ILEP Members’ Assembly
Greenville, 20th March 2019

Annex 3 – Operational Excellence update

Expected outcome of session:
Members are updated on GPZL’s Operational Excellence Working Group and are able to ask questions and enter dialogue with Christine Fenenga
Development of the Zero Leprosy Country Review instrument

The Global Partnership for Zero Leprosy is a community of individuals and organizations working together to accelerate progress toward a world without leprosy, also known as Hansen’s disease. The GPZL Action Framework outlines an agreed-upon path forward along a continuum to Zero Leprosy, which is defined as triple Zero: no discrimination/stigma, no disability and no disease.

In the aim to supporting national programs in their efforts to reach zero leprosy, one of the tasks of the Operational Excellence Working Group with its 190+ members is to develop, test and implement a Zero Leprosy country review tool and visioning template that will help the country to identify its achievements, challenges and needs and to determine an ambitious but realistic road map towards zero leprosy.

This short concept paper sets out the steps how we are developing the ZL country review instrument. Principles taken into account are the GPZL vision and the triple Zero goal. Other important considerations in the process are alignment with existing instrument as well as creating ownership, acceptability and broad support for the instrument. The review process should encourage National Partnerships for Zero Leprosy, engage a broad, multi-sectoral stakeholder group to emphasize the different pillars to work on in order to reach zero leprosy.

Developing the ZL country review instrument

Content

After a document review of review instruments that were developed and used over the years, the NTD Action Framework and Dashboard were found the more recent and comprehensive tools. These were developed following an evaluation of the former NTD scorecard system that was launched in 2012 in response to the London Declaration to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases. Alignment with this newly developed instrument can encourage cross-NTD learning and collaboration.

The qualitative Action Framework comprises questions along the lines of three pillars: 1. Enabling environment with questions on healthcare financing, information systems, access to medical products and technologies, health work force and scientific understanding; 2. Strategy with leadership and governance, operations and guidelines, collaboration and integration in the broader system; 3. Public Health interventions with questions around service delivery and sustaining impact. This Action framework was extensively discussed among experts, practitioners and researchers and is now being implemented by stakeholders at local level. Implementation at national level however is rather new. The Dashboard, the quantitative tool of the two, is in its final stage of development. It might be less effective for country reviews as it provides more global data on diseases and gives hardly insights in national achievements.

From experience of a two-day workshop in Amsterdam in December 2018, in which a group of leprosy experts, practitioners and researchers discussed the Action Framework in the light of the leprosy disease, we learned that this multi stakeholder process generates valuable and rich information. A broad participative process of stakeholder at national level can potentially therefore be of great help to capture a comprehensive picture of the leprosy program situation in the country. Besides identifying achievements, challenges and gaps, the process of conducting this review together and sharing findings and views from different perspectives is believed to encourage a National Leprosy Partnership to Zero Leprosy.

Where country situations allow, and there is an interest, the review can cover more than one NTD, allowing monitoring progress and gaps across more than one disease and facilitate cross-disease dialog; cross-
disease learning; collective actions; key messages for advocacy and building on (not duplicating) what is ready taking place within disease communities.

To complement the qualitative multi sectoral data (resulting from using the Action Framework) with quantitative information, a set of WHO survey forms was selected by the WHO and GPZL that can be used for country reviews in a tailor made fashion. This will depend on context but also on the Terms of Reference defined for the review. This Terms of Reference will be developed in dialogue between country, WHO and GPZL.

**Process**

The process of developing the country review tool is presented in figure 1. Currently the Steering team is reviewing the tool and we expect comments from the Steering team members up till 15 March. We also asked Alice Cruz to review the tool to ensure the rights element is sufficiently covered.

![Figure 1 Process](image)

We have received a request from Nepal to help the country with a country review in this current fiscal year that ends in June 2019. The Ministry has indicated to be willing to contribute financially to the review and processes have started to plan this review in May/June 2019. This first review will give a chance to pilot the instrument and learn from experience such that after this review we can further refine the instrument.

Meanwhile a select group of multi-sectoral experts will be asked to review the instrument as well. Their input will further improve the country review instrument. Suggestions for names of experts (3-5 people) are kindly requested from the LT (Greenville March 2019).

A second country review, and maybe a third review are planned for in Q3-4 2019. While we anticipate the ZL country review instrument will be completed in Q4 2019, we also see further improvement of this living document as ongoing beyond 2019. This not in the least because of the current developments of the GPZL, WHO and countries working on their strategies beyond 2020.

**Christine Fenenga, Coordinator, Operational Excellence Working Group**

February 2019