

Charter

A. Purpose: The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy is an association of organizations and individuals committed to ending leprosy, also known as Hansen’s disease. The purpose of the partnership is to facilitate alignment of the leprosy community and to accelerate effective collaborative action toward the goal of zero leprosy.

B. Vision: Zero Leprosy: no disease, no disability, no discrimination/stigma.

C. Pillars

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy coordinates action in three areas:

- Accelerating research in new diagnostic and therapeutic tools, interventions, and strategies to interrupt leprosy transmission.
- Working with national leprosy programmes to identify and scale up promising innovations and best practices.
- Increasing advocacy and resource mobilization

D. Principles

- All decisions, priority choices, funding allocation and actions will support the vision of Zero Leprosy. Partners will align their work around shared priorities to the greatest extent feasible.
- The partnership will be guided by evidence and reinforced by sharing experiences and practices.
- The partnership will coordinate action among leprosy stakeholders and seek to minimize duplication of efforts among stakeholders.
- Zero Leprosy includes addressing the issues of stigma and discrimination of persons affected by leprosy, their families, and their communities.
- The partnership recognizes and supports the ownership of national leprosy programmes by national governments and includes national programmes in its leadership and decision-making.
- The partnership endorses the full participation of persons affected by leprosy, including representation on the leadership team and involvement in workgroups and committees.

E. Operating Framework

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy will operate according to the following:

- The Charter, which sets forth the policies and procedures for governance.

- The Strategy and Action Framework, which outlines, over the long term, the agreed-upon methods for moving to Zero Leprosy
- The annual Work Plan, which lay out the tasks, budget, timelines and persons responsible for accomplishing the milestones.

F. Organizational Components

The partnership has five organizational components: (1) Leadership Team (2) Steering Committee (3) Secretariat (4) membership (partners and affiliates) and (5) working groups.

1. Leadership Team

Responsibilities:

- Adoption of and revisions to GPZL charter
- Strategic direction and alignment for the partnership including development, revision and/or approval of the Partnership's goals, mission, priorities, strategic plan(s) or Action Framework
- Advocacy and engagement with key stakeholders per the annual work plans and Action Framework
- Approval of annual work plan
- Approval of annual budget, administered by the Task Force for Global Health
- Oversight, support, and guidance to the Secretariat to ensure it meets the objectives of the partnership.
- Appointment or election of GPZL Leadership Team Members, Chair and vice-Chair
- Appointment of Secretariat Director in conjunction with the Task Force for Global Health as employer
- Approval of work group membership, establishment of new work groups and participation in one or more work groups or as a Pillar Chair

Meetings and Updates:

The Leadership Team will meet at least 4 times per year, with two in-person meetings. Decisions will be recorded in the meeting notes and made publicly available. The Leadership Team will receive recurring updates from the Secretariat, for which guidance and decisions may also be solicited.

Members:

The Leadership Team reflects the diversity of stakeholders engaged in zero leprosy:

- International Leprosy Association
- International Association for Integration, Dignity, and Economic Advancement (IDEA) + at least two other members from persons affected organizations
- International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations (ILEP)
- Novartis Pharmaceutical
- Sasakawa Health Foundation
- Leprosy Research Initiative (LRI)
- WHO Global Leprosy Programme (observer)
- UN Special Rapporteur (observer)

- Four national leprosy programme managers
- Representative of the scientific community
- General member from a partner organization
- General member who is an affiliate
- General member from outside the leprosy community to broaden the LT perspective (may represent another NTD program, private business, foundation sector, technology etc.

Global representatives: Each global organization will appoint its own representative, through a formal letter to the Secretariat, renewable every two years.

Scientific representative: The scientific representative will be self-nominated. Candidates will be reviewed by the Leadership Team and selected for a term of two years, renewable once.

National leprosy programme managers (4): The four national leprosy programme managers will be self-nominated. Candidates will be reviewed by the Leadership Team and selected for a term of two years, renewable once. The Leadership Team will take into consideration geographic and gender representation and representation from countries with the highest burden of leprosy.

Representatives from Persons Affected organizations: These positions will be self-nominated and will be appointed to a two-year term, renewable once.

Chair: The chair will be an internationally-respected person in leprosy or public health who serves on this board in his/her own capacity, not as a representative of his/her organization. The Chair will be self-nominated. Candidates will be reviewed by the Leadership Team and selected for a term of two years, renewable once.

Vice-Chair: The Vice-Chair will have substantial experience in developing positive relationships and partnerships with international foundations, governments, the private sector and non-profit organizations. He/she will serve in his/her own capacity, in addition to serving as a representative of his/her organization. He/she will chair LT meetings in the absence of the Chair and will be appointed to a 2-year renewable term.

Additional members and alternates: The Leadership Team, through a formal vote, may nominate additional persons to serve on the team, with terms of two years, renewable once. Nominations should be clearly linked to organizational goals and objectives. Each organization may name an alternate if the designated representative is not available. One additional participant from each organization may join Leadership Team meetings.

General Representatives: One representative of a partner organization (3.1, below), one representative of the affiliates (3.2, below) and one representative from outside the leprosy community will be elected for a term of two years, renewable once. These positions will be self-nominated or nominated by GPZL. The Secretariat will facilitate a process in which candidates will be reviewed and voted upon by their respective groups (partners, affiliates) to select a general representative of each group.

Decision-making:

Decision-making, in general, will be by consensus. In the event that a vote is required, each organization or stakeholder group represented, whether as a “standing” or “rotating” member, will have one vote. All notes and records of the Leadership Team’s deliberations will be coordinated by the Secretariat, and a record of decisions will be made available to members in a timely manner.

2. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee is a subset of Leadership Team. It shall be comprised of the major financial supporters of the Global Partnership, the chair of the Leadership Team, and two other Leadership Team members. At-large members will be self-nominated and elected by the whole Leadership Team.

Responsibilities:

- Provide oversight, support, and guidance to the Secretariat
- Provide input to and scrutinize the annual workplan and budget
- Review quarterly reporting from the Secretariat
- Review the performance of Working Groups
- Develop agendas for Leadership Team meetings
- Other tasks delegated by the Leadership Team or required between Leadership Team meetings

The Steering Committee will meet on a monthly basis, excluding months when a full Leadership Team meeting occurs, and minutes from Steering Committee meetings will be recorded by the Secretariat and circulated to the whole Leadership Team.

3. Secretariat

A Secretariat will support the work of the partnership, its Leadership Team and working groups. Responsibilities of the Secretariat are detailed in its Strategic Outline and annual Work Plan. They include:

- Support Leadership Team governance including meetings, teleconferences, policy discussions and votes.
- Document processes and functions of the partnership and facilitate its management.
- Provide frequent, coordinated communications to partnership members and affiliates, as well as to external partners.
- Advance and coordinate fundraising for the partnership and for ongoing Secretariat functions, in close collaboration with the fundraising and advocacy workgroup.
- Actively engage with working groups to ensure that key deliverables and milestones are met and that communication and outreach with the LT, other working groups and stakeholders and members is transparent, equitable and consistent
- Liaise with Uniting to Combat NTDs, other NTD and disability groups and reference centers, and other relevant infectious disease communities in global health.

4. Membership

Membership is open to organizations and individuals committed to zero leprosy and supporting the principles, objectives, and activities of the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy. Membership categories include:

4.1 Partners: organizations working in leprosy research, program implementation, policy, clinical care, advocacy, human rights, funding or other fields. Partners are asked to support the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy's mission and key objectives, to share logos and link websites, to participate in working

groups and meetings (as feasible) and to provide feedback to policy, partnership and implementation issues.

4.2 Affiliates: persons with an interest in leprosy (including affected persons and their families) and/or working in leprosy research, national or local programs, policy, clinical care, advocacy, human rights, funding or other fields. Affiliates are asked to support the Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy's mission and key objectives, to provide feedback and/or participate in working groups and meetings (as feasible).

5. Pillar Groups

Pillar Groups will be established by the Leadership Team to address each of the three pillars of GPZL's work: research acceleration, country support, and resource mobilization and advocacy. The membership and terms of reference for the Pillar Groups will be approved by the Leadership Team, to which they will be accountable. These groups will fulfil specific mandates that contribute to the advancement of the pillar. Pillar groups will be led by a Pillar Chair from the Leadership Team, who will contribute to the work and aims of the working group, and will work with the Secretariat to share working group progress and challenges with the Leadership Team and the Steering Committee. Pillar Groups may form subgroups as required to carry forward the mandate of the Pillar Group.

6. Working groups

Other working groups may be established by the Leadership Team to undertake specific tasks. Membership and terms of reference for these groups will be developed by the Secretariat and approved by the Leadership Team, to which they will be accountable. The Chair of the Leadership Team may also create ad-hoc working groups to support the work of the Leadership Team, for example, to create strategic guidance, or develop plans for particular areas of work.

G. Review

This charter will be reviewed and revised by the Leadership Team every two years, or as necessary.

Approved by the GPZL Leadership Team December 2021