

***PTB and LBW Global Technical Working Group on Implementation Challenges and Solutions (TWG-ICS)***

**Every Premie-SCALE**

Program Description

**Every Premie—SCALE** (Scaling, Catalyzing, Advocating, Learning, Evidence-Driven) is a five-year United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Cooperative Agreement that provides practical, catalytic, and scalable approaches for expanding uptake of preterm birth (PTB) and low birth weight (LBW) interventions in 24 USAID priority countries in Africa and Asia<sup>1</sup>.

Purpose

Every Premie will convene a ***PTB and LBW Global Technical Working Group on Implementation Challenges and Solutions (TWG-ICS)***. The TWG-ICS will provide a broad multi-discipline forum for emerging evidence, research and learning relevant across the range of PTB and LBW interventions and implementation in low-income countries (LICs). The group will explore potential opportunities to address gaps in critical knowledge that will help to overcome bottlenecks to implementation, and significantly increase coverage and quality of PTB and LBW evidence-based interventions in order to increase newborn survival, and favorably impact other related reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health outcomes.

Scope

The scope of the TWG-ICS is to provide expert technical support for PTB and LBW interventions and approaches for LICs. The TWG-ICS will:

- 1) identify and refine implementation research priorities,
- 2) exchange relevant PTB and LBW program learning, research findings and emerging evidence,
- 3) explore public health program and health system implications and implementation knowledge gaps around PTB and LBW programming, interventions, and approaches, and
- 4) provide suggestions for relevant PTB and LBW coverage and outcome indicators.

Representation

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<sup>1</sup> Afghanistan, Bangladesh, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Yemen, Zambia.

Representation will include a wide range of clinical and public health disciplines. Members will constitute a diverse group including technical and clinical subject experts, field program implementers, product development specialists, donors, researchers, and members from related commodity working groups with a commitment to reducing the morbidity and mortality burden of preterm birth and low birth weight in LICs, and related reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health outcomes.

#### Participation

Periodic meetings will be conducted using a combined face-to-face and teleconferencing format, and are initially anticipated to occur quarterly. The term of service is for the life of the project that runs through August 30, 2019, or less depending on the needs of Every Premie and USAID. The TWG does not provide financial compensation, per diem, lodging, or travel support for participation. All views and opinions expressed by members remain solely those of the members and do not represent USAID, the USG, or partners in the consortium of Every Premie.

#### Structure

In addition to the core TWG, it is anticipated that smaller subgroups may form on an “as needed basis”, to further detail discussion on specific issues and intervention areas, and report back to the core TWG. The TWG will also maintain communication and representation with related PTB, LBW and MNH partnerships, associations and the UN Commission on Lifesaving Commodities working groups.