

GLOBAL HEALTH CRISES TASK FORCE

Workplan

1. The present workplan of the Global Health Crises Task Force (“Task Force”) sets out the purpose of the Task Force, a timeline of deliverables and the working methods of the Task Force.

Purpose

2. The purpose of the Task Force is to monitor, coordinate and support the follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of the High-level Panel on the Global Response to Health Crises (“High-level Panel”), issued in its report on “Protecting humanity from future health crises” (A/70/723). The Task Force will ensure that the implementation of the Panel’s recommendations is aligned with the observations of the Secretary-General as set out in his report on “Strengthening the global health architecture” (A/70/824).

3. The Task Force will highlight recommendations that are not being implemented fully, identify bottlenecks to implementation and propose ways in which progress on recommendations can be supported. The Task Force may conduct “tabletop” simulations or use other mechanisms to assess the preparedness of the UN system to address health emergencies. Through its work, the Task Force will seek to catalyse action on the Panel’s recommendations, enhance the preparedness of the UN system, maintain the profile of global health issues, and make substantive contributions to the strengthening of the global capability for responding to health emergencies.

4. As the implementation of the Panel’s recommendations progresses, the Task Force will in due course to reflect on whether the strengthening of existing processes and networks at the national, regional and international levels over the course of the year has resulted in a sufficiently robust global capability for responding to health emergencies. It will also consider whether a standing mechanism bringing together the UN system and external partners to share information and ideas on a periodic basis can play a useful role and promote greater coherence in the UN system, without duplicating existing mechanisms.

Timeline of deliverables

5. The Task Force provide advice to the Secretary-General will not be involved in the implementation of the Panel’s recommendations. It will monitor progress on the Panel’s recommendations to provide updates to the Secretary-General. The key deliverables of the Task Force will be its quarterly reports to the Secretary-General.¹ At the end of the year, the Task Force will provide a final report to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Panel’s recommendations which may be transmitted to the General Assembly.

¹The periods for each quarter are as follows: Quarter 1 (July to September 2016); Quarter 2 (October to December 2016); Quarter 3 (January to March 2017); and Quarter 4 (April to June 2017).

6. In its reports, the Task Force will provide updates to the Secretary-General on the issues listed below which relate to Panel's recommendations.
 - a. Strategic support for national health systems to prevent global health crises
 - i. Support compliance with and increase awareness of the International Health Regulations (IHR)
 - ii. Build health workforces
 - b. Integrating communities in efforts to prevent global health crises
 - c. Supporting regional arrangements for preventing and responding to global health crises
 - d. UN system capacity and coordination during health emergencies
 - i. Support the new WHO health emergencies programme
 - ii. Clarify WHO-IASC coordination processes
 - e. Testing capacities and processes for global health crises response through simulations
 - f. Catalysing focused research and innovation relevant to global health crises
 - i. Prioritize research for neglected diseases
 - ii. Ensure access to medicines, vaccines and other life-saving products
 - iii. Review the Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework
 - iv. Augment research and development capacities
 - g. Securing sustainable financing for work on global health crises
 - i. Increase assistance for health systems strengthening
 - ii. Ensure that development programming supports health systems
 - iii. Mobilize financial and technical support to build the IHR core capacities
 - iv. Mobilize financial resources to sustain WHO's contingency fund for emergencies
 - v. Operationalize pandemic emergency financing facility
 - vi. Establish and manage fund for research and development
 - vii. Promote compliance with Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership agreement
 - h. Focusing attention on the gender dimensions of global health crises
 - i. Ensuring health crises are a priority on global political agendas
 - i. Promote health-related Sustainable Development Goals, including universal health coverage
7. In considering progress on the Panel's recommendations, the Task Force will take into account the different processes and ongoing work by other stakeholders, including the Independent Oversight and Advisory Committee for the WHO Health Emergencies Programme which has been established to provide oversight and monitoring of the development and performance of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme.

8. In its reports, the Task Force may also alert the Secretary-General to emerging health crises and to gaps or weaknesses in the global capability for responding to health emergencies that require immediate attention.

Working methods

9. The meetings of the Task Force will be conducted as follows:

- a. The Task Force will meet on a quarterly basis from July 2016 to June 2017.
- b. The meetings will generally be held by teleconference for a duration of 90 minutes.
- c. One in-person meeting is envisaged.
- d. The Task Force Secretariat will distribute the agenda and documents to the Task Force members in advance of each meeting.

10. The Task Force Secretariat will prepare a draft quarterly report on the issues identified in paragraph 7 above, in consultation with WHO and the World Bank. These draft reports will be circulated to the Task Force members for their review and input, prior to finalization and submission to the Secretary-General. The finalized reports will also be shared with the United Nations system, Member States, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders.

11. The preparation of the final report will follow the same process as the preparation of the quarterly reports. Additionally, the final report may be submitted to the Secretary-General for transmission to the General Assembly.

12. The Task Force Secretariat will provide information to the Task Force members on activities and events relevant to the implementation of the Panel's recommendations.

13. The Task Force Secretariat will seek feedback from Member States, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders (including the United Nations Human Security Unit) regarding their assessment of the implementation of the Panel's recommendations. The Task Force Secretariat will provide the Task Force members with information on the feedback received, and may also circulate literature on relevant issues, such as on health and human security.