



Vector Control  
Advisory Group

# Vector Control Advisory Group (VCAG) on new tools, technologies and approaches – Terms of reference<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Background

In 2017, the WHO process for the evaluation of vector control interventions was revised to better meet the needs of countries endemic for, or at risk of, vector-borne diseases.<sup>2</sup> Under the revised process, the evaluation pathway to be followed is determined by whether or not an intervention is part of a class with an existing WHO policy recommendation.

Vector control tools, technologies and approaches (jointly referred to as 'interventions') that are already covered by a WHO policy recommendation follow the *Prequalification Pathway*. This pathway involves assessment of an intervention's safety, entomological efficacy and quality, and is the responsibility of the WHO Prequalification Team (PQT-VCP).

Interventions not covered by a WHO policy recommendation follow the *New Intervention Pathway* in addition to the Prequalification Pathway. The *New Intervention Pathway* is supported by the Vector Control Advisory Group (VCAG), an independent advisory group that assesses the public health value<sup>3</sup> of new interventions. VCAG is coordinated by a secretariat comprised of staff from the Global Malaria Programme (GMP), the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) and PQT-VCP. The group reports to the Assistant Director General of the Universal Health Coverage/Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases division of WHO.

Developing policy and guidelines based on VCAG's assessments and recommendations is the responsibility of the respective technical department (GMP or NTD) for the interventions in question (whether they target malaria or neglected tropical diseases). While a policy recommendation for an intervention is under development, PQT-VCP will evaluate one or more products that fall into this intervention class. If the outcome of both processes is positive, the technical department(s) will convene a guidelines development group to support the development of a

new policy recommendation, to be published as part of a guidelines document, and PQT-VCP will list the product.

VCAG's Terms of Reference (ToRs) have been regularly reviewed and updated to reflect ongoing changes in WHO's policy-making process and growing experience with the evaluation of vector control products and interventions. The latest revision date is indicated below the ToR title. The ToRs will be further amended when required to ensure continued consistency of VCAG operations with the ongoing alignment of the WHO policy making processes.

## **2. VCAG mandate**

To provide an assessment of the public health value of new vector control interventions submitted to WHO. As part of this work, VCAG provides advice to WHO technical departments and, via the VCAG secretariat, to product developers.

### **Functions**

The VCAG has the following specific functions:

1. To provide guidance to product developers, innovators and researchers (jointly referred to as 'applicants'), through WHO, on the generation of epidemiological data and study designs to enable assessment of the public health value of new vector control interventions.
2. To assess the public health value of new vector interventions submitted to WHO.
3. To provide advice to WHO on the public health value of new interventions.

## **3. Membership**

VCAG will consist of up to 15 members, including two co-chairs. VCAG members will serve in their personal capacities to represent the broad range of expertise relevant to vector control, including vector biology, ecology, genetics and population biology, insecticides and insecticide resistance, epidemiology of vector-borne diseases, regulatory aspects, study design, statistics, and product development.

VCAG members will be appointed to serve for an initial period of three years, and will be eligible for re-appointment only once for another three year period. To support the move to a staggered process of replacing VCAG members, WHO may, exceptionally, grant an additional extension of one or two years to some VCAG members to avoid replacement of a large proportion of the group within one year. A VCAG member, who has completed her/his maximum allowed contiguous term on the group, can be re-appointed to the group after a three-year gap in their membership.

In the selection of VCAG members, due consideration will be given to attaining the broadest possible international representation in terms of diversity of knowledge, experience and approaches, equitable geographical representation and gender balance as per WHO rules and regulations.

Periodically, depending on the skill set required within VCAG, the secretariat will issue a call for new members. In addition, the secretariat will accept nominations at any time from experts. The names of the nominees will be placed on a roster and the secretariat

will draw from the roster of nominees. VCAG members will be nominated by the Director of the Global Malaria Programme (GMP), the Director of the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTD) and the Director, Regulation and Prequalification, for approval and appointment by the Assistant Director-General of the Universal Health Coverage / Communicable and Non-communicable Diseases division.

The Co-chairs will be appointed by the secretariat from among existing VCAG members. Each co-chair will then serve for a period of three years, after which they will continue to serve as VCAG members, until the end of their established term.

Prior to being confirmed as VCAG members, and prior to renewal of their term, nominees, and current VCAG members, will complete a WHO Declaration of Interest (DOI) form. The DOI form will be submitted to the VCAG secretariat in a timely manner, allowing for an adequate assessment of members' disclosures. In addition, prior to confirmation by WHO of their appointment as VCAG members, nominees shall be required to sign a WHO confidentiality agreement. All VCAG members will be required to provide an updated DOI form before each meeting. Attendance at a VCAG meeting will not be permitted without a submitted and cleared DOI form.

Accepting to be a VCAG member means that the individual experts are acting in their personal and individual capacity only, in relation to their work in the VCAG, and:

1. must not seek or accept instructions from any Government or from any authority external to the organization;
2. must be free of real, potential, apparent or perceived conflict of interest;
3. shall have an ongoing obligation throughout their tenure to inform WHO of any changes to their affiliations or the information that they would have disclosed on the DOI form.

Summaries of declared interests will be read out at the start of VCAG meetings, and disclosed in VCAG reports, which will be posted on the WHO website. The list of VCAG members and related biographical information will be made publicly available on the WHO-VCAG website.<sup>4</sup>

VCAG members will not be remunerated for their participation in VCAG meetings. However, travel expenses and per diem incurred by attendance at VCAG will be reimbursed by WHO in accordance with applicable WHO rules and policies.

Membership in the VCAG may be terminated at any time by WHO, if WHO's interest so requires, and/or for any of the following reasons:

1. failure to attend two consecutive meetings of VCAG;
2. a conflict of interest incompatible with serving on the VCAG; and
3. a lack of professionalism involving, for example, a breach of confidentiality.

WHO may decide to appoint a new member in replacement of any VCAG member whose membership would have been so terminated.

## 4. Roles and responsibilities

### a. VCAG members

VCAG members have a responsibility to provide WHO with high quality, well-considered advice and recommendations on matters described in these Terms of Reference. VCAG members play a critical role in ensuring the reputation of VCAG as an internationally recognized advisory group on new interventions for vector control.

VCAG has no executive or regulatory function. Its role is solely to provide advice and recommendations to WHO. This includes providing advice and recommendations on the public health value of new interventions in vector control, as needed.

Information and documentation to which VCAG members may gain access in performing VCAG related activities will be considered as confidential and may not be publicly disclosed by VCAG members. VCAG members will not speak on behalf of, or otherwise represent VCAG, or WHO, to any third party. In the event that VCAG members are approached by non-WHO sources for their views, comments and statements on particular matters of public health concern and asked to state the views of VCAG, they will refrain from comment and refer such enquiries to the WHO VCAG secretariat.

The responsibilities of VCAG members include the following:

- To provide guidance to applicants, through WHO, on the generation of epidemiological data on a new vector control intervention required to allow VCAG's assessment of public health value. The provision of this advice may require a review of entomological data as these data may inform the epidemiological study design and supporting studies. In cases where entomological evaluations are conducted alongside epidemiological trials to generate supporting/explanatory evidence, VCAG is expected to review and guide the study design.
- To review the epidemiological data for a new vector control intervention to determine whether this evidence demonstrates public health value, and to assess supporting entomological data, where generated and submitted as supporting information.
- To provide advice to WHO, and via WHO to its advisory groups, to inform the formulation of potential WHO policy recommendations for a new vector control intervention based on VCAGs assessment of public health value.
- To advise and support WHO on the development of guidance for evaluation of epidemiological efficacy of new vector control interventions.

In addition to attendance of VCAG meetings, active participation will be expected of VCAG members throughout the year, including, but not limited to:

- review of applicant submissions leading up to meetings,
- off-cycle reviews of applicant submissions (when necessary),
- participation in video and teleconferences,

- interactions via email, and
- review of non-applicant-related documents such as Preferred Product Characteristics.

#### **b. Co-chairs**

The co-chairs' responsibilities include the following:

- to chair the meetings of the VCAG;
- to liaise with the WHO secretariat during and between the meetings;
- to facilitate a productive and respectful discussion;
- to assist the WHO secretariat in finalizing the report of each VCAG meeting; and
- to participate in meetings of WHO advisory groups, as an observer, as and when invited by WHO.

#### **c. Temporary advisors**

Additional experts may be invited as temporary advisors to VCAG meetings, as deemed appropriate, to further contribute to specific agenda items. The temporary advisors will be required to complete a WHO Declaration of Interest (DOI) form and the rules of confidentiality will apply to them. Their participation will be captured in the Meeting Report.

#### **d. Role of the secretariat**

WHO, through the VCAG secretariat, will provide any necessary scientific, technical and other support to VCAG.

VCAG meetings will be convened and organized by the secretariat. The secretariat will provide VCAG members in advance of each meeting a meeting agenda, working documents and discussion papers, as well as any other relevant information. Distribution of the meeting pre-reads to observers and invited experts will be subject to the protection of confidential information, as determined by the secretariat.

The secretariat will provide VCAG applicants with clear guidance concerning

**预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：**

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_25940](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_25940)

