

## Leadership Team Meeting Teleconference

12 December 2018

### Participants

#### Leadership team members and guests

- Bill Simmons (Chair), President & CEO, American Leprosy Missions
- Jan van Berkel, President, International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations, (ILEP)
- Arielle Cavaliero, Leprosy Project Manager, Novartis Foundation
- Mauricio Lisboa Nobre, Technical Advisor, The Brazilian Leprosy Program, General Coordination of Leprosy and Diseases in Elimination (CGHDE)
- W. Cairns Smith, Emeritus Professor of Public Health, University of Aberdeen
- Bart Vander Plaetse, Deputy Director FAIRMED; member of ILEP ITC (Chair, Operational Excellence working group)

#### Secretariat

- Courtenay Dusenbury, Secretariat Director
- David Addiss, Senior Advisor
- Jessica Cook, Communications Director
- Christine Fenenga, Operational Excellence Coordinator
- Tonya Duhart, Operations Manager

#### Invited but unable to attend

- Erwin Cooreman, Team Leader, Global Leprosy Programme, WHO (observer)
- Alice Cruz, UN Special Rapporteur (observer)
- Anil Kumar, Deputy Director General (Leprosy), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India
- Roch Christian Johnson, President, International Leprosy Association (ILA)
- Taye Letta, Leprosy Prevention and Control Manager, Ministry of Health, Ethiopia
- Takahiro Nanri, Executive Director, Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation
- José Ramirez, Board Member, International Association for Integration, Dignity and Economic Advancement (IDEA)
- Geoff Warne, CEO, International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP)

**I. Welcome and Update by Leadership Team Chair Bill Simmons**

- Bill Simmons welcomed the group and updated the Leadership Team on a recent Nippon Foundation meeting in Delhi, to discuss and approve 2019 country funding plans pertaining to WHO funds. He noted that the Foundation sees value in the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy.

**II. Secretariat update (Courtenay Dusenbury, Jessica Cook)**

- Strategy Update: Courtenay Dusenbury presented the 2019 Strategic Outline, which includes major objectives and activities for the GPZL. She will follow up individually with Leadership Team members on these items. A draft budget for 2019 has been approved by the two donors: ILEP and the Novartis Foundation. This budget will be shared with the Leadership Team the week of December 17 for their comments.
- Resource Mobilization Group: Courtenay Dusenbury requested guidance from the Leadership Team on the composition and role of this group. The Secretariat has discussed various options- in particular a focus on those who work in fundraising as an informal advisement committee and working with Leadership Team members as “ambassadors”- and would like further feedback and advice. Leadership team members said they welcomed the development of this group and would like to ensure that we link to other fundraising and advocacy efforts.
- WHO post-2020 targets: Courtenay Dusenbury received strategy ideas from ILEP’s Technical Commission. These were shared with the Leadership Team for comment. In January, a survey will be sent to the larger leprosy community. The comments received will be passed on to WHO for consideration of their post-2020 targets.
  - Leadership Team members commented that people working in programs should have input into the WHO targets.
- Communications and membership: Jessica Cook noted that the call for the Operational Excellence working group has been successful; 130 people have applied online as of today. The December newsletter will highlight the Operational Excellence steering team meeting and the work ahead. The partnership will primarily use content developed by ILEP around the themes of discrimination and stigma for World Leprosy Day on January 27, 2019. Being our one-year anniversary, the secretariat will also develop messaging of the progress of the partnership so far and our goals and vision. The partnership now has more than 300 members.

**III. Research Agenda Working Group (David Addiss)**

- Six of the eight sub-groups from the Research Agenda Working Group have submitted reports to the coordinator and chair, which are being consolidated and synthesized into a cohesive document. The draft report will be sent to facilitators and Leadership Team members for review later this month. After reviews and editing, the research agenda will be available in early 2019. A summary will also be submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
- The research agenda represents an important first step in aligning research priorities for zero leprosy. David Addiss presented ideas for a potential new working group for 2019. Initial planning is to describe other key activities for advancing the research agenda in 2019, including advocating for

funding, facilitating communication, driving progress on specific content areas, submitting research proposals, and developing standards and best practices. Comments from Leadership Team members:

- Understanding the objective and intended audiences for the research agenda document would be helpful for reviewers.
- Avoiding duplication with existing groups and efforts is critical.
- We should clarify that proposed Research Facilitation Group is not merely an extension of the current Research Agenda Working Group. Rather, it is a new group with a different purpose.

#### **IV. Operational Excellence Working Group (Christine Fenenga)**

- The Operational Excellence working group successfully launched with its inaugural meeting, held 6-7 December in Amsterdam. The meeting included the chairs (country program managers) and facilitators of the sub-groups, also known as the steering team. The group discussed the many tasks ahead for 2019, including an online toolkit, a support “help desk,” country assessments and roadmaps to zero leprosy. The group also discussed the need for tools to be created in different languages, and worked on a communications strategy that accounts for different languages and time zones. The group will also partner closely with WHO, particularly on the country assessments.
- Christine Fenenga noted the positive response to the open call which closes 31 Dec. However, not many persons affected by leprosy have applied. Alternative approaches may be taken to ensure this audience is represented. It could be that a panel for persons affected is created for this working group.
- Next steps: The steering team will meet by teleconference 17 Jan to discuss their plans, and sub-groups with all participants will form in January. Christine will meet with WHO’s Global Leprosy Programme team in Delhi in January to discuss the alignment between WHO and this working group.
  - Comments: It is very positive that seven country program managers attended the meeting. Christine should work directly with Christian Johnson to ensure that the Operational Excellence working group can present at the September International Leprosy Congress.

#### **V. Closing comments**

- Jan van Berkel gave closing comments that were positive and encouraging about the partnership’s first year. Bill thanked Courtenay and the secretariat team and wished all a happy holiday.

#### **Action Items for the Secretariat**

- Send a Doodle poll for the next leadership team meeting in January.
- Further develop ideas for the post-2020 survey (to be sent in January) with interested LT members and those they suggest for engagement.
- Contact Christian Johnson to request sessions at the Global Leprosy Meeting for the research agenda and operational excellence activities.
- Follow up with individual LT members on the strategic outline and budget.