Technical Expert Group (TEG) on Malaria Vector Control

Terms of Reference

I. Background and rationale

The Malaria Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC) was constituted to provide independent advice to the World Health Organization Global Malaria Programme (WHO/GMP) for the development of policy recommendations for the control and elimination of malaria. The mandate of MPAC is to provide strategic advice and technical input aligned with the Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016-2030 as part of a transparent, responsive and credible policy setting process. This extends to all aspects of malaria control and elimination, including malaria vector control.

After reviewing the policy environment for malaria vector control and acknowledging the complexity and heterogeneity of malaria transmission patterns; noting the need for a process to monitor threats to effective vector control such as insecticide resistance and residual transmission; noting the need to rapidly evaluate new technologies, tools and interventions; and noting the need to address issues related to programme management and implementation of malaria vector control, WHO/GMP established:

- A Vector Control Advisory Group (VCAG) to facilitate the review of new paradigms in vector control for both malaria and neglected tropical diseases; and
- A standing TEG on malaria vector control

Vector control, particularly scale up of long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) and indoor residual spraying (IRS) has contributed to recent gains in malaria control. Sustaining these achievements in the face of insecticide resistance, residual malaria transmission and programmatic hurdles will be challenging. GTS lays out concrete 2030 targets for all countries to accelerate their efforts towards eliminating malaria transmission and preventing its re-establishment. Vector control will continue to play a major role towards malaria elimination but this requires overcoming existing biological, technical and programmatic challenges, highlighting the importance of the work of the VCAG and the TEG on malaria vector control.

II. Role and functions of the Technical Expert Group on Malaria Vector Control

The TEG on Malaria Vector Control is constituted by and provides advice to WHO/GMP on malaria vector control issues. The TEG is tasked with reviewing and developing guidance on the implementation of malaria vector control including programme management. The TEG may also provide advice to WHO/GMP on activities and key strategic questions.

The responsibilities of the TEG on malaria vector control are to:

- Formulate and propose to WHO/GMP evidence-based norms, standards and guidelines for the implementation and management of malaria vector control;
- Review and recommend to WHO/GMP on the predicted effectiveness and appropriate mix of vector control interventions for particular situations, including the adoption of new forms of vector control following recognition of “proof of principle” from the VCAG;
- Address policy issues related to building capacity for entomological monitoring and optimization of vector control investments; and
- Identify gaps in evidence and suggest specific areas of priority research to improve management and implementation of malaria vector control.
- Provide key strategic advice on malaria vector control.

III. Membership and Structure of the Vector Control TEG

The TEG will be comprised of up to 13 core members. TEG members shall serve in an independent, personal and individual capacity. The TEG composition should strive for appropriate geographical representation and gender balance, and should comprise individuals representing different areas of expertise and experience related to malaria vector control. Members of the TEG must have excellent technical knowledge and ideally relevant scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals. Key areas of expertise that the TEG aims to include are:

- Planning and management of vector control programmes;
- Public health entomology (vector biology, ecology and behaviour);
- Insecticide resistance assessment and management;
- Epidemiology of malaria transmission, including study design and statistics;
- Assessment of the impact of vector control interventions;
- Human resource management and training for vector control and entomology;
- Health economics;
- Social science in relation to public health interventions

In addition, the TEG should include members who have worked or are currently working as national malaria and/or vector-borne disease control programme managers.

Following an open invitation to submit nominations, TEG members will be selected by a nomination panel appointed by WHO/GMP. Members of the TEG shall be appointed to serve for an initial term of up to three years, renewable once, for a period of up to an additional three years.

Membership of the TEG may be terminated by WHO, for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to attend two consecutive TEG meetings;
- Change in affiliation resulting in a conflict of interest;
- A lack of professionalism involving, for example, a breach of confidentiality or failure to disclose a potential conflict of interest.

Prior to being appointed as a TEG member, prior to renewal of their term and prior to each meeting, nominees shall be subject to a conflict of interest assessment by WHO based on information that they disclose on the WHO Declaration of Interest (DOI) form. In addition, TEG members have an ongoing obligation throughout their tenure to inform WHO of any changes to their affiliations or the information that they have disclosed on the DOI form. Summaries of relevant disclosed interests that may be perceived to give rise to real or apparent conflicts of interest will be noted during the meeting, noted on report and/or posted on the WHO/GMP website.

In addition, prior to confirmation by WHO/GMP of their appointment as TEG members, TEG nominees shall be required to sign a WHO confidentiality agreement. Although all papers presented at the TEG may be made publicly available on the WHO/GMP website, pre-publication
manuscripts or confidential documents will be clearly labeled as such and will only be provided to TEG members for discussion.

IV. Responsibilities of TEG members

Members of TEG have a responsibility to provide WHO/GMP with high quality, well considered, evidence-informed advice and recommendations on matters described in these terms of reference. The TEG has no executive or regulatory function. Its role is to work with the WHO/GMP secretariat to develop technical guidance, recommendations and guidelines as appropriate.

TEG members are not permitted to speak on behalf of the TEG or WHO. TEG members may be approached by non-WHO sources for their views, comments and statements on particular matters with regard to the implementation and management of malaria vector control, and asked to state the views of TEG or details related to TEG discussions. TEG members should refer all such enquiries to WHO/GMP.

VI. Operating Procedures

The TEG will be convened ideally once per year by WHO/GMP and have additional meetings and/or teleconferences as needed. Travel and accommodation for TEG members to participate in the meeting will be supported by WHO/GMP. Staff from WHO Regional Offices and other WHO departments will be invited as members of the Secretariat to participate in VC TEG meetings and deliberations as appropriate. Additional experts may be invited to participate in meetings, also as appropriate, to ensure that a sufficiently broad base of expertise is available for the specific agenda items at each meeting. Key partner organizations can be invited as observers at their own expense. However, only TEG members can participate in the formulation of recommendations by consensus. Observers shall not take the floor unless requested to do so by the chairperson.

Decisions on TEG recommendations to WHO/GMP will, as a rule, be taken by consensus. In the exceptional situation that consensus cannot be reached the chairperson shall report the majority and minority views. It is also the chairperson's responsibility to ensure there is clarity for TEG members on what exactly is being decided. The Chairperson of the TEG may be invited as a resource person to MPAC meetings at which vector control issues are being discussed.

In addition to attendance at TEG meetings, active participation will be expected from all TEG members throughout the year, potentially including participation in Evidence Review Groups, video and teleconferences, as well as interactions via e-mail. Review of documents may also be solicited. TEG members may be requested to participate as observers in other important WHO departmental or cross-departmental meetings. It is estimated that the time commitment required from TEG members is up to a total of up to three weeks over the course of a year.

VII. Dissolution of TEG

The relevance and terms of reference of the TEG will be assessed regularly by WHO/GMP.