

Leadership Team Meeting Teleconference

1 August 2018

Participants

Leadership team members

- Bill Simmons (Leadership Team Chair), President & CEO, American Leprosy Missions
- Mauricio Lisboa Nobre, Technical Advisor, The Brazilian Leprosy Program, General Coordination of Leprosy and Diseases in Elimination (CGHDE)
- José Ramirez, Chair, International Association for Integration, Dignity and Economic Advancement (IDEA)
- Tanya Wood, CEO, International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP)

Invited guests

- Christine Fenenga, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy, Coordinator, Operational Excellence working group
- Bart Vander Plaetse, Deputy Director FAIRMED; member of ILEP ITC (Chair, Operational Excellence working group)

Secretariat

- David Addiss, Senior Advisor, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy
- Jessica Cook, Communications Director, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy
- Courtenay Dusenbury, Secretariat Director, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy
- Christine Jonesteller, Project Manager, Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy

Invited but unable to attend

- Jan van Berkel, President, International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP)
- Arielle Cavaliero, Leprosy Project Manager, Novartis Foundation
- Erwin Cooreman, Team Leader, Global Leprosy Programme, WHO (observer)
- Roch Christian Johnson, President, International Leprosy Association (ILA)
- Anil Kumar, Deputy Director General (Leprosy), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
- Taye Letta, Leprosy Prevention and Control Manager, Ministry of Health, Ethiopia
- Fareed Mirza, Head of Research, Novartis Foundation (Chair, Research Agenda working group)
- Takahiro Nanri, Executive Director, Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation
- W. Cairns Smith, Emeritus Professor of Public Health, University of Aberdeen

I. Welcome and Update by Leadership Team Chair Bill Simmons

II. Secretariat update

Long-Term Milestones

- Courtenay Dusenbury presented draft GPZL Long-Term Milestones, based on the “visioning” discussion during the March 2018 Leadership Team meeting in Colchester, which defined the Partnership’s long-term goal and objectives.
- The document lays out how the Partnership’s stated goal of country capacity-building will be achieved. Its suggested methods are a result of best practices from other NTD groups and public health efforts. The GPZL wants to create a menu of approaches for individual countries to select.
- The purpose of this milestone graphic is to: 1) ensure alignment on our approach; 2) provide clarity to both working groups on how they fit into the effort; 3) add substance to the identity and structure of the Operational Excellence roadmap; 4) provide clarity to our additional members and partners; and, 5) outline our methods for potential donors.
- The milestones will be assessed and revised by the Leadership Team twice a year.
- The Secretariat will follow up individually to ensure all viewpoints are incorporated.

Initial comments received from Leadership Team:

Many of these activities are happening now. The difference is that this method will bring to the table different points of view. The real question is how the Partnership will engage with and influence people at the country level.

The Partnership should clarify that these efforts are adding to and supporting what already exists (national plans), not creating a new structure or adding another level. It should also be clarified that the role of the Partnership is as a global leprosy community. The London Declaration Scorecard could be incorporated in some way.

The tools that are available now are not sufficient. To reach zero leprosy, new tools are needed (such as new diagnostic tools and vaccines) but their availability is currently unknown. Will the toolkit be able to provide new tools, such as those from the Research Agenda working group?

No discrimination should be replaced with no discrimination/stigma. The advocacy section could be expanded and the role of persons affected as advocates and catalysts for action noted.

The link between the working groups should be strengthened. There is a lot of research available but not all of it is used at the policy/national level. Advocacy needs better definition and emphasis, and linkage to the two working groups.

Many countries implement the SDR as chemo-prophylaxis and some countries under the study; would this be a long term milestone and innovation for leprosy?

Communications

- Jessica Cook updated on communications: the email and social media announcement for Research Agenda working group participants will be disseminated 2 August 2018. The Leadership Team is encouraged to forward this to anyone suited for the working group. The next newsletter, set for 9 August, will feature updates, a video and interview. The first newsletter had a high open rate (nearly 50%).

III. Research Agenda Working Group

- David Addiss reported on behalf of Fareed Mirza. The Research Agenda Working Group's coordinating committee will meet in Basel 23-24 August 2018, and then continue meeting virtually in September and October 2018.
- The open call for working group participants is directed at scientists, researchers, persons affected, and country program directors, who are welcome to sign up for any of the seven research sub-groups.
- An issue with a participant's visa is being addressed.

IV. Operational Excellence Working Group

- Bart Vander Plaetse updated the status of the organization of the working group, including the addition of Christine Fenenga as the Coordinator.
- A small planning group will meet in Basel, following the Research Agenda Working Group, on August 25. They will discuss the working group's terms of reference, and on how the composition and dynamics of working group one may influence working group two.
- Christine Fenenga added that it will be important for working group two to have members from the local country programs, and expects to achieve clarity from the August meeting.

V. Updates and comments from Leadership Team members

- Bart Vander Plaetse reported that the International Leprosy Congress (ILC) meeting, 10-13 September 2019 in Manila, Philippines, will be pivotal for working group progress and should be added to the Partnership agenda.

Action Items for the Secretariat

- Connect with Leadership Team individually to capture all viewpoints of the Long-Term Milestones.
- Prepare and disseminate Leadership Team call meeting minutes (also available on team Google drive).
- The next monthly conference call will be Wednesday, 5 September 2018.