCC Steering Committee as proposed by Secretariat, with the responsibility of providing rigorous, independent technical assessment of country National Cholera Plans for Control or Elimination (NCPs).
- 1.3. The IRP will be responsible for assessing NCPs from a technical perspective, focusing on: (i) the multi-sectoral approach and its alignment with the *Ending Cholera: A Global Roadmap to 2030* (Roadmap) goals; (ii) the situational analysis, including cholera risk assessment; and (iii) the feasibility of the proposed interventions and their alignment with the situational analysis by Roadmap pillar of the NCP framework.¹
- 1.4. The IRP advises the GTFCC Secretariat in the endorsement of country NCPs.

2. Composition

- 2.1. The IRP is a set group of 5 to 10 experts, that are GTFCC members.
- 2.2. The IRP constitutes an independent committee.
- 2.3. The IRP members serve in their individual capacity and do not represent their employer, government or any other entity.
- 2.4. IRP members must indicate to the GTFCC Secretariat if they have an interest, affiliation, or other factor that may create actual or perceived conflict of interest.
- 2.5. Collectively, the IRP members shall have:
 - 2.5.1. Strong technical expertise in cholera, in at least one of the following: epidemiology, surveillance, management of care, oral cholera vaccines (OCV), water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and community engagement.
 - 2.5.2. Strong programmatic and operational experience in developing, implementing, budgeting, managing, and evaluating and / or reviewing programs related to disease control or elimination at the country level.
 - 2.5.3. Public health expertise including a good understanding and knowledge of health system strengthening frameworks.

¹ The NCP framework proposes 6 pillars: coordination, surveillance, management of care, oral cholera vaccines, water, sanitation and hygiene, and community engagement.

- 2.5.4. Geographically diverse experiences, including persons who work or have worked with a broad range of organisations (e.g., country governments, civil society organisations, or other partners) in multiple developing countries and in different contexts (e.g., humanitarian or crisis)
- 2.5.5. Up-to-date knowledge of the latest scientific evidence related to cholera, GTFCC guidance on the development of NCPs and normative guidance relating to cholera

3. Operating Model

- 3.1. On behalf of the GTFCC Steering Committee, the GTFCC Secretariat will be responsible for managing the IRP process, including, but not limited to, identifying its members and ensuring appropriate and timely communication between IRP members and countries. The GTFCC Secretariat cannot serve as a member of the IRP.
- 3.2. The review is kicked-off via a teleconference (or in-person meeting if deemed necessary) with the country to provide a high-level overview of their NCP and country-specific goals (Week 1)
- 3.3. The IRP members will conduct a desk review and utilise the GTFCC approved criteria to review and score a country's NCP, formulating an initial assessment and conclusion of the kick-off meeting (Week 2-4).
- 3.4. Upon the initial conclusion of the desk review, the IRP members should present their initial findings and any questions to the GTFCC Secretariat and submitting country (via telephone or in-person) to allow for any clarifications (Week 4).
- 3.5. Based on the desk review and follow-up conversation, the IRP members will finalize their assessment and conclusions by preparing a short report outlining their review of the NCP including, if needed, suggestions to improve the NCPs. (Week 5-6)
- 3.6. This report should immediately be shared with the country by the GTFCC Secretariat, this report should not exceed 5 pages and should only contain key conclusions and recommendations. This should be followed by a telephone or in-person discussion between the country and the GTFCC secretariat to ensure all key points and considerations are appropriately communicated to the country (Week 6).
- 3.7. The IRP should report to the GTFCC Secretariat any lessons learned particularly related to assisting other countries with their NCP development and the endorsement process.