

RPRG Membership and Terms of Reference

Membership

Regional Program Review Group (RPRG) members will be appointed by the Regional Director and will serve a two-year term (renewable for one additional term). The ideal size/composition of the RPRG is 5 to 11 people drawn from the following entities:

- One member of the Global Program Review Group who is also from the Region
- Two managers of the national Programs to Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (PELFs) from countries of the Region (including one TAG representative from the Region)
- One or two recognized experts in lymphatic filariasis (LF) and tropical public health from institutes of excellence within the Region
- One member from a technical body of another program with actual or potential links with PELFs in the Region
- One member of the RPRG will be elected as Chairperson for a term of one year (renewable on re-election)
- A representative of the World Health Organization (WHO)/Geneva will be an ex-officio member of the RPRG
- Representatives from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Merck and Co. Inc, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and donor agencies can be invited as observers
- The Regional Office of WHO will function as the secretariat for the RPRG, with the WHO Regional focal point acting as Secretary
- Members should not have any conflict of interest with other related bodies

Terms of Reference

The primary objectives of the RPRG should be to

- Review applications and reapplications for drug donations of albendazole, where this drug forms part of national plans to eliminate LF. The plans should be consistent with guidelines for safe and rational use of the drug and with approved prescribing information in all areas where LF is endemic.
- Provide guidance to countries in the development of their annual national plans for the elimination of LF in a manner that is consistent with national public health policies and global and regional strategies for the elimination of the disease, and which takes into consideration the specific issues of the Region. The RPRG should guide the countries to help build on their existing capacities rather than building vertical structures.
- Review the implementation and progress of national programs and ensure they are consistent with regional and global strategies and targets and make recommendations to WHO regional focal points on subsequent requests for albendazole and upscaling of programs in subsequent years.
- Provide technical guidance on implementation of the recommendations of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) as relevant in the member countries of the Region.
- Identify operational research issues arising during implementation of programs in the Region and refer to relevant research institutions in the region, the Global TAG, the WHO Regional Office, and the Dominican Republic Task Force on Filaria Intervention Research.
- Advise PAHO/WHO on matters related to certification of elimination of LF in countries of the Region.
- Advocate and support member countries in seeking political commitments from Governments and Ministries of Health for the elimination of LF