WHO Meeting of the PIP Framework Partnership Contribution
Independent Technical Expert Mechanism (PCITEM) Meeting
3 – 4 October 2023

SUMMARY MEETING REPORT

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 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. During the meeting, PCITEM assessed the appropriateness of projects to contribute to the Outcome and Output targets in the High-Level Implementation Plan 2024-2030¹ (HLIP III). PCITEM provides inputs to implementing unit focal points, and submits its report to the Director, Department of Epidemic & Pandemic Preparedness and Prevention (EPP).

Meeting Objective

To provide scientific and technical guidance and advice to WHO on work plans submitted for funding from the PC under the HLIP III for the 2024-25 biennium.

Participants

The eight PCITEM members met both virtually and in-person on 3-4 October 2023 to review progress and the project work plans for 2024-2025.

Six observers from non-State actors including Industry Associations and Civil Society Organizations registered for the open sessions of the meeting on 3 October, of which two were from Industry Associations. The list of meeting participants is available in Annex 1.

Proceedings

The two-day hybrid meeting was held according to the agenda attached in Annex 2. On the first day, WHO technical focal points and regional offices presented work plans for the four HLIP III

¹ See PIP Partnership Contribution High Level Implementation Plan III 2024 - 2030
outputs². Interactive discussions ensued to assess each workplan according to its appropriateness, relevance, potential impact, and feasibility. Technical focal points addressed all questions. On the second day, PCITEM discussed each project, using a checklist provided by the Secretariat, with a view to providing recommendations and considerations with respect to finalizing the workplans. In addition, PCITEM provided overarching considerations related to strengthening preparedness for pandemic influenza.

The PCITEM noted that the inclusion of observers during the PCITEM meeting increased the visibility and transparency of project planning processes. The PCITEM found that opportunities provided for observers to comment, enriched the technical discussions. PCITEM concluded its deliberations and prepared its report to the EPP Director on 4 October 2023.

**PCITEM provided the following summary conclusions to the EPP Director:**

- HLIP III and its four interconnected outputs provide a sound framework for strengthening pandemic influenza preparedness capacities at the national, regional, and global level. It has evolved from its preceding implementation plans and with the changing global health security landscape, and incorporated lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic to enable a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to strengthening pandemic preparedness capacities.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted:
  i. The critical contribution of influenza systems and capacities – including human resource capacities in-country and within WHO – to support pandemic preparedness and response.
  ii. Capacities strengthened during COVID-19 can be leveraged to further strengthen influenza-specific and broader respiratory pathogen pandemic preparedness.
  iii. The valuable role of investments by the PIP PC, together with other donors and technical partners, to strengthen national, regional, and global preparedness systems, knowledge, and capacities as a foundation for response in the different areas of work.
  iv. Given the concerns regarding the inequities in accessing diagnostics, vaccines, and therapeutics, the PIP Framework exemplifies a model that fosters equitable access to pandemic products.
- Lessons continue to be learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic. The 2024-25 workplans reflect the importance of contextualising the needs of countries and regions, while aligning with HLIP III’s deliverables and outputs, and the broader global health security landscape. These learnings were considered and accounted for during the workplan development and revision process.
- Activities proposed under all four outputs of HLIP III are inherently interconnected, with some activities contributing to multiple outputs. WHO should continue to encourage

² The 4 outputs under the PIP Framework PC HLIP III 2024-2030 are ‘Policy and Plans’; ‘Collaborative surveillance through GISRS’; ‘Community protection’; and ‘Access to countermeasures’. 
cross-collaboration between output teams and collaborative implementation of activities across relevant teams across the three levels of WHO.

- With the increasing number of actors supporting capacity building for pandemic preparedness and response, more effective collaboration and co-financing between WHO and these partners – including Member States, donor partners, industry and civil society – would build trust and strengthen technical and programmatic linkages for strengthening pandemic preparedness and response capacities.
- The Project narratives include output and deliverable level budgets, providing the PCITEM with a high-level overview of the financial allocation for each project. The PCITEM noted that while such information is informative, it allows the group to provide only a high-level assessment of financial reasonableness with respect to each project.

**PCITEM provided the following overarching advice to WHO as it undertakes implementation of the PC HLIP III:**

- Continue to leverage capacity gains made during COVID-19 for pandemic influenza preparedness and response to facilitate more sustainable capacity building.
- Continue the focus on strengthening seasonal influenza preparedness and response as a pathway to pandemic preparedness for all four outputs. By exercising capacities during seasonal outbreaks, countries can better prepare and forecast measures required to respond to an influenza pandemic.
- Continue to strengthen influenza surveillance and management at the human-animal interface and better coordinate activities, including facilitating more effective information and resource sharing between human and animal sectors at the national and international level.
- Develop a partner mapping to indicate synergies between PIP PC implementation and other sources of funds for influenza and/or respiratory pathogen pandemic preparedness.
- Noting that there are separate ongoing negotiations on amending the IHR (2005) and to develop a new pandemic instrument, the PIP Framework should stay attuned to these discussions and their potential implications on PC implementation.
- Use the HLIP III mid-term review as an opportunity to evaluate technical implementation and the changing global health security landscape, and consider adjusting HLIP III progress measures, including indicators and milestones, as and if necessary.

**PCITEM provided the following broader considerations to the EPP Director:**

- Detail in the project narratives, where possible, synergies and collaboration with other global partners involved in pandemic influenza preparedness.
- Specify in future workplans and project narratives, where possible, which PC supported activities involved synergies with other agencies and partners, which are co-funded by other sources, and by whom.
- Indicate in future project narratives the common challenges and proposed solutions and response plans to address these challenges. Some implementing teams face common challenges and can learn from each other’s experiences in addressing them.
• Provide rationale in the project narratives on the use of proportions or numbers in indicator tables.
• Provide clarity in future project narratives the links between various Outputs and their activities.

Next Steps

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

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Annex 2

MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday 3 October 2023

Closed Session for PCITEM

08.00 – 08.30 Registration

08.30 – 09.00 Welcome and meeting introduction (PCITEM Chair and EPP Director)
Declaration of interest (CRE)

Open session for PCITEM and observers

09.00 – 09.30 Welcome & Overview presentation

09.30 – 10.15 Policy and Plans project presentations
HQ (Isabel Bergeri, Wenqing Zhang, Stefano Tempia, Chris Chadwick)
AFRO (Belinda Herring)
EURO (Michala Hegermann-Lindencrone)
SEARO (Pushpa Wijesinghe)

10.15 – 10.45 Break

10.45 – 11.30 Policy and Plans project cont.

11.30 – 12.15 Collaborative Surveillance project presentations
HQ (Wenqing Zhang, Isabel Bergeri)
EMRO (Ruba Hikmat)
PAHO (Carolina Serrano)
WPRO (Nam Nguyen)

12.15 – 13.30 Lunch


14.30 – 15.15 Community Protection project presentation (Supriya Bezbaruah, Ljubica Latinovic, Sandra Machiri)

15.15 – 15.45 Break
15.45 – 16.15  **Access to Countermeasures – Regulatory Strengthening** project presentation  
(Razieh Ostad Ali Dehaghi)

16.15 – 16.45  **Access to Countermeasures – Deployment** project presentation  
(Ioana Ghiga)

16.45 – 17.30  Discussion and observer comments

*Closed Session for PCITEM*

17.30 – 17.45  Wrap up of Day 1

**Thursday 4 October 2023**

*Closed session for PCITEM members only*

09.00 – 12.00  Discussion among PCITEM on projects and completion of checklists

12.00 – 13.30  Lunch

13.30 – 16.30  Continued discussion, completion of checklists and preparation of meeting report

16.30 – 17.00  Wrap-up and close of meeting