



GLOBAL TASK FORCE ON
CHOLERA CONTROL

WASH WG UPDATE
GTFCC WASH WG MEETING — 20-21 MARCH 2023

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CONTENTS

- Reflection on last year
- WG and sub-WG progress 2022-23
- Review of 2022-23 priorities
- Proposal on revised priorities for this year
- Cross-cutting areas
- Challenges and next steps

REFLECTION ON 2022-2023:

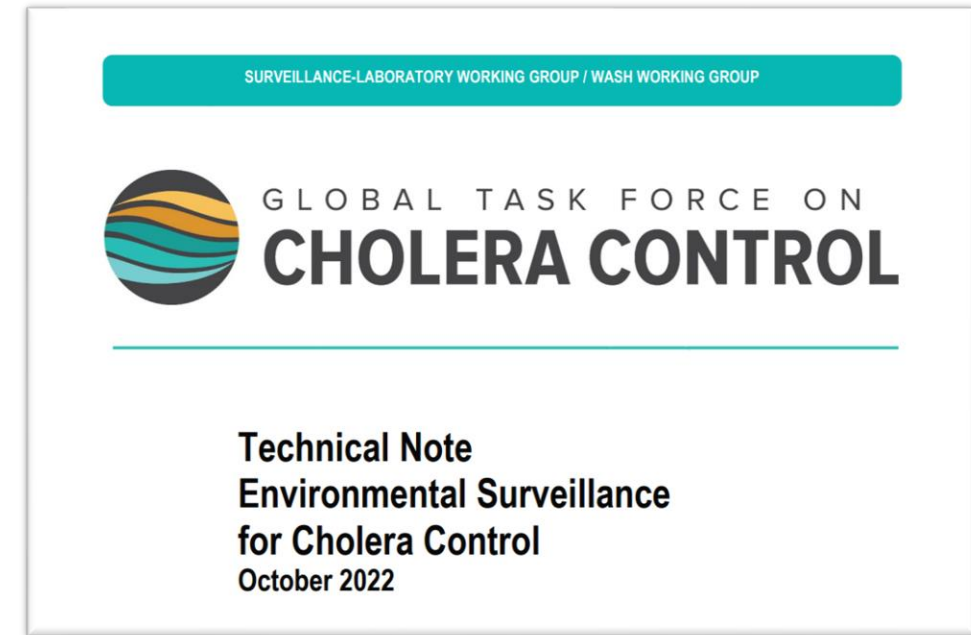
- **WASH WG** started the year (Mar 2022) with huge dynamism and ambition -
 - Excellent engagement from members during last year's WASH WG meeting and a comprehensive Work Plan and Sub-Working group targets planned and shared
 - Planned work diversity aligning with other WGs and annual work priorities
- Unprecedented increase in cholera outbreaks globally from mid-2022 reduced capacity of WG members to deliver on wide-ranging workplan
- Towards end of 2022, decision taken to reprioritise ambitious targets towards key actions with high potential to deliver given members' competing commitments

IMPORTANT ACTIONS DURING 2022-2023:

- Improved **community engagement** and **government involvement** through GTFCC, following recognition last year that these are crucial in successful NCP implementation
- **Ex. Bangladesh:** WaterAid Bangladesh public awareness campaign and high-level advocacy during Dhaka's worst outbreak for 60 years (2022) – transitioning to prevention efforts ahead of peak season through participation in the national technical committee on cholera
- **Cholera and climate:** Productive workshop with Wellcome on developing the research agenda to include the intersection of climate and cholera and elevating climate-resilient water and sanitation services as the only sustainable solution to controlling the global cholera crisis
- Publication of a **WASH-specific technical resource** (detail on next slide)

TECHNICAL NOTE: ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE FOR CHOLERA CONTROL

- Second WASH-specific resources published by GTFCC
- Focused technical guidance on **Free Residual Chlorine (FRC) level testing** and **Fecal Indicator Bacteria (FIB) testing** of drinking water sources for **prevention and control** of cholera outbreaks.
- Context-specific guidance on testing and treatment strategies in:
 - High risk settings (refugee camps, natural disasters, etc)
 - Active cholera outbreaks
 - Between outbreaks in endemic locations and as part of long-term control interventions



AREAS OF WORK PROPOSED IN MARCH 2022 WASH WG MEETING:

	Thematic Areas	Overview
1.	WASH data	Strengthen and develop WASH assessment tools and how data can be used
2	WASH in NCPs	Provide guidance, tools, and methodologies to strengthen WASH components of NCPs
3.	Integration WASH & OCV	Strengthen understanding of the opportunities and approach to integrate WASH & OCV
4.	Advocacy	Increase WASH funding in cholera hotspots
5.	Research	Ensure WASH-related cholera research is shared, communicated and taken up in policy & practice.

AREAS OF WORK PROPOSED IN MARCH 2022 WASH WG MEETING:

6.	WASH capacity & training	Strengthen and develop WASH specific training resources as part of the cross-cutting GTFCC training strategy
7.	Case Studies	Development of WASH related case studies for
8.	Hygiene & Food Safety	Strengthen hygiene components within GTFCC resources including for NCP development
9.	Water Safety Plans & Water Quality Management	Develop GTFCC guidance and best practice on WSP and WQM
10	WASH & IPC	Integration of WASH and IPC in global agendas and facilitate strengthening links at country level

TOWARDS REFOCUSED PRIORITIES FOR 2023 AND BEYOND:

- Consensus that there were too many work streams in 2022-23 to operationalize and achieve results
- Discussion of how to revise priorities, with a focus on areas that have high potential to deliver
- Merge work streams under key themes to enhance focus without losing progress on important pieces of work
- Implement action on focus areas for the rest of 2023-24 session, and possibly over a longer period to support medium-term planning

CHALLENGES & NEXT STEPS:

- Ongoing global cholera crisis in the context of a global ‘poly-crisis’ means scarce resources require prioritisation amongst competing commitments and limited capacity
- Engagement needed from all WASH WG members to attain the objectives and scope of this WG, including activation of Sub-Working Group leads to facilitate the work of the group
- Prioritise key activities and ensure high quality delivery and dissemination
- Enhance community engagement in delivery of the objectives of the group
- Elevate cholera in the global health landscape to garner critical investment for long-term WASH, targeted to hotspots to maximise return on investment

Thank you

Together we can
#endcholera



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