

Call for expression of interest for membership of National Certification Committee (NCC), Pakistan - Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI)

Description

Organizational Context

World Health Organization (WHO) is leading UN agency that promotes health and works to eradicate the disease. Since the World Health Assembly in 1988 WHO is being leading the global efforts to eradicate Poliomyelitis along with other main partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Those partners are UNICEF, Rotary International, US Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). GPEI is supporting Pakistan government through National Emergency Operation Center (NEOC) for Polio Eradication and implementing all activities required to interrupt all types of Polioviruses.

Pakistan, along with Afghanistan, remains the last polio-endemic countries in the world. In recent years, both countries are showing great progress evident from massive reduction in polio viruses' circulation.

National Certification Committees

National Committee will be responsible for assessing the documentation prepared by national staff, verifying it, where necessary by field visits. National Committee will have no authority to certify polio eradication in the country but will refer their opinion as to whether eradication has been achieved, with supporting documentation for assessment by the regional Commission.

NCC Membership:

The committee members will be appointed by the national government in consultation with the WHO Country Office. Committee members should be independent of the polio eradication initiative and the EPI. It is expected that the members will be leading scientists, senior physicians or university staff, who will be committed to taking the responsibility of certification extremely seriously. Members should understand that their reputations as scientists or leading public figures will depend on their judgement as to whether the quality of work and its documentation is sufficient for a decision to recommend that certification of polio eradication should proceed.

Roles and Responsibilities:

National Committee will be responsible for assessing the documentation prepared by national staff, verifying it, where necessary by field visits. National Committee will have no authority to certify polio eradication in the country but will refer their opinion as to whether eradication has been achieved, with supporting documentation for assessment by the regional Commission.

NCC to work on Data that should be collected on the full range of activities related to polio eradication, with particular emphasis on intensified AFP surveillance, surveillance for wild polioviruses, immunization achievements, especially supplementary immunization focused on high-risk areas.

Conflict of interest:

NCC members act in a personal capacity and cannot have responsibility for activities that support polio eradication in the country. If at any time a member of the NCC takes direct responsibility for the eradication of polio in his/her country, his/her membership in the NCC will be terminated. All members must complete a declaration of conflict of interest before joining as a member of NCC.

Confidentiality agreement:

As NCC discussions include sensitive country information, it is expected that all members may require to sign relevant confidentiality agreements.

Work modality:

NCC members through the assigned NCC Chair will remain as a team coordinating and working remotely. The NCC is encouraged to meet regularly at least once every 6 months and can meet virtually as much as needed and decided internally.

The decision to certify eradication by Regional Certification Commission (RCC) will be based on the opinion of National Committee, plus the supporting evidence, combined with visits to countries to verify the data provided and to guarantee completeness and accuracy.

Secretariat support:

WHO is the secretariat for the NCC and will assign a dedicate staff to support and work for this purpose. NCC secretariat will serve to keep documentation of all NCC activities and will track on recommendations and facilitate communication to RCC as well as GCC when needed.

Remuneration:

The requested participation is on voluntary basis therefore, no formal/regular remuneration is involved however, activities and related cost shall be supported through WHO NCC secretariat. These costs include meetings, national or international travel, hotel accommodation, field visits logistics, etc.

How to Apply

Interested applicants are requested to:

1. Read the program description and guidance to fill the deceleration on interest (DOI) accessible through the links included in the announcement of the call of expression of interest.
2. Return the
 - a. filled DOI form
 - b. updated CV
 - c. recent colored photograph
 - d. a short statement (max 500 words) in support of their nomination addressing the selection criteria, the contribution they believe they can make, and why they're interested in this position
 - e. to be sent on or before 09th May 2022 at 1200 hours (Pakistan Standard Time) on the email address shrehman@who.int and naza@who.int