Background

With a view to increasing the transparency of the process to approve technical projects for funding using PIP Framework Partnership Contribution (PC) funds, a PC Independent Technical Expert Mechanism (PCITEM) was established in 2017. The PCITEM, comprising eight experts from a variety of relevant disciplines, with regional and gender balance, meets in person once per biennium to review work plans submitted for funding under the PC.

PCITEM reviews and provides scientific and technical guidance and advice to support, improve and finalize the PC funded biennial work plans. PCITEM assesses the appropriateness of projects to contribute to the Outcome and Output targets in the High-Level Implementation Plan 2018-2023\(^1\) (HLIP II). PCITEM provides inputs to implementing unit focal points, and submits its report to the Director, Department of Infectious Hazard Management (IHM).

Meeting Objective

To provide scientific and technical guidance and advice to the IHM Director, on work plans submitted for funding using PC funds in the 2020-2021 biennium.

Participants

Five of the eight PCITEM members met on 1-2 October 2019 to review progress and the project work plans for 2020-2021.

Four observers from non-State actors including Industry Associations and Civil Society Organizations joined the open sessions of the meeting on 1 October 2019. The list of meeting participants is available in Annex 1.

Proceedings

The Meeting Agenda is available at Annex 2. WHO technical focal points from headquarters and regional office implementing units presented the project work plans for the 6 HLIP II Outputs. Presentations summarized progress achieved in 2018-2019 and plans for 2020-2021 implementation. The presentations supplemented the pre-meeting reading materials provided to PCITEM members in advance of the meeting.

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\(^1\) See [www.who.int/influenza/pip/partnership_contribution/hlipii/en/](http://www.who.int/influenza/pip/partnership_contribution/hlipii/en/)
Rich interactive discussions among PCITEM members, observers and WHO ensued on the appropriateness, relevance and feasibility of each project. Technical focal points addressed all questions to facilitate PCITEM’s deliberations.

PCITEM concluded its deliberations and prepared its report to the IHM Director on 2 October 2019.

PCITEM provided the following summary conclusions and advice to the IHM Director:

- There has been remarkable progress on 2018-2019 work plan implementation.
- The Global Influenza Strategy was launched in 2019. The objectives of HLIP II are well-aligned with the Strategy.
- Several of the risks identified in HLIP II implementation (HLIP II Annex 4) including delay in activity implementation, country uptake and commitment were managed through this period.
- The inclusion of observers during the PCITEM meeting increases the visibility and transparency on project planning processes and progress. The opportunities provided for observers to comment did not impede technical discussions.

PCITEM recommended the following:

A. Continue contextualizing and linking project implementation within the broader context of the Global Influenza Strategy, International Health Regulations (IHR) implementation and other initiatives on health system strengthening, immunizations, and WHO’s General Programme of Work 13.

B. Continue the engagement with academic and other initiatives/agencies to co-facilitate capacity-building at global, regional and country level. Report through case studies and future meetings on examples of this work, including how PIP leverages resources.

C. For projects that do not have a pre-selected list of recipient countries, clarify and document how countries are informed about opportunities for funding and provide examples of this work. Consider obtaining feedback from the countries on the selection and application process for PC funds.

D. Consider including a few PC country presentations in future PCITEM meetings to share experiences, gains made, challenges and lessons learnt. This could target countries at transition to sustainability and countries that have faced challenges in implementation and progress.

E. Consider a pre-meeting teleconference before the PCITEM meeting to facilitate discussions and review of the project narratives among PCITEM members. Hold this teleconference one-to-two weeks before the meeting.

F. Consider use of other approaches/technologies (non-Webex) for the participation of regional teams.

G. Continue the inclusion of observers in PCITEM meetings in similar numbers and format to the 2019 meeting.

PCITEM encouraged WHO to consider conducting evaluations/impact studies of the work using both qualitative and quantitative approaches, as needed.
Next Steps

WHO will consider and address PCITEM’s inputs and recommendations, including revising project workplans as necessary, before submitting final plans for approval by the WHO Health Emergencies Programme (WHE) Executive Director through the IHM Director.

A summary of 2020-2021 implementation plans will be incorporated into the ‘What’s Next’ section of the PIP Framework biennium progress report for 2018-2019.

In one year, WHO will provide an update to PCITEM members on the progress of implementation.
Annex 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PCITEM Members

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Observers (1 October, open session)

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International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers and Associations

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Annex 2

MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, 1 October 2019

Closed Session for PCITEM

08.00 – 08.15  PCITEM Registration

08.15 – 09.00  Welcome
Declaration of interest
Meeting introduction and setting the scene

Open Session with Observers

09.00 – 09.30  Welcome & Overview Presentation

09.30 – 10.30  Laboratory & Surveillance Project Presentation

10.30 – 11.00  Coffee break

11.00 – 11.30  Burden of Disease Project Presentation

11.30 – 12.00  Risk Communication & Community Engagement Project Presentation

12.00 – 13.00  General Discussion and Observer Comments

13:00 – 14.00  Lunch break

14.00 – 14.30  Regulatory Capacity Building Project Presentation

14:30 – 15.00  Planning for Deployment Project Presentation

15:00 – 15.30  Coffee break

15.30 – 16.00  Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Planning Project Presentation

16.00 -  17.00  General Discussion and Observer Comments

Closed Session for PCITEM

17.00 – 17.30  Wrap up of Day 1
Wednesday, 2 October 2019

*Closed Session for PCITEM*

09.00 – 12.00  Discussion among PCITEM on projects
12:00 – 13.00  Lunch
13:00 – 17:30  Preparation and provision of summary report to IHM Director
17:30  Close of meeting