



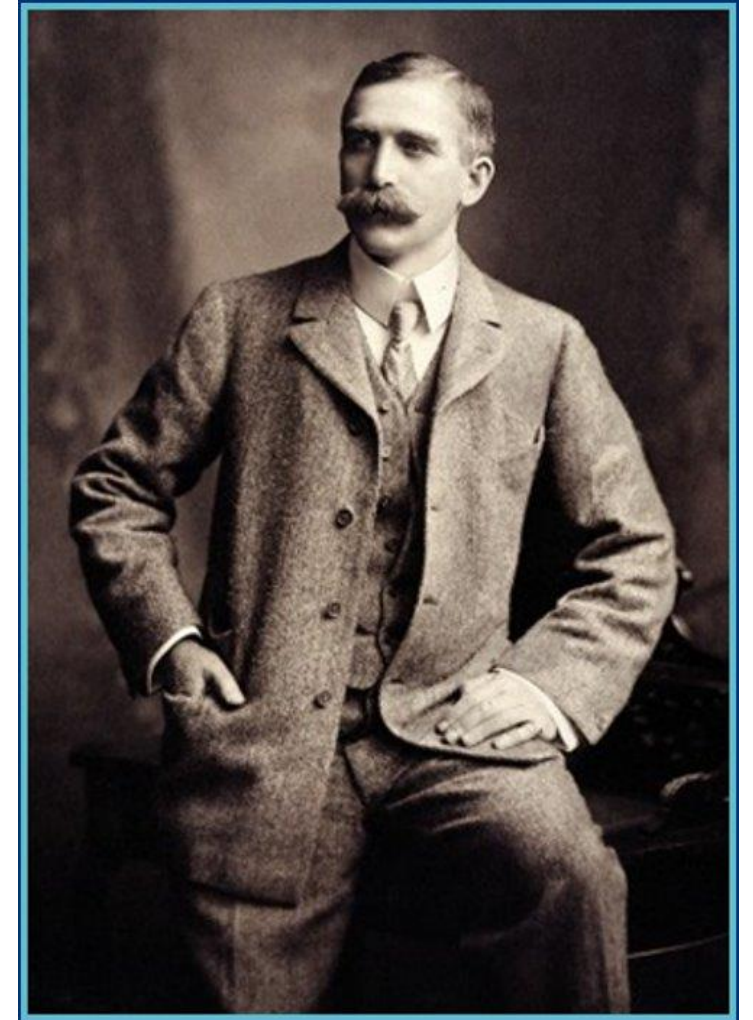
# Funding Cholera Research & the Global Research Agenda for Cholera

GTFCC OCV Working Group Meeting Dec 2019

Elizabeth Klemm & Helen Groves

# Background to Wellcome

- Financially and politically independent global charitable foundation dedicated to:  
**“understanding and improving health through research”**
- Established in 1936 under the will of **Sir Henry Wellcome**.  
- Current endowment of ~£26 bn.
- Second biggest funder of health research, after BMGF
- Fund and support: basic science; translation science and clinical trials; innovative solutions, humanities and social sciences; public engagement; policy and advocacy
- Wellcome Collection: free museum that challenges how we think and feel about health



# Research Funding across Wellcome

## Science

### Creating knowledge

- Response-mode funding
- Investigator-led schemes
- Core-funded Institutes

## Innovations

### Translational research

- Innovator awards
- Flagship portfolios
- Hilleman Laboratories

## Priority Areas

### Addressing a challenge

- Cross-cutting activities
- Strategic awards
- Policy and advocacy

# Cholera Research Funding across Wellcome

## Science

### Creating knowledge

- Response-mode funding
- Investigator-led schemes
- Core-funded Institutes

- Cholera genomics work at the Sanger Institute
- Many other cholera research projects over the years

## Innovations

### Translational research

- Innovator awards
- Flagship portfolios
- Hilleman Laboratories

- Development of Hillchol vaccine
- Prevention of enteric disease flagship
- Point of care diagnostics

## Priority Areas

### Addressing a challenge

- Cross-cutting activities
- Strategic awards
- Policy and advocacy

### **Vaccines Priority Area**

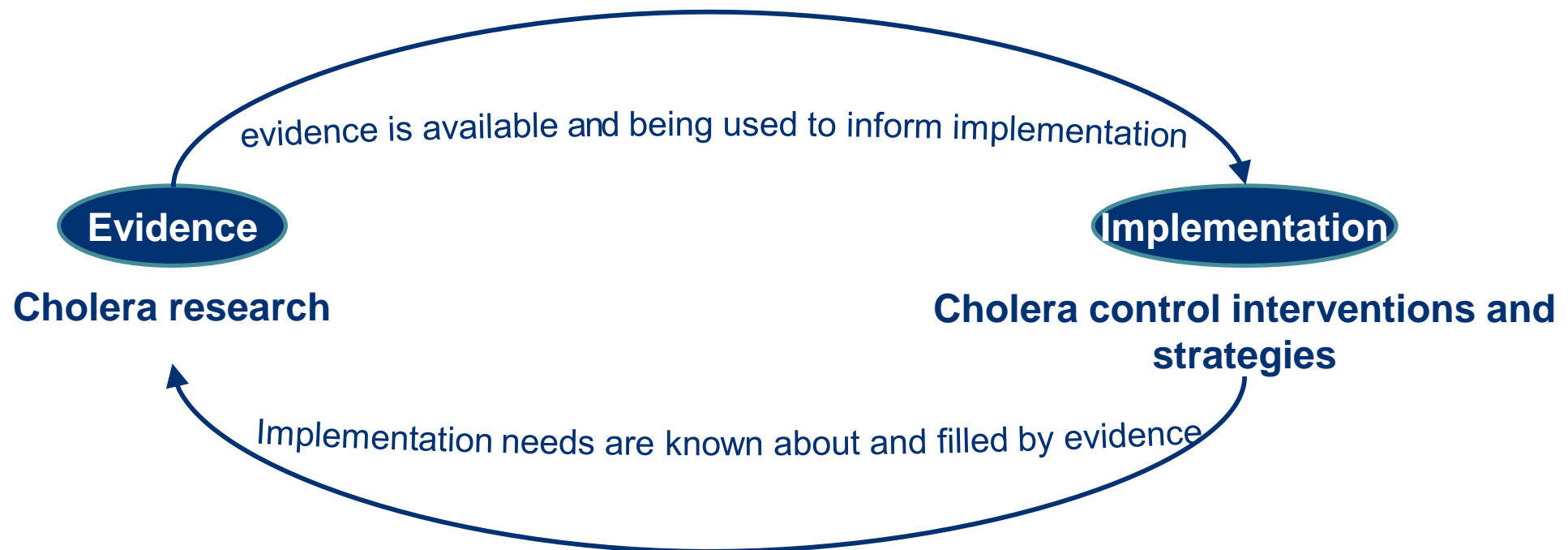
- Linking evidence with implementation
- Policy and advocacy

# Linking evidence with implementation - focus on cholera

Support development of strategies to prevent, control, treat and eliminate cholera that are informed by evidence and to ensure research in cholera is driven by implementation and policy needs.

For Wellcome Vaccines Priority Area: This will lead to **better use of vaccines** informed by evidence

For the GTFCC and cholera community: This will help support implementation of the *Ending Cholera Roadmap*





Targeted funding call for research  
into  
cholera control and prevention

# Supporting Cholera Research

- June 2018: Wellcome and DfID hosted “Research Scoping Meeting”
- **Aim:** Research a consensus on a research agenda aligned with the GTFCC *Ending Cholera Roadmap*

## High-level “interim” research agenda

PRE-IMPLEMENTATION	IMPLEMENTATION	POST IMPLEMENTATION / M&E
<p><b>Burden of disease and identification of hotspots:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hotspots:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Quantification</li> <li>- Characterization</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Accessible laboratory confirmation methods in hotspots</li> <li>• Assessment tool – hotspot vs at risk</li> <li>• Improve estimates of mortality and where it occurs</li> </ul> <p><b>Transmission dynamics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laboratory data, WGS, epidemiological data</li> <li>• Community/household level</li> <li>• Disease modelling for outbreak short term prediction</li> </ul>	<p><b>Optimization of interventions at the community level:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid Diagnostic Tests</li> <li>• Use of antibiotic (targeted prophylaxis)</li> <li>• WASH package (short medium and long term)</li> <li>• Delivery strategies for OCV</li> <li>• Behavior change</li> </ul> <p><b>Operational research on cholera vaccine:</b></p> <p><b>Synergies of interventions:</b> OCV and WASH</p> <p><b>Cholera And Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)</b></p>	<p><b>Effectiveness:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcomes and process for continuous improvement</li> <li>• Improve targeting and use of interventions in country</li> </ul> <p><b>Change in attitude:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political will</li> <li>• Lessons learnt to be documented</li> </ul>
CROSS-CUTTING		
<p><b>Social sciences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country engagement: policy drivers, determinants and barriers</li> <li>• Documenting success stories through case studies – to be linked to advocacy efforts</li> </ul> <p><b>Impact:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of WASH coverage needed to stop transmission,</li> <li>• Role of disease estimate modelling to support countries in defining control plans</li> <li>• Impact of outbreak response (including OCV reactive campaigns) and endemic cholera control activities</li> </ul> <p><b>Cost effectiveness/value for money</b></p>		

# Funding Cholera Research

## Joint Initiative



**Funding call:**  
Preventing and Controlling Cholera

**Guidance:** Evaluate applications on alignment with GTFCC interim research agenda

**32 applications**

**Peer review by experts**

**11 projects**

**2** rapid diagnostic tests

**2** cholera transmission/hotspots

**3** OCV-related studies

**1** WASH strategy

**2** behavioural determinants

**1** study on treating cholera

**Results:** Q3 2021 – Q1 2022



# Funding and research coordination

Need to ensure that future cholera research funding, by us or other funders, is informed by evidence-needs of the whole cholera community

- researchers, clinicians, implementors and policy-makers across all areas of cholera control

The research needed to reduce deaths due to cholera by 90 % and eliminate cholera in in up to 20 endemic countries needs to be:

1. **Identified**
  2. **Prioritised**
  3. **Communicated to researchers and funders**
- } via overarching **Cholera Research Agenda**

Question to the **GTFCC OCV Working Group**:

**What are the research questions which need to be answered to develop strategies for the optimal use of OCV?**



# Research Agenda for Cholera Control and Elimination

# Background

## Why are we doing this?

Successful implementation *Ending Cholera Roadmap* relies on areas where they are **evidence gaps**

Prioritising and communicating what research is needed to fill these gaps will:

- help **guide researchers and funders**
- may help **policy-makers incorporate research** into their National Cholera Control Plans

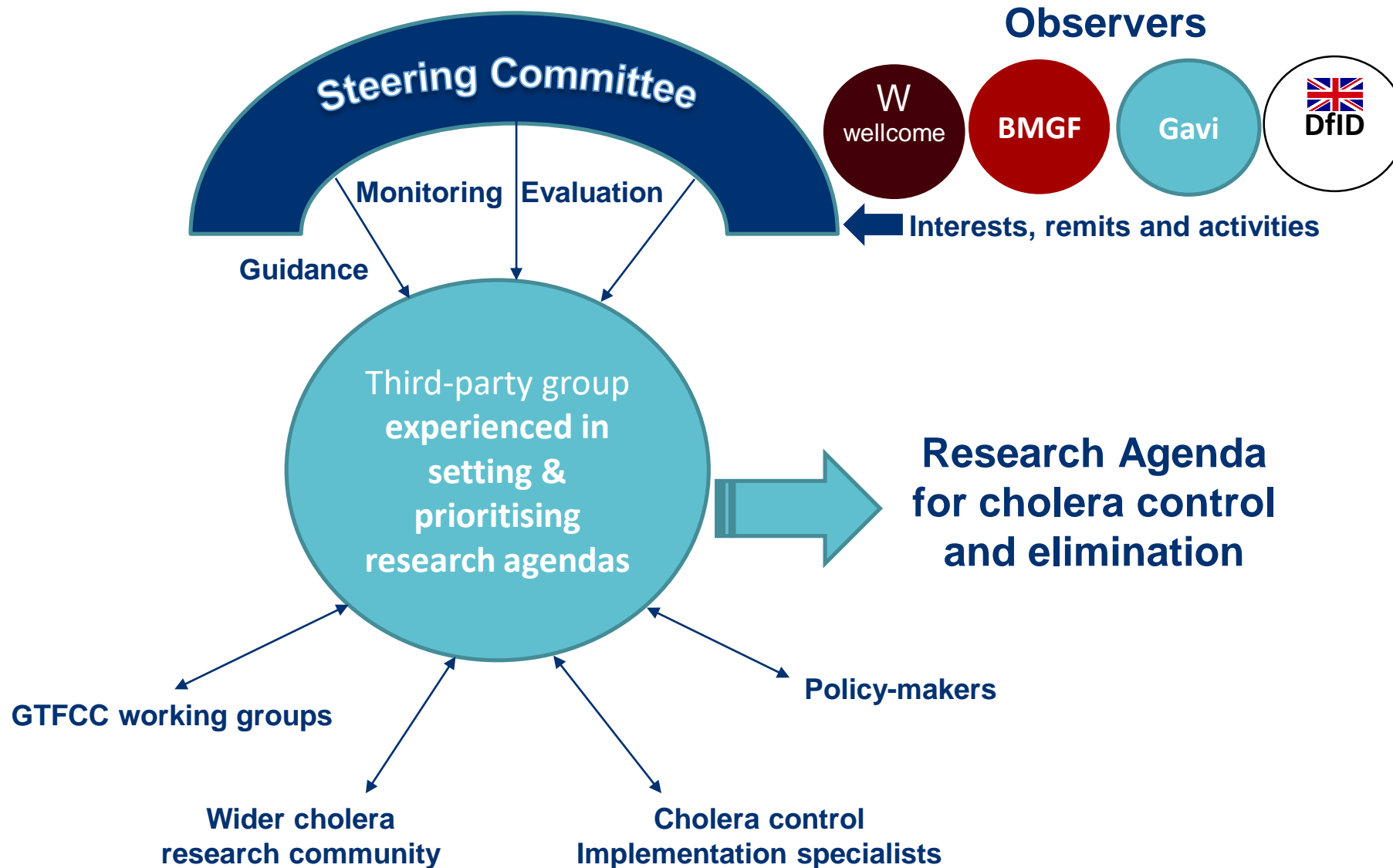
## Improve on interim research agenda

- Greater involvement with all the GTFCC working groups
- Incorporate evidence needs of implementation specialists and policy makers
- Designed in a **systemic, non-biased way to identify research priorities**
- Stronger link to regional and country-level evidence needs

**Research questions identified → Research prioritised → Development of Research Agenda → Evidence generated and available → Evidence used to inform most appropriate strategies for cholera prevention, control, treatment and elimination**



# Overview: Global Cholera Research Agenda



# Request for Proposals

Released: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Deadline: 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Target:** academic groups and private consultancies

- Experience in research prioritisation, research agenda and strategy design
- Experience in cholera field **not** a necessity

**Prioritising Research – key for the agenda to act as a guide for funders and researchers**

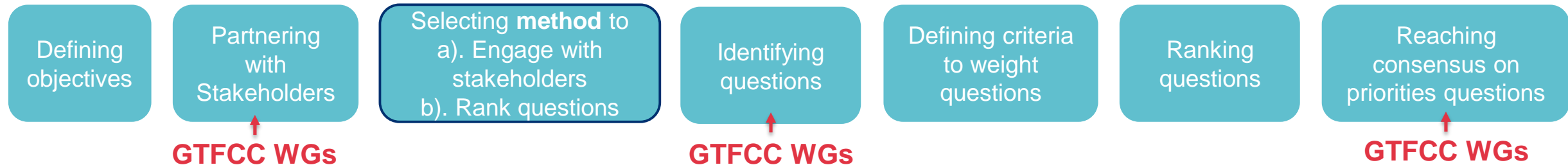
The research agenda needs to:

- Prioritise **between** different areas of cholera research
- Show dependencies between research priorities
- Identify short, medium and long-term research priorities
- Consider differences between global, regional and country-level research priorities

# Prioritising Research

## What is Research Priority Setting?

- A collective activity for deciding which uncertainties and questions are most worth trying to resolve through research



## Examples of methods:

- Child Health and Nutrition Research Initiative → mental health, dementia, childhood diarrhoea
- Combined Approach Matrix → HIV prevention, tropical diseases, diarrhoeal diseases in India
- Delphi Method → Old age, nursing, cerebral palsy

= All involve a combination of qualitative surveying and quantitative ranking

## Impact of research prioritisation:

- MoH Malaysia set healthcare research priorities = 96 % of subsequently funded research contributed to policy-making
- NIAID has a prioritised StopTB Partnership research agenda to help inform TB funding strategies

# Where we are now: Global Cholera Research Agenda

## Update

- Reviewed and interviewed shortlisted suppliers
- In the process of selecting the final group

## Next steps

### *Wellcome*

- Visit GTFCC Working Groups to spread awareness and engage with development of research agenda
- Identify individuals outside GTFCC communities to engage with

### *What we need from the GTFCC WGs:*

- Identification of research questions for each area
- Suggestions for country-level implementors and policy-makers to engage with during research agenda development
- Engagement with third-party group via their chosen approach e.g. email surveys, phone interviews, workshops





Thank you!

Contact details:

Elizabeth Klemm [e.Klemm@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:e.Klemm@wellcome.ac.uk)

Helen Groves [h.groves@wellcome.ac.uk](mailto:h.groves@wellcome.ac.uk)