



Identification of PAMIs

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For any additional question, please contact the GTFCC Secretariat:

GTFCCsecretariat@who.int




What are PAMIs & what is PAMI identification?

- **What are PAMIs?**

The Global Roadmap to End Cholera calls for national control and elimination strategies spatially targeted to priority areas. These areas are the **Priority Areas for Multisectoral Interventions** or PAMIs.

PAMIs were formerly referred to as “hotspots”.


 To learn more about the Global Roadmap to End cholera: [here](#)

- **What is the purpose of PAMI identification?**

PAMI identification is a decision-making step performed to inform **intervention planning**. It aims to guide the geographic targeting of interventions across cholera prevention and control pillars.

It is one of the first steps to develop (or update) a **National Cholera Plan**.

To achieve effective and sustainable cholera control and elimination, multisectoral interventions should be implemented in PAMIs.

 To learn more about the development of National Cholera Plans: [here](#)

- **When should a country identify PAMIs?**

Countries affected by cholera and at risk for cholera should identify PAMIs.

In addition, the identification of PAMIs should be updated periodically.

Typically, the identification of PAMIs should be updated when a new version of a National Cholera Plan is developed (roughly **every five years**).

Earlier updates may be considered if there are significant changes in the cholera epidemiological situation, cholera surveillance, or vulnerabilities to cholera outbreaks.

- **How long does it take to identify PAMIs?**

The identification of PAMIs usually takes **6 months**.

Careful anticipation and planning of PAMI identification are required to ensure a smooth articulation with the next steps (including -and not limited to- consideration of timelines for the preparation of a Preventive Oral Cholera Vaccine Multi-Year Plan of Action and the strict deadlines for its submission).

Month 1	Inception of PAMI identification
Months 2 & 3	Data collection and filling GTFCC Excel tool
Month 4	Stakeholder validation workshop
Month 5	Documentation of PAMI identification in a report
Month 6	GTFCC PAMI review

What are the GTFCC methods for PAMI identification?

• Why should countries use a GTFCC PAMI method?

Documenting that PAMIs were identified in accordance with a GTFCC method is a **prerequisite** for countries to move forward smoothly in the next steps following PAMI identification.

For example, a country that cannot document that its PAMIs were identified in accordance with a GTFCC PAMI method:

- will not be able to access to Oral Cholera Vaccine for preventive use;
- will not be able to have its National Cholera Plan endorsed by the GTFCC.

• Why are there two GTFCC PAMI methods?

There are two distinct GTFCC methods for the identification of PAMIs. One is for the identification of PAMIs for cholera control. The other one is for the identification of PAMIs for cholera elimination.

In countries where there has been **moderate to high cholera transmission** in recent years, the identification of PAMIs is based primarily on an assessment of the cholera burden to identify areas most affected by cholera. In these countries, a National Cholera Plan should aim to control cholera. Therefore, the GTFCC method for PAMI identification to be used in these countries is referred to as “**identification of PAMIs for cholera control**”.

In countries where there has been **no to low cholera transmission** in recent years, the cholera burden has been low in most areas. As a result, the identification of PAMIs cannot rely on an assessment of the cholera burden, this is why a different method applies. In these countries, the identification of PAMIs is based primarily on an assessment of areas most vulnerable to cholera (re)emergence. In these countries, a National Cholera Plan should aim to achieve sustainable cholera elimination. Therefore, the GTFCC method for PAMI identification to be used in these countries is referred to as “**identification of PAMIs for cholera elimination**”.



To learn more about the two GTFCC methods for PAMIs identification: [here](#)

• How to determine which GTFCC PAMI method to use?

Countries where confirmed cholera outbreaks were reported in **less than five percent of the areas** of the country over a period corresponding to at least the past five years should identify **PAMIs for cholera elimination**.

Other countries should identify **PAMIs for cholera control**.

• Why should countries with no to low cholera transmission still identify their PAMIs?

As long as vulnerability factors for cholera outbreaks persist in a country, the country is at **risk for cholera reemergence**.

To eliminate cholera as a threat to public health in a sustainable manner, countries with no to low cholera transmission should maintain their efforts to prevent the reemergence of cholera outbreaks by mitigating cholera vulnerabilities in PAMIs thanks to the implementation of a National Cholera Plan.

How to identify PAMIs for cholera control?

- **How are PAMIs for cholera control selected?**

Using retrospective surveillance data for at least the past five years, each geographic unit of a country is scored according to a **numeric priority index**. This priority index represents multiple dimensions of the **cholera burden** (incidence, mortality, persistence, cholera test positivity).

Then, country stakeholders decide in a **participatory manner, based on consensus**, on a priority index threshold value taking into account the feasibility and the public health impact of the future National Cholera Plan. Geographic units of the country with a priority index value above the selected threshold are PAMIs.

In addition, optionally, if country stakeholders determine that the priority index lacks reliability in some geographic units, local contextual knowledge that includes vulnerability to cholera transmission may be considered to select a limited number of additional PAMIs.



To learn more about key principles for the identification of PAMIs for cholera control: [here](#)

- **What are the GTFCC supporting materials?**

A **guidance document** describes the GTFCC method for the identification of PAMIs for cholera control. It is available in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#).

An **Excel-tool** automates the calculations for the identification of PAMIs for cholera control. It is available in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#).

A **user guide** provides step by step instructions for preparing the data and using the Excel tool for the identification of PAMIs for cholera control. It is available in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#).

A **data template** helps format the data to upload it into the Excel tool for the identification of PAMIs for cholera control. This template must be strictly followed for the Excel-tool to operate. It is available in [English](#) (compatible with Arabic and Portuguese versions of the Excel-tool) and in [French](#).

Training datasets are available for users to familiarize themselves with the use of the Excel-tool for the identification of PAMIs for cholera control. There are three training datasets in English (compatible with the Arabic and Portuguese versions of the Excel-tool): [Training Dataset 1](#), [Training Dataset 2](#), [Training Dataset 3](#), and there are three training datasets in French : [Jeu Données 1](#), [Jeu Données 2](#), [Jeu Données 3](#).



To access all GTFCC supporting material for the identification of PAMIs for cholera control: [here](#)

- **How to request additional technical support?**

For any questions or request for technical support to identify PAMIs for cholera control, please contact the GTFCC secretariat: GTFCCsecretariat@who.int.

How to identify PAMIs for cholera elimination?

- **How are PAMIs for cholera elimination selected?**

Using retrospective surveillance data over at least the past 5 years, all geographic units of a country where **confirmed cholera outbreaks** were reported are identified as PAMIs.

In addition, each geographic unit of the country is scored according to a **numeric vulnerability index**. This vulnerability index considers **vulnerability factors** relevant in the country-specific context associated with the introduction of *V. cholerae*, the onset of a cholera outbreak or the spread of a cholera outbreak.

Then, country stakeholders decide in a **participatory manner, based on consensus**, on a vulnerability index threshold value taking into account the feasibility and the public health impact of the future National Cholera Plan. Geographic units of the country with a vulnerability index value above the selected threshold are also PAMIs.



To learn more about key principles for the identification of PAMIs for cholera elimination: [here](#)

- **What are the GTFCC supporting materials?**

A **guidance document** describes the GTFCC method for the identification of PAMIs for cholera elimination. It is available in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#).

An **Excel-tool** automates the calculations for the identification of PAMIs for cholera elimination. It is available in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#).

A **user guide** provides step by step instructions for preparing the data and using the Excel tool for the identification of PAMIs for cholera elimination. It is available in [Arabic](#), [English](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#).

A **data template** helps format the data to upload it into the Excel tool for the identification of PAMIs for cholera elimination. This template must be strictly followed for the Excel-tool to operate. It is available in [English](#) (compatible with Arabic and Portuguese versions of the Excel-tool) and in [French](#).

A **Training dataset** is available for users to familiarize themselves with the use of the Excel-tool for the identification of PAMIs for cholera elimination. It is available in [English](#) (compatible with the Arabic and Portuguese versions of the Excel-tool) and in [French](#).



To access all GTFCC supporting material for the identification of PAMIs for cholera elimination: [here](#)

- **How to request additional technical support?**

For any questions or request for technical support to identify PAMIs for cholera elimination, please contact the GTFCC secretariat: GTFCCsecretariat@who.int.

What to do next once PAMIs have been identified?

- **How to document PAMI identification?**

Upon completion of PAMI identification, the methods and outcomes should be documented in a PAMI identification report following standard templates:

- **Template report** on PAMI identification for cholera **control** : [here](#)
- **Template report** on PAMI identification for cholera **elimination** : [here](#)

- **What is the immediate next step after documentation of PAMI identification?**

National Authorities are strongly encouraged to request an **independent technical review** of PAMI identification by the GTFCC shortly after PAMI identification and **before moving on to planning interventions in PAMIs**.

In particular, this is formally required for countries planning to request Oral Cholera Vaccine for preventive use and/or to submit their National Cholera Plan for GTFCC endorsement.

To request a GTFCC PAMI review, please contact the GTFCC secretariat: GTFCCsecretariat@who.int



To learn more about GTFCC PAMI reviews: [here](#)