

# Prioritization of preventive OCV use in hotspots

**Elizabeth C. Lee**

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

3 December 2020

**Goal:** To develop standardized global guidance for the preventive use of oral cholera vaccines (OCV)

**Motivation:** Cholera-affected countries and GTFCC partners are in need of guiding principles for the allocation of OCV and other support for preventive OCV campaigns

- What epidemiological criteria will be used to determine target populations eligible to receive preventive vaccines?
- How to balance competing priorities:
  - a) Equity of vaccine access across countries
  - b) Maximization of vaccine impact and cost-effectiveness
  - c) Flexibility for countries to adapt OCV plans to the local context
  - d) Support for countries nearing elimination

# Updates from the past year

- Discussion of guiding principles at last year's annual meeting (June 2019)
- Members of OCV WG drafted an initial proposal of this guidance (Dec 2019)
- Piloted the preliminary guidance in Ethiopia (Jan 2020)
- Revisions to guidance (ongoing)

# Initial proposal from Dec 2019

Countries would submit a phase 1 preventive OCV request for no more than 10% of the country population with proposed campaign targets according to 2 categories:

- 1) Populations with **automatic eligibility**: Must have high mean annual incidence or moderate mean annual incidence and high persistence
- 2) Populations **requiring additional justification**: Known gaps in surveillance, poor access to WASH, high importation risk despite low incidence

# Feedback and revisions

- OCV request guidance needs to be better integrated with hotspot identification guidance
  - Metrics and standards should be aligned across guidance
  - Confusion about why “hotspots” needed to be selected twice
- Strict thresholds for mean annual incidence may not be equitable to all countries

# Next steps

- Agree upon the priorities for balancing the four competing priorities (equity, health impact & cost-effectiveness, flexibility, and elimination goals)
- GTFCC will draft a document with the guiding principles and interim guidance on policy for preventive OCV use to circulate to the OCV WG by March 2021
- Hotspot subgroup in the surveillance WG, in conjunction with the OCV WG will work on a more permanent and data-driven guidance document

# Open Discussion...

- a) Equity of vaccine access across countries
- b) Maximization of vaccine impact and cost-effectiveness
- c) Flexibility for countries to adapt OCV plans to the local context
- d) Support for countries nearing elimination