

Global Laboratory Leadership Programme Engagement Forum: Terms of Reference

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Background

Strong laboratory leadership is crucial to ensure a functional laboratory system and, there are very few programmes that address this need. The [Global Laboratory Leadership Programme \(GLLP\)](#) is a unique collaborative initiative of six organizations: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Health Organization (WHO), World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US CDC), and Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). The Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (GLLP) focuses on professionals working in human, animal and environmental health laboratories, as well as laboratories with public health functions (for example, agricultural, food, chemical and aquatic laboratories, etc.). The GLLP aims at fostering and mentoring current and emerging laboratory leaders to build, strengthen, and sustain national laboratory systems with a commitment to a 'One Health' approach.

The GLLP partners developed a list of essential competencies recommended for training laboratory leaders and published the [Laboratory Leadership Competency Framework \(the "Competency Framework"\)](#), which provides the foundation for the GLLP, through a multisectoral One Health approach addressing the entire "National health laboratory system".

The Competency Framework can be used by national authorities from all sectors and disciplines, including policymakers, regulatory agencies and educational institutions, as well as other stakeholders such as donors, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector organizations. In addition to the Competency Framework, the GLLP also offers a learning package which includes over 200 hours of virtual and in-person course materials, as well as various guides to support implementation of the GLLP.

Based on GLLP guidance documents and best practices from early implementations, the [GLLP Implementation Roadmap](#) was developed to support countries to plan and advance GLLP implementation at the national level. Even though the GLLP has been around for several years, it has evolved rapidly as a rich resource for laboratory leadership development, with over 26 countries currently implementing the programme, and many more in the process of planning implementation in future.

Purpose

In response to increased global interest in the GLLP, the informal GLLP Engagement Forum (GEF) is being convened to facilitate the dissemination of information and programme updates.

The GEF ensures involvement of all sectors under One Health with the following objectives:

- 1) provide a uniform communication channel to present the stakeholder voice in the development, alignment and implementation of short-term and long-term action plans for the GLLP;
- 2) create a standing opportunity to connect with other related workforce initiatives; and
- 3) promote greater engagement among interested participants with the objective of identifying capacities and capabilities to support the GLLP.

Scope

The GLLP Engagement Forum (GEF) aims to strengthen engagement opportunities for GLLP advocacy and provide a platform for regular information sharing with a multi-stakeholder audience. The GLLP partners, through the GLLP Secretariat, develop and highlight an agenda specific to every meeting/interaction of the forum.

The GEF provides an informal forum to:

- 1) share information and updates on GLLP implementation, implementation guidance and new program initiatives or tools;
- 2) track programme progress, accomplishments, lessons learned, and outline gaps or needs that require support; and
- 3) work with stakeholders to identify areas of mutual interest that may further promote GLLP objectives at a national, regional or global level ¹.

The GEF does not advise or provide inputs for the purposes of norms and standards setting to the GLLP partners.

Participation

The GEF is intended for participants that are senior representatives of entities with at least a two-year track record of engaging in one or more laboratory leadership programmes, aligned with the GLLP objectives and core values. GEF participants must have a planned or existing portfolio of work (implementation, advocacy, research, resourcing, etc.) with GLLP.

GEF participants include but are not limited to representatives of: UN agencies, governments and non-state actors, such as academic institutions, NGOs, civil society organizations (CSOs),

¹ Highlighting the GLLP progress to participants in the GEF has an advocacy component as well as generating interest in donors /partners to invest technically and/or financially at the national, regional and global levels. WHO is committing to technical support only for hosting the GEF.

philanthropic organizations/foundations, etc., working or engaging in GLLP implementation at the national, regional or global level.

Each GEF participant shall be solely responsible for covering its own expenses related to the participation in the GEF, including but not limited to travel, accommodation, transport, and meeting participation. The GLLP partners or the GLLP Secretariat shall not assume any responsibility or obligation to reimburse or cover any such expenses incurred by the participants.

Frequency of meetings

The GEF convenes virtual or in person meetings periodically, throughout the calendar year. Furthermore, the GLLP partners may continue organizing GEF meetings depending on collaborative needs and priorities.

Institutions/entities interested to participate in the GEF should write to gllp@who.int including the following:

1. A statement of previous work or anticipated activities related to the Global Laboratory Leadership Programme (<150 words); and
2. A designated focal point name, title and email contact.

Convenor

WHO, as Secretariat of the GLLP, convenes the GEF meetings. The GLLP reserves the right to accept or reject any participant's expression of interest, to annul the open call process and reject all expressions of interest at any time without incurring any liability to the affected participant or participants and without any obligation to inform the affected participant or participants of the grounds for the GLLP's action.

For non-state actors, participation in the GEF will be subject to the due diligence and risk assessment as detailed in the [WHO Framework of Engagement with Non-State Actors \(FENSA\)](#).

The GLLP may also decide, at any time, not to proceed with the GEF, change the approach or to disband it. The GLLP shall not in any way be obliged to reveal, or discuss with any entity or participant, how an expression of interest was assessed, or to provide any other information relating to the acceptance of the participation or to state the reasons for not selecting a participant.