Assessment Session for Vector Control Products (ASVCP)
WHO Pre-qualification Team – Vector Control Products (PQT-VC)

Arusha, Tanzania
28 May - 1 June 2018

MEETING REPORT

I. Opening Remarks, Introductions, Presentations

Marion Law, Group Lead for the WHO PQT-VC welcomed all participants to the assessment session and introduced Deus Mubangizi, Coordinator, WHO PQT for opening remarks. All participants then introduced themselves including affiliations and areas of expertise. (See Attachment 1 for Listing of the ASVCP participants).

After a review of the meeting logistics, Ms. Law outlined the three goals of the session:

- Complete review of seven new product applications and one product variation submitted to PQT-VC for evaluation and decision.
- Initiate discussion on post-market activities for converted products: re-evaluation and product reviews.
- Review draft policies regarding product labels, data requirements, and dossier format.

Ms. Law gave a presentation on the progress of the PQT-VC to provide a context for the work of the session. She noted the overall mandate of the VCT-PQ was to build a robust WHO vector control evaluation process that ensures access to safe, effective and high quality products throughout their life-cycle and at the same time flexible enough to encourage new product development; incorporate new science and meet diverse geographic and population needs; contribute to building assessment capacity of member states (national regulatory authorities (NRAs)); and, establish guiding principles for the conduct of the work.

She stated the framework of the PQT-VC was built on science and policy and included: clear operational policy, guidance, and processes; relevant data requirements, testing standards and dossier formats; robust pre-market evaluation procedures (safety, quality, efficacy and label claims); site/facility inspections; post-market activities (product change/variations, label improvement plan, re-evaluation of active ingredients, review of product type, inspection, surveillance and monitoring, post-market initiatives around use of the products).

Dominic Schuler, Case Manager PQT-VC, presented on the status of the conversion from WHOPES recommended products to PQ listings. He noted the goals of the process are: ensure an accurate and current list of prequalified vector control products; provide a baseline of information on the safety, efficacy and quality of converted products to inform future activities...
to be undertaken to ensure that these products are supported by a modern database of evidence and a lifecycle approach is in place; and, link products claiming equivalence to a prequalified reference product with an appropriate and relevant database of evidence.

Mr. Schuler noted 89 applications to convert products to PQ listings were received. To date, 70 products applied for have been PQ listed and 19 applications were withdrawn. He also presented a gap analysis which showed the WHOPES recommendations for which no conversion applications were received.

II. Work Assignments and Conduct of Session

Marion Law reviewed the week’s agenda and the conduct of the session. She explained that four of the five session days would be dedicated to expert review of the dossiers supporting the products submitted for WHO evaluation. On one day during the session (Wednesday, 30 May 2018) the group would tour the A to Z Textile Mills, Ltd. in Arusha, Tanzania and the Africa Technical Research Centre (ATRC) in Moshi, Tanzania. Work assignments were then distributed with multi-disciplinary teams assigned to each of the product applications and/or special initiatives. Complete dossiers were loaded on to a password protected share drive with access limited to the experts to protect the confidentiality of the submission. In additional one hard copy of each dossier was available in the work room. At the end of each day, all experts were to convene and report out on progress, questions, issues and comments.

III. Additional Presentation

On 29 May 2018, Luther Gwaza of WHO’s Regulatory Systems Strengthening team presented on the Collaborative Registration Procedure currently operational in the PQT medicines and vaccines groups. The collaborative registration procedure for medicines and vaccines was explained, how the procedure can accelerate national regulatory decisions, and potential applicability to vector control products.

III. Field Visits

On 30 May 2018, the ASVCP participants toured the A to Z Textile Mills, Ltd. in Arusha, Tanzania. Kalpesh Shah (CEO) and Binesh Haria (Director of Operations) provided an overview of the company and its operations. The group then toured the factory and observed the production of insecticide treated bed nets.

The group then went on to the Africa Technical Research Centre (ATRC) in Moshi, Tanzania. Dr. Johnson Odera, Director of ATRC, welcomed the group to the Centre and directed a tour through the facility. ATRC conducts testing on the development, biological evaluation and screening of new products for the control of insect disease vectors. The laboratories have the capacity to carry out standard WHO efficacy testing for bed nets, indoor residential sprays, treated clothing and larvicides. Ongoing tests were observed.
IV. Session Review, Conclusion and Next Meeting

The session concluded on 1 June 2018. Review of the data submitted to support the new product applications was conducted as well on work and discussion on several of the special initiatives (label improvement initiative, post-conversion product activities, PBO bed nets, dossier contents, review templates). Experts all reported in on the work completed and any work remaining to be done on the applications.

Further to closing remarks from Mr. Deus Mubangizi, who thanked all the participants for their work and valuable input throughout the week, Ms. Law reported that the session was very productive, and the session goals were achieved. She also noted that some work may need to be finished by the participants remotely arrangements for this would be put in place.

The next ASVCP meeting will be scheduled soon and will be in late October / early November 2018 in Europe.
Attachment 1: List of Participants: Assessment Session for Vector Control Products


Bui, Quang. Consultant in pharmacology/toxicology and pesticide regulation.

Coyne, Philip. Consultant to the Pre-qualification Team, World Health Organization for Medicines and Vector Control Products. Expertise in medicine and parasitology.

De Alwis, Ranjith. Consultant in medical entomology.

Gwaza, Luther. Technical Officer, Regulatory Systems Strengthening, Regulation of Medicines and Other Health Technologies, Essential Medicines and Health Products, Health Systems and Innovation.

Keese, Paul. Consultant on biosafety/biosecurity and regulatory affairs.

Law, Marion. Group Lead, Pre-qualification Team – Vector Control Group. Regulation of Medicines and Other Health Technologies, Essential Medicines and Health Products, Health Systems and Innovation and Chair, ASVCP.

Mubangizi, Deusdedit. Coordinator, Pre-qualification Team. Regulation of Medicines and Other Health Technologies, Essential Medicines and Health Products, Health Systems and Innovation.

Muktar, Muhammad. Senior Vector Control Specialist/Entomology in Directorate of Malaria Control, Pakistan.

Muller, Pie. Head, Vector Control, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland.

Okumu, Fredros. Research Fellow in Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania and University of Glasgow.

Pombi, Marco. Entomology researcher, University of Rome, La Sapienza, Rome, Italy.

Rossi, Lois. Consultant to PQT-VC on pesticide regulation.


Schuler, Dominic. Case Manager, Pre-qualification Team – Vector Control Group. Regulation of Medicines and Other Health Technologies, Essential Medicines and Health Products, Health Systems and Innovation.

Smith, Stephen. Research Chemist, Entomology Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia.

Wilks, Martin. Director, Swiss Centre for Applied Human Toxicology.

Wondji, Charles. Vector Biologist. Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellow/Reader, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, United Kingdom.