



GLOBAL TASK FORCE ON  
**CHOLERA CONTROL**

6TH ANNUAL MEETING  
3-4 JUNE 2019, VEYRIER DU LAC, FRANCE

Update from the  
Lab Working Group

# LABORATORY WORKING GROUP

- Composed of lab experts from different countries and GTFCC partner institutions.
- Part of the surveillance working group with the Working Group on Epidemiology for Cholera Surveillance (Epidemiology WG).
- Laboratory WG: six meetings
  - On 19 December 2014 in Paris, France (Lab)
  - On 26-27 November 2015 in Faridabad, India (Lab)
  - On 12-13 April 2016 in London, UK (Lab&Epi)
  - On 2-4 May 2017, Tunis, Tunisia (Lab&Epi)
  - On 16-18 April 2018, Annecy, France (Lab&Epi)
  - On 15-17 April 2019, Annecy, France (Lab&Epi)

# LABORATORY SURVEILLANCE WORKING GROUP FIRST ACHIEVEMENTS



## *Interim technical notes*

- Lab WG:
  - The Use of Cholera Rapid Diagnostic Tests, November 2016
  - Introduction of DNA based identification and typing methods to public health practitioners for epidemiological investigation of cholera outbreaks, June 2017
- Epi & Lab WG:
  - Interim Guidance Document on Cholera Surveillance, June 2017

published and available on the GTFCC website

# LAB WG UPDATE SINCE THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING

The WG prepared and discussed the following documents as part of the Lab surveillance package to support countries:

- 2 Job-aids validated and finalized
  - ✓ Sample Packaging and Domestic Transportation for laboratory confirmation of *V. cholerae* O1 or O139
  - ✓ Strain Conditioning for International Transportation of *V. cholerae* O1 or O139
- 2 Job-aids validated but still under revision
  - ✓ Isolation and identification of *Vibrio cholerae* O1 and O139 (coordination with the WHO Cholera lab Kit)
  - ✓ Antimicrobial resistance testing for treatment and control of cholera
- A Fact sheet for use and interpretation of RDTs, integrated in the Cholera App
- Two technical guidances
  -  External quality assessment for national labs to improve the quality of laboratory diagnostics of cholera
  -  PCR assays for the detection and confirmation of *Vibrio cholerae*

# LAB WG UPDATE SINCE THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING

- RDT cutoffs for Pre-Qualification - Assessment of submission (acceptable and realistic values for sensitivity/specificity).
- Global database and Access to Whole Genome Sequencing
  - All published sequences are open access
  - Complementary tool for surveillance

# LAB WG CONTINUING WORK

- Develop lab criteria to define “well functioning” surveillance system for certification of elimination.
- Increase the accuracy of Lab testing for using molecular approaches for cholera and potentially other enteric infections.
- Discuss a Research agenda.