

Establishing the operational arm of the Global Task Force on Cholera Control via a Country Support Platform: Request for Letters of Inquiry

Proposal Deadline: 28 February 2020

Overview

Background

The **Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC)**, whose Secretariat is housed at the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, is a partnership of more than 50 institutions, including NGOs, academic institutions, and UN agencies. The GTFCC brings together groups working across multiple sectors to support countries in the implementation of the [Ending Cholera – A Global Roadmap to 2030](#), which targets a 90% reduction in cholera deaths and cholera elimination in 20 countries.

Cholera affected countries have called for additional technical support from the Global Task Force on Cholera Control in the implementation of their National Control Plans. At its 6th annual meeting, the GTFCC recognized that it currently lacks the capacity and structure to provide such support and proposed a new operational model. This operational model includes the establishment of an operational arm of the GTFCC, or Country Support Platform (CSP), to support countries in their efforts to control cholera. The CSP would work as part of the GTFCC structure and would lead the GTFCC multi-sectorial support to countries. The structure also includes the WHO cholera control program that ensures the technical leadership; oversees the work of Working Groups; ensures the alignment of norms and standards with those of WHO and other partners; and coordinates the development of cholera research agenda. The coordination between WHO cholera program and CPS is through the GTFCC secretariat which works under the supervision of and reports to the GTFCC Steering Committee.

Anticipated Outcomes

We anticipate that a grantee will support the establishment and host the CSP that is set up to provide GTFCC multi sectoral operational support to countries for the implementation of their National Control Plans (NCPs) in close collaboration with the Secretariat and partners of the Task Force. The CSP should be set up in a way that ensures that activities are conducted in close adherence with the *Ending Cholera - A Global Roadmap to 2030*. It is expected that once established, the CSP will fundraise in order to have enough resources to meet the in-country support needs of different elements of a multi-sectoral approach in service to the 47 countries currently affected by cholera.

Guided by GTFCC Secretariat priorities, the CSP will:

- Coordinate technical assistance (short, medium and long term) to countries, the delivery of commodities, advocacy and fundraising for the NCPs, monitoring & evaluation of national plans, and the implementation of research projects.
- Manage the short, medium and long-term deployment of GTFCC multi-sectoral expertise in countries, including for advocacy, coordination and policy guidance.
- Fundraise to secure needed resources to sustain and expand the CSP to provide country-support.

We envisage that while this country support will ramp up as the CSP is established and other donors contribute to the effort, the CSP will at minimum support for the development of evidence-based NCPs that include the integration of Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV) as a key element of the prevention and response strategy. The CSP will build on the momentum that is underway and to support efforts to optimize OCV use.

Scope and Approach

To achieve the outcomes listed above, we envision a 3-year program that will set up the CSP platform so that the GTFCC has the ability to provide timely and comprehensive country-support for the implementation of National Cholera Control Plans. The CSP will be based in Geneva, Switzerland (or surrounding area) to facilitate the coordination with the GTFCC Secretariat and with the WHO cholera program, who are based in Geneva.

In the inception period, the CSP will work towards providing full support to countries that is laid out in the overall scope below through this grant and also by fundraising from other sources. This seed funding will help the CSP get established and solidify its role as part of the GTFCC. While working towards the overall scope of the CSP, the grantee will support the integration of OCV in NCPs and implementation of OCV in key countries (countries to be determined in consultation with the GTFCC secretariat) by providing, at minimum, technical expertise in this area of cholera control.

The overall scope of the CSP includes:

1) Mobilization and deployment of technical expertise

- Mobilize experts from GTFCC partner organizations and beyond to support the development and implementation of multisectoral NCPs. This will be done in agreement with national governments and partners across sectors and it will be well-articulated with the global strategy and in alignment with the GTFCC secretariat.
- Mobilize international project managers (“GTFCC cholera focal points”) for long term deployments in countries to support the coordination of NCPs, integrated within national coordinating mechanisms, and provide them with guidance and support in all aspects of cholera control in alignment with the GTFCC secretariat.
- Provide technical expertise on all aspects of cholera control, particularly on WaSH, OCV and surveillance while building upon local capacities at all levels in alignment with the GTFCC secretariat.
- Build the capacities of the focus countries to implement multi-sectoral, integrated interventions for cholera control.
- Support countries to ensure high quality applications for accessing OCV through the appropriate mechanism (global stockpile, Gavi) and other required multi-sectoral inputs and make necessary revisions and adjustments according to context as needed.
- Support the reinforcement of in-country surveillance and laboratory capacities, including commodity support where relevant.
- Map and regularly update cholera risk in country by precisely updating cholera hotspots, and map corresponding cholera services including WASH coverage and access to clinical facilities.
- Support the implementation of the cholera research projects in line with the research agenda developed by GTFCC working groups.
- Coordinate the assistance provided independently by GTFCC partner organizations at the country level, in coordination with national within national coordinating mechanisms.
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures and training of experts of the GTFCC partner organizations deployed to support countries in order to standardize multi-sectoral practices, in coordination with the GTFCC working groups.

2) Advocacy and fundraising / management

- Support the development of national investment cases for cholera control.
- Establish and manage a dedicated funding mechanism to support the implementation of countries’ NCPs.

Rules & Guidelines

Eligibility

Funding Criteria

We will consider funding organizations that have the necessary expertise and can deliver high quality, timely results and work in a collaborative way with partners and stakeholders. The CSP will need a presence in the Geneva-area and as such, preference will be given to partners that are already established there. Private, NGO, and academic organizations are all eligible for funding. The organization will serve as the host of the CSP and should have the ability to execute contracts and financial flows in a timely manner. Preference will be given to organizations with country presence in cholera affected countries. Either individual organizations or partnerships/consortiums among organizations will be considered; particularly recognizing that many different skillsets and functions are required. However, one organization must be specified as the lead and may then subcontract specific elements of work.

Exclusion Criteria

We will not consider funding for only portions of this work. The ability to deliver on all of the above outcomes under the approach described is essential to be considered as a CSP.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be selected for funding in a two-phase process that involves (1) short letter of inquiry (LOI) followed by (2) invitations to submit a full proposal to those organizations that successfully demonstrate their ability to meet the criteria below.

Submissions of letter of inquiry received by the deadline will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Alignment with the GTFCC strategy for a CSP,
- Experience and track record in coordinating and working with a broad group of partners and donors,
- Ability to work effectively with host governments,
- Strong country presence in cholera affected countries,
- Capacity to manage funds and contracts in an expedited manner,
- Streamlined and agile systems to support staff deployment to countries,
- Capacity to provide support to staff on deployment (security, logistics, networking),
- Demonstrated experience in advocacy, fundraising, planning, management, and
- Capacity to host the CSP in the Geneva-area.

Activities and Timeline

14 Feb 2020: Request announced.

28 Feb 2020 – 17:00 (U.S. Pacific Standard Time): Deadline for submitting proposals.

10 Mar 2020 – Applicants notified about next steps

How to Submit a Proposal

Response Requirements

Letter of Inquiry should be a maximum of 5 pages (font size 11 or larger) and include the following sections:

1) Organizational (individual or consortium/partnership) capabilities. Provide a summary of the applicant organization (or organizations) previous experience and expertise that is relevant to this RFP process. This should include experience working on similar types of projects. A brief summary of country presence as well as addressing the items listed under the evaluation criteria should be included here.

2) Design and Approach. Describe how the project is designed and how this approach will solve the problem, including key activities. This should include detail on how the proposed approach meets the needs of key stakeholders and their ability to control cholera in their settings. Describe how the proposed approach fits with and will work with the GTFCC structure. Provide a description of possible collaborations and how partnerships will be established, especially with the GTFCC Secretariat, WHO as well as other donors. Please also mention the fundraising activities to further support the long-term sustainability of the platform.

3) Budget Please include a simple budget with high level objectives and the associated costs, broken down by year. We anticipate the total budget available for this platform will be between **\$5M to \$7M USD** for over three (3) years. The final budget will be determined at the full proposal stage and in collaboration with the selected organization.

Submission Instructions

Please submit your application document as an attachment, submitted via email to: GTFCC_RFP@gatesfoundation.org

We will reply to acknowledge receipt when your application is received. All documents must be formatted as follows:

- Maximum of five (5) pages
- Document should be in Word or PDF format
- 11-point font or larger
- Include a simple budget with high level objectives and the associated costs broken out by year. Applicants that are selected to submit a full proposal will be asked to also submit a full budget.

Help Contact(s)

Please send all questions to: GTFCC_RFP@gatesfoundation.org. Questions will be accepted until 24 hours before the deadline. Questions submitted after that time may not be responded to.

More Information

Reference

Global Task Force for Cholera Control: <https://www.gtfcc.org/>

Global Roadmap for Cholera Control: <https://www.gtfcc.org/about-gtfcc/roadmap-2030/>

WHO Cholera Overview: https://www.who.int/health-topics/cholera#tab=tab_1

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Who can participate? This is an open solicitation. We welcome submissions from organizations in all sectors (private, NGO, government, academic) and at all levels of expertise.

When are responses due? Responses are due on **28 February 2020, 17:00 (PST)**.

When will proposals be selected? Applicants will be notified on the status of their application on **10 March 2020**.

Will I receive any compensation for submitting? You will not receive any compensation for your submission even if it is used by the foundation or third parties in any way.

What will the foundation do with my submission? The foundation will review all submissions. We may also share your submission, or ideas contained within it, with the public or partners to ensure that good ideas and new innovations are broadly disseminated and available for use. With this in mind, please ensure that any materials you provide under this solicitation are your own and understand that they foundation and others will have a right to use your submission freely, upon delivery, for noncommercial purposes.

Key Terms and Conditions

A. Disclosure Notice

To help the foundation with its review of RFP responses, the foundation may disclose proposals, documents, communications, and associated materials submitted to the foundation in response to this RFP (collectively, "Submission Materials") to its employees, contingent workers, consultants, independent subject matter experts, and potential co-funders. Please carefully consider the information included in the Submission Materials. If you (the "Applicant") have any doubts about the wisdom of disclosure of confidential or proprietary information, the foundation recommends you consult with your legal counsel and take any steps you deem necessary to protect your intellectual property. You may wish to consider whether such information is critical for evaluating the submission or if more general, non-confidential information may be adequate as an alternative for these purposes.

Notwithstanding the Applicants characterization of any information as being confidential, the foundation the foundation is under no obligation to treat such information as confidential.

B. Disclaimer

This RFP is not an offer to contract or award grant funds. The foundation assumes no responsibility for the Applicants cost to respond to this RFP. All responses generated by this RFP become the property of the foundation.

C. Release and Verification

In exchange for the opportunity to be awarded a grant or contract, the Applicant agrees that the foundation may, in its sole discretion: (1) amend or cancel the RFP, in whole or in part, at any time; (2) extend the deadline for submitting responses; (3) determine whether a response does or does not substantially comply with the requirements of the RFP; (4) waive any minor irregularity, informality or nonconformance with the provisions or procedures of the RFP; (5) issue multiple awards; (6) share responses generated by this RFP with foundation staff, consultants, contingent workers, subject matter experts, and potential co-funders; and (7) copy the responses.

Applicant agrees not to bring a legal challenge of any kind against the foundation relating to the foundation's selection and award of a grant or contract arising from this RFP.

Applicant represents that it has responded to the RFP with complete honesty and accuracy. If facts provided in Applicant's response change, Applicant will supplement its response in writing with any deletions, additions or changes within ten days of the changes. Applicant will do this, as necessary, throughout the selection process. Applicant understands that any material misrepresentation, including omissions, may disqualify it from consideration for a grant or contract award.

By responding to this RFP, you are representing: (i) that you have authority to bind the named Applicant to the terms and conditions set forth above, without amendment; and (ii) that you agree to be bound by them.

D. Global Access and Intellectual Property

Intellectual property (IP) rights and the management of IP rights are likely to play an important role in achieving the goals of this project. To this end, the foundation requires that, even at this stage, all applicants seriously consider their willingness to submit a response in compliance with the foundation's response requirements, a portion of which may ask for certain information and intentions regarding intellectual property concerns and Global Access. Specifically, the foundation requires that:

You will conduct and manage the Project and the Funded Developments in a manner that ensures Global Access. Your Global Access commitments will survive the term of the Agreement. "Funded Developments" means the products, services, processes, technologies, materials, software, data, other innovations, and intellectual property resulting from the Project (including modifications, improvements, and further developments to Background Technology). "Background Technology" means any and all products, services, processes, technologies, materials, software, data, or other innovations, and intellectual property created by You or a third party prior to or outside of the Project used as part of the Project. "Global Access" means: (a) the knowledge and information gained from the Project will be promptly and broadly disseminated; and (b) the Funded Developments will be made available and accessible at an affordable price (i) to people most in need within developing countries, or (ii) in support of the U.S. educational system and public libraries, as applicable to the Project.

The foundation will be selecting applicants based on the conclusion that their technologies and expertise will be most appropriate for the success of this RFP.

As part of the foundation's review and evaluation of each response, the foundation will conduct due diligence with respect to each applicant's ability and commitment to manage intellectual property in a manner consistent with the stated scientific and charitable goals of the foundation. Due diligence activities may include inquiry into an applicant's:

- 1) Freedom to operate (FTO) and ability to freely use and acquire needed background technology;
- 2) Commitment to promote the utilization, commercialization and availability of Funded Developments for public benefit

The foundation encourages you to include this information in your response.

About the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Guided by the belief that every life has equal value, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation works to help all people lead healthy, productive lives. We work with partner organizations worldwide to tackle critical problems in four program areas. Our Global Development Division works to help the world's poorest people lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. Our Global Health Division aims to harness advances in science and technology to save lives in developing countries. Our United States Division works to improve U.S. high school and postsecondary education and support vulnerable children and families in Washington State. And our Global Policy & Advocacy Division seeks to build strategic relationships and promote policies that will help advance our work. Our approach to Grantmaking emphasizes collaboration, innovation, risk-taking, and, most importantly, results.

To learn more about the foundation's work, visit www.gatesfoundation.org.