

Charter

A. Purpose

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy is an association of organizations and individuals committed to ending leprosy, also known as Hansen 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. It does this in three main areas:

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

B. Vision: Zero Leprosy: zero transmission, zero disease, zero disability, zero stigma and discrimination.

C. Principles

- All decisions, priority choices, funding allocation and actions support the vision of zero leprosy. Partners align their work around shared priorities to the greatest extent feasible.
- The Partnership is guided by evidence and reinforced by sharing experiences and practices.
- The Partnership coordinates action among leprosy stakeholders and seeks 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.

D. Operating Framework

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy operates according to the following:

- The GPZL Charter, which sets forth the policies and procedures for governance.
- The GPZL Strategic Plan, which sets out the priorities and intended deliverables of the Partnership over defined time periods.
- The annual Business Plan, which lays out the tasks, budget, timelines and persons responsible for accomplishing the milestones.

E. Organizational Components

The Partnership has five organizational components: (1) Leadership Team (2) Steering Committee (3) Pillar Groups and other working groups (4) Executive Director and Secretariat and (5) membership (partners and affiliates).

1. Leadership Team

1.1. Responsibilities

- Adoption of and revisions to the GPZL Charter.
- Strategic direction and alignment for the Partnership including development, revision and/or approval of the Partnership's goals, mission, priorities and strategic plans.
- Advocacy and engagement with key stakeholders per the strategic plans and annual work plans.
- Approval of annual business plan and annual budget.
- Oversight, support, and guidance to the Executive Director and Secretariat to ensure they meet the objectives of the Partnership.
- Appointment or election of GPZL Leadership Team Members, Steering Committee, Chair and Vice-Chair.
- Appointment of Executive Director.
- Approval of Pillar Group and other work group membership, establishment of new Pillar Groups or work groups, and participation in one or more Pillar Groups or as a Pillar Chair.

1.2. Meetings and updates

The Leadership Team meets at least 4 times per year, including one in-person meeting. Decisions are recorded in the meeting notes and made publicly available. The Leadership Team receives regular updates from the Executive Director, for which guidance and decisions may also be solicited.

1.3. Membership

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

- International Leprosy Association
- International Association for Integration, Dignity, and Economic Advancement (IDEA)
- 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
- Two additional members from organizations of persons affected by leprosy.
- 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.)

Chair: The Chair will be an internationally respected person in leprosy or public health with substantial governance experience including in multi-stakeholder organizations. The Chair serves on the Leadership Team in their own capacity, not as a representative of any organization. The Chair is self-nominated. Candidates are 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. The Vice-Chair serves in their own capacity, in addition to serving as a representative of their organization. The Vice Chair chairs LT meetings in the absence of the Chair and is appointed for a term of two years, renewable once.

Global representatives: Each global organization appoints its own representative, through formal notification to the Secretariat.

National leprosy programme managers (4): These positions are self-nominated. Candidates are 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.

Additional representatives from organizations of persons affected by leprosy (2): These positions are self-nominated. Candidates are 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.

Scientific community representative: This position is self-nominated. Candidates are reviewed by the Leadership Team and selected for a term of two years, renewable once.

General Representatives: These consist of one representative of a partner organization (5.1, below), one representative of the affiliates (5.2, below) and one representative from outside the leprosy community. These positions may be self-nominated or nominated by GPZL. Candidates are reviewed by the Leadership Team and selected for a term of two years, renewable once.

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 global organization may join Leadership Team meetings.

1.4. Decision-making

Decision-making, in general, is by consensus. In the event that a vote is required, each organization or stakeholder group represented, whether as a “standing” or “rotating” member, has one vote.

2. **Steering Committee**

The Steering Committee is a subset of Leadership Team. It comprises the major financial supporters of the Partnership, the chair of the Leadership Team, one Leadership Team member representing national programmes, and one Leadership Team member representing persons affected by leprosy. Committee members representing national programmes or persons affected by leprosy are self-nominated and elected by the Leadership Team.

Responsibilities:

- Provide oversight, support, and guidance to the Executive Director and Secretariat.

- Provide input to and scrutinize the annual workplan and budget.
- Review quarterly reporting from the Executive Director and Secretariat.
- Review the performance of Pillar Groups and other working groups.
- Develop agendas for Leadership Team meetings.
- Other tasks delegated by the Leadership Team or required between Leadership Team meetings.

The Steering Committee meets on a monthly basis, excluding months when a full Leadership Team meeting occurs. Minutes of Steering Committee meetings are circulated to the Leadership Team.

3. Pillar Groups and other working groups

Pillar Groups are established by the Leadership Team to address the pillars of GPZL’s strategic plan. The membership and terms of reference for the Pillar Groups are approved by the Leadership Team, to which they are accountable. Pillar Groups fulfil specific mandates that contribute to the advancement of each strategic pillar. They are led by a Pillar Chair from the Leadership Team, who contributes to the work and aims of the Group, and works with the Executive Director and Secretariat to share progress and challenges with the Leadership Team and the Steering Committee. Pillar Groups may form subgroups as required to carry forward their mandate.

Other working groups may be established by the Leadership Team to undertake specific tasks. Membership and terms of reference for these groups are developed by the Secretariat and approved by the Leadership Team, to which they are 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.

4. Executive Director and Secretariat

The Executive Director leads and supports the Partners towards achievement of GPZL’s purposes and objectives, as outlined in the GPZL Charter, the strategic plan, and annual business plans and budgets. The Executive Director is appointed by, and is accountable to, the Leadership Team.

The Executive Director is supported by a Secretariat, whose composition is determined by the Steering Committee in consultation with the Executive Director. The responsibilities of the Executive Director and Secretariat are detailed in the strategic plan, the annual business plan, and the Executive Director’s position description. The main areas of responsibility are advocacy and resource mobilization; policy and communications; governance support; and organizational management.

5. 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:

5.1 Partners: organizations working in leprosy research, programme 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.

5.2 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 purposes and key objectives, to provide feedback and/or participate in working groups and meetings (as feasible).

F. Review

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

Approved by the GPZL Leadership Team, 14 December 2023