

# Regional Cholera Platform of the GTFCC For West and Central Africa Region

## - Term of References -



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### Introduction

In 2017, the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC) launched an initiative titled *Ending Cholera: A Global Roadmap to 2030*, with the objective to reduce by 90 percent the number of deaths from cholera worldwide and to eliminate the disease in at least 20 countries by 2030.

The West and Central Africa Region (WCAR) is one of the regions most affected by cholera worldwide. In fact, between 2000 and 2015, 83% of reported deaths from cholera was in sub-Saharan areas (Lessler et al., 2018).

In order to ensure the effective coordination of all actors involved in cholera preparedness, prevention and response, a specific coordination unit called the "Regional Cholera platform" was created in 2012, with support of DG-ECHO following the cross-border outbreak in Guinea and Sierra Leone.

Between 2012 and 2017, the cholera platform has been working closely with the 24 countries of the region by supporting research, by facilitating cross-border and multi-sectorial coordination, by engaging countries towards cholera elimination, and by supporting emergency response and preparedness.

By the end of 2018, the WCAR cholera platform updated the existing ToR to align and integrate with GTFCC as an operational body of the Global roadmap to 2030.

### Objective

The cholera platform's objective is to support cholera control and prevention across the West and Central Africa Region (WCAR) through operationalization of the roadmap at country level.

The three main axes of work of the platform is:

Axis 1: Improve early detection, preparedness and response to contain outbreaks

Axis 2: Prevention of disease occurrence by targeting multisectoral interventions in cholera hotspots.

Axis 3: Effective knowledge exchange and information management at regional level.

## **Membership / leadership**

The regional cholera platform is one of the operational arms of the GTFCC that supports countries to implement the Roadmap. The platform brings together key regional partners comprised of the relevant sectors in the region:

- WASH: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene;
- Surveillance and reporting;
- Immunization with Oral Cholera Vaccine (OCV);
- Health Care System Strengthening;
- Community Engagement and Risk Communication; and
- Leadership and Coordination.

Different types of organizations can be members of the Regional Cholera Platform:

1. UN agencies (UNICEF, WHO, OCHA, IOM);
2. Humanitarian and Development NGOs;
3. Governmental organizations (mainly from Ministries of Planning, Health, WASH, Civil protection) and intergovernmental organization (OCAL, ECOWAS, CEEAS, etc.);
4. Donor organizations; and
5. Academic partners and research institutions.

## **Governance and platform activities**

At Global level:

The regional platforms coordinate their actions with the GTFCC Secretariat and Working Groups. The focus of interest of the platform is country level cholera programs, with a special focus on cholera affected countries and cholera hotspots, according to the annual workplan.

The scope of the Regional Cholera Platform is for operational and coordination purposes (information and knowledge management, capacity building, country support, monitoring the roadmap, etc.). The global strategy to control cholera and the specific technical policies are defined by the GTFCC (define global strategy and technical guidelines, resource mobilization, etc.).

At Regional level:

Secretariat of the platform: historically, UNICEF has been leading WCAR Cholera Platform Secretariat from Dakar with dedicated staff (Platform lead and Information Manager) and with WHO as co-lead (currently one dedicated staff). The Secretariat oversees the implementation of the regional workplan and supports countries.

Regional platform's members: The annual workplan is approved and suggested by Regional platform members currently represented, as follows:

- One (1) representative of the Regional Health Working Group (WHO)
- One (1) representative of the Regional WASH Working Group (UNICEF)
- One (1) representative from OCHA

- Three (3) international medical organizations
- Three (3) international WASH organizations
- One (1) donor representative

At National level:

Communication and national support on Cholera from the regional level will be conducted through three main national cholera focal points from the Ministry of Health, WHO and UNICEF, and their alternate. These main national focal points must be strongly involved in the national Cholera Task Force and define the support required from the regional level.

At Local level:

All actors receiving regional updates are considered members of the regional platform. They can participate in the strategic discussions of the main platform through web-conferences or workshops. They represent a few hundred members who have [registered on-line](#), with different backgrounds and from different organizations in all 24 countries of the UNICEF West and Central Africa Region.

**Framework of the WCAR cholera platform:**

| Outcome 1: Improve early detection, preparedness and response to contain outbreaks  |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Results   | Activity  | Partnership   |
| R1.1: Key actors working on cholera are alerted of outbreak and risk of propagation | Alert technical and financial partners about any major regional outbreaks (monitoring of outbreak). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Countries to provide timely epidemiological data</li> <li>- Clusters and Ministries to alert at national level.</li> </ul> |
|   | Reinforcement of surveillance including laboratory capacities                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WHO</li> <li>- Ministries</li> <li>- Private sector</li> </ul>   |
|   | Facilitate emergency coordination e-meeting between countries                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Clusters in countries</li> <li>- GWC &amp; GHC</li> <li>- UNICEF and WHO Country offices</li> </ul>                        |

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| R.1.2: Key actors have increased their capacity to respond efficiently and in a timely manner to cholera outbreak | Support countries to develop cholera contingency plans (scenario, stock, local capacity...) through training, technical support and review of plans | - Clusters members and OCHA in countries.  |
|   | Support development of capacity building plan (and costing) elaborated for each of the high-risk countries  | - National actors (cluster, OCHA and Ministries)                                 |
|   | Build capacity of technical partners at national or field level to respond to cholera outbreak  | - GWC and GHC<br>- GTFCC<br>- National actors (cluster, OCHA and Ministries)     |
|   | Create a regional roster of experts that can be deployed in emergency or for technical consultancies  | - Provide list to GTFCC<br>- Feedbacks from partners to complete list of experts |
| R.1.3: The cholera platform provides technical support to ongoing outbreaks                                       | If requested by countries, organize joint mission for rapid evaluation, emergency response and support to coordination of the response              | - National actors (clusters' members, OCHA and Ministries)<br>- Clusters         |
|   | Create regional contingency funds to kick-off the response to major outbreaks   | - UNICEF or WHO as leaders of the platform                                       |

| Outcome 2: Prevent cholera occurrence by targeting multisectoral interventions in cholera hotspots |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Results  | Activity  | Partnership   |
| R2.1: Multi-sectoral National Cholera Plans (NCP) are elaborated following evidence-based studies  | Support countries in the elaboration of multi-sectoral cholera control and elimination plans through remote support, in-country missions or workshops                     | - Relevant Ministries at country level<br>- UNICEF and WHO Country offices<br>- GTFCC |
|  | Carry-out workshops at country level to develop or improve NCPs aligned to global guidelines (remote support)   | - Relevant Ministries at country level<br>- UNICEF and WHO Country offices<br>- GTFCC |
|  | Update maps of cholera hotspots in the region to monitor rising vulnerability and/or progress on the elimination roadmap  | - Surveillance WG GTFCC<br>- Ministries   |
|  | Conduct multi-sectorial field assessments in hotspots (WASH, Health, C4D) to propose coherent and effective prevention programmes with estimated budget in hotspots areas | - Relevant Ministries at country level<br>- UNICEF and WHO Country offices            |
|  | Support the development of country investment plans in identified cholera hotspots  | - Relevant Ministries at country level<br>- UNICEF and WHO Country offices<br>- GTFCC |

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| R2.2: Decisions makers are informed about high-risk areas, long-term solutions and their costs | Advocacy to Technical and Financial partners to implement interventions in priority cholera hotspots | - Technical and financial partners   |
|  | Represent and advocate for cholera at regional level   | - Technical and financial partners<br>- GTFCC, GWC, GHC<br>- ECOWAS, SADC, AU, WAHO... |
|  | Monitor and communicate success-stories on “cholera elimination” in the region                       | - Relevant Ministries at country level<br>- Communication experts                      |
| R2.3: Priority hotspots have sustainable interventions planned or on-going                     | Conduct and support sustainable interventions in cholera hotspots                                    | - Relevant Ministries at country level<br>- UNICEF and WHO Country offices             |
|  | Monitor interventions in cholera hotspots  | - GTFCC  |
|  | Conduct multi-sectorial impact studies of interventions to support advocacy                          | - All implementing partners  |

| Outcome 3: Improve Knowledge, Information management and exchange mechanisms                                    |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| Results   | Activities   | Partnership  |
| R 3.1: Regional disaggregated cholera information is gathered, disseminated and available to platform’s members | Manage regional <a href="#">platform website</a> (studies, lessons learnt, good practices, maps and infographics...) | - Platform partners to provide information, updates, latest news<br>- Work closely with other regional platforms and GTFCC to have an integrated website |
|   | Organize webinars to communicate to platform members on existing strategy, tools, progress, etc.                     | - Platform members<br>- Possibly joint webinars with key partners according to topic   |
|   | Publish regional cholera updates through bi-monthly bulletins  | - Countries to provide timely epidemiological data (MoH, WHO).<br>- OCHA region, WASH and Health cluster at country level to forward widely              |
|   | Assess notoriety of the cholera platform, its services and tools through surveys, consultations or website traffic   | - Platform members   |
|   | Collect, map and share all cholera research on-going in the region   | - Share research on website<br>- Share with GTFCC every 6 months   |
|   | Create and update “summary cholera factsheets” (including hotspots identification) per country in the region         | - In coordination with Regional WHO office<br>- In coordination with country offices and Ministries<br>- Surveillance WG GTFCC                           |
|   | Update <a href="#">cholera real-time webmap</a>  | - Countries to provide timely epidemiological data (MoH, WHO)<br>- Harmonised approach / webmap between platforms  |

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| R 3.2: Partnerships and cross-border collaboration are reinforced | Organize coordination meetings with main regional platform members to: 1) update on the cholera situation in the region 2) update on the latest events / news / research 3) define priorities and the platform workplan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Main regional platform body (please refer to list of participants)</li> <li>- Possibility to participate remotely through conference call</li> </ul> |
|   | Reinforce cross-border coordination through workshop to elaborate coherent approach at epidemiological basin level  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regional organisation (ECAAS, ECOWAS...)</li> <li>- Countries with Ministries</li> <li>- Platform members</li> </ul>                                 |
|   | Strengthen partnership to link-up platform within existing coordination bodies  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GTFCC, GWC, GHC, UNICEF, WHO...</li> </ul>   |
|   | Platform lead or volunteer platform members to participate in technical working group of GTFCC meetings to represent the platform   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Platform members and/or platform lead</li> </ul>   |
|   | Promote GTFCC global strategy, technical standards and recommendations to ensure harmonized efforts in the region   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Platform members</li> <li>- GTFCC to establish guidelines</li> </ul>   |
|   | Support cholera research defined by GTFCC research agenda by linking partners in the region or/and operationalizing the implementation  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Platform members</li> <li>- GTFCC in the definition of research agenda</li> </ul>  |

