ACTaccelerator
ACCESS TO COVID-19 TOOLS
Hosted by World Health Organization

ACT-Accelerator Tracking & Monitoring Task Force "TMTF"

Terms of Reference & Composition

15 December 2022

Context

During the course of the current ACT-Accelerator Strategic Plan[1] it has become clear that COVID-19 will be with us for the long-term and many countries will need continuing support to access - equitably - the countermeasures needed to manage it, especially safe and effective vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics. In this context, it is essential to begin integrating aspects of the ACT-Accelerator's work into ongoing mechanisms of organizations (e.g., WHO, Unicef, Global Fund, Gavi) that work on disease control (e.g. vaccine preventable diseases, malaria, HIV). ACT-A agencies will focus on this in its next phase, while providing ongoing support for responding to the current epidemiological situation /outbreaks and enhancing readiness in case of a major surge in cases or mortality due to significant new variants.

As ACT-Accelerator agencies work towards greater efficiency and sustainable approaches in this period, and the need for real-time, high-level political engagement reduces, the entities of the ACT-Accelerator Facilitation Council will also be consolidated to focus on monitoring impact, tracking resources, and maintaining readiness to reactivate, if needed. To achieve this, the ACT-A Council will go into a 'stand-by' mode and will be reconvened as a full group only if needed.[2] An ACT-Accelerator Tracking & Monitoring Task Force will continue key elements of the work of the Council, and its Tracking and Accelerating Progress Working Group (TAP WG) and Financial and Resource Mobilization Working Group (FinRM WG).

Key objectives of the ACT-A Tracking & Monitoring Task Force:

- To monitor the rollout of and equitable access to safe and effective vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics including the introduction of Test and Treat strategies globally.
- To support the optimal use of available resources by tracking financing commitments and needs against priorities during the next 6-months of ACT-Accelerator's work (e.g., via the ACT-A Commitment Tracker).
- To mobilize political support, if and as needed, to address specific challenges faced by ACT-A partners.
- To maintain Council and ACT-Accelerator stakeholder readiness to reactivate, as needed, in response to major surges of COVID-19 disease associated with severe outcomes.

[1] ACT-Accelerator Strategic Plan & Budget: October 2021 to September 2022, https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/act-accelerator-strategic-plan-budget-october-2021-to-september-2022

[2] Reactivation would be triggered by the identification of a new Variant of Concern associated with increased incidence and severity of disease relative to Omicron.

Task Force Functions

Drawing on information provided by the ACT-Accelerator pillars, the Global COVID-19 Access Tracker and relevant ACT-Accelerator agency dashboards, the ACT-A Commitment Tracker[3] and other relevant reports[4] the Task Force will meet at least once every two months to review and report progress in the rollout of countermeasures globally, including (i) the vaccine target of 100% vaccine coverage in all high-risk populations and health care workers on the way to achieving 70% vaccine coverage, (ii) the introduction of Test and Treat strategies, (iii) relevant recommendations of the ACT-Accelerator Council's Diagnostics and Therapeutics Working Group, and (iv) the availability of financial resources to support the demand for COVID-19 tools. The Task Force will also consider other major developments relevant to its work, including in terms of the pandemic itself (e.g., evolving epidemiology of COVID-19; new Variants of Interest and Variants of Concern).

The Task Force will keep Member States and other stakeholders abreast of ACT-Accelerator's work through the provision of regular updates in relevant fora, such as the WHO COVID-19 Briefings.

Task Force Composition

- Co-chairs: The United States & India are invited to Co-Chair the Task Force[5].
- Norway and South Africa will participate in the Task Force in their capacity as the Co-Chairs of the ACT-A Facilitation Council.
- TAP[6] and Financial and Resource Mobilization Working Group (FIN RM WG)[7] country members also will be invited to join the Task Force.
- Other Facilitation Council members including countries, non-government partners and invitees wishing to join the Task Force may request participation to the Co-Chairs through the Secretariat.
- The ACT-A CSO Platform will be invited to propose two representatives, with at least one representative to be from a low or lower middle-income implementing country.
- All Council members will be invited to Task Force briefings with Member States.

Mode of operation

- The Monitoring Task Force will meet at least once every two months. The format (virtual/hybrid) and cadence of meetings will be set by the Task Force once it is established.

[3] Note: the ACT-A Commitment Tracker will be updated monthly to end 2022
[4] This could include, for example, updates on access to countermeasures provided to the G20 Joint Finance and Health Task Force.
[5] The US in its current role as Co-Chair of the TAP WG and India in its role as G20 Presidency, taking over the Co-Chair role of Indonesia upon the end of its G20 Presidency.
[6] TAP Terms of Reference: https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/act-accelerator-facilitation-council-tracking-accelerating-progress-working-group-terms-of-reference
[7] FIN RM Terms of Reference: https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/act-accelerator-facilitation-council-financial-and-resource-mobilization-working-group

- The ACT Accelerator Hub will provide secretariat support for the Task Force with inputs from Pillar agencies, and with support from WHO regional offices.
- The Task Force will operate during the period October 2022 to end March 2023 in line with the time frame of the ACT-Accelerator's 6-month plan. In February 2023 a decision will be made on whether the term of the Task Force should be extended, and in what format, based on progress in implementing the ACT-A Transition Plan, developments in the pandemic itself, and the status of the global response.
- Should the pandemic situation change, for example because of a significant new variant that gives rise to a major global surge in COVID-19, and there is a need to reactivate the full ACT-A Council, the role of the Task Force will be revisited.

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