**Evaluation of proposed national program COVID-19 mitigation SOPs for resuming trichiasis case finding & outreach**

**Evaluator:**

**Date:**

**Country:**

**SOP documents to be reviewed:**

1. **Revised case finder training manual**
2. **SoP for conducting outreach**

Mitigation measures should be implemented to decrease risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in conjunction with trichiasis case finding and outreach. The reviewer should have copies of both the revised case finder training manual and standard operating procedures (SoP) for conducting a trichiasis outreach. The evaluation is divided into three areas:

* General mitigation measures
* Mitigation measures for trichiasis case finding
* Mitigation measures for trichiasis outreach

**General mitigation measures**

General mitigation measures are based upon WHO recommendations. They are national in scope and affect all aspects of trichiasis work, from case finding to outreach, and to follow up.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Considerations** | **Evaluator Comment** |
| Infection prevention and control | * Policies and actions applied to the SOP for the planned NTD activity is consistent with national rules and regulations and existing WHO COVID-19 guidance (e.g. about use of masks, hand sanitizers, and hand washing) * SoP specifies national policy on the use of facial covering by health workers and volunteers. |  |
| Service delivery strategies | * SOP mentions increases made to the timeframe, the number of health staff or community health workers for the planned activity to compensate for delays due to physical distancing and other restrictive measures |  |
| Community engagement and risk communication | * SOP mentions community leaders and trusted actors as being included in planning and implementation of the activity, as well as in communicating plans to the target population * SOP specifies messaging that is tailored to facilitate acceptance of changes and modifications from pre-COVID-19 procedures, and building confidence in the ability of the health system to manage the risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission during the planned activity * SOP specifies that all health workers involved in outreach are trained to convey messages on COVID-19 in line with national policies and regulations (e.g. on public health and social measures, on actions to take for suspected cases and contacts of cases) |  |
| Supervision and feedback | * SOP specifies how supervision and monitoring of case finding and outreach will be applied * Feedback mechanism established with the aim of identifying, reporting and correcting any problems occurring during the planned activities |  |
| People with COVID-19 symptoms | * Anyone with COVID-19 symptoms is advised to seek care, as recommended by the national regulations |  |

**Mitigation measures applicable to trichiasis case finding**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Area** | **Considerations** | **Evaluator Comment** |
| Training venue | * SOP specifies that training is to be held outdoors. If indoor venues are proposed, use of a well-ventilated area identified * SOP specifies schedules for cleaning and disinfection of the training venue prior to case finder training. If training is to extend beyond one day, cleaning and disinfection to be carried out prior to each training day. |  |
| Basic preventive measures included in case finder training manual | Case finder training manual conveys messages on the three basic preventive measures during case finding:   * Physical distancing: a distance of at least 1 metre (3.3 feet) between any two individuals, except when conducting examination for trichiasis * Respiratory/cough etiquette: case finder instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their bent elbow when they cough or sneeze. Case finders should avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth * Hand hygiene practice: regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water. After examination of each patient the case finder should clean their hands with a hand sanitizer (60-80% alcohol) |  |
| Selection of case finders | * SOP specifies that case finders and trainers should be instructed to not be involved in training if they experience any symptoms of respiratory illness * SOP specifies that people with higher risk of transmitting SARS-CoV-2to be advised that they should not be trained as case finders   + higher risk includes those with COVID-19 symptoms, contacts of COVID-19 cases during their period of quarantine, or those coming from areas with community transmission of COVID-19 * SOP specifies that people with higher risk of developing severe illness from COVID-19 advised that they should not be trained as case finders   + higher risk includes those aged ≥60 years or with pre-existing medical conditions such as hypertension and diabetes mellitus). |  |
| Case finding | * SOP specifies that the duration of contact between a case finder & an individual should be minimized. Contact between any two individuals should be less than 15 minutes. * SoP states that examination should be outside. A case finder should only go inside if the person to be examined cannot walk. * SoP states that the case finder does not touch the patient during examination for trichiasis (step by step guide adopted) |  |

**Mitigation efforts applicable to trichiasis outreach**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Microplanning for the outreach | * SoP includes assessment of each proposed outreach site according to the guidelines outlined in “Checklist for suitability for facility for trichiasis outreach” |  |
| Re-training of trichiasis surgeons | SoP includes the re-training of the trichiasis surgeons to ensure that supervisors are confident that surgeons are doing high quality surgery with face shields (practice using HEAD START prior to outreach) |  |
| Basic preventive measures | Revised SoP includes messages on the three basic preventive measures during outreach:   * Physical distancing: a distance of at least 1 metre (3.3 feet) between any two individuals, except when conducting examination for trichiasis and during surgery * Respiratory/cough etiquette: health staff and patients confirmed as trichiasis cases instructed to cover their mouth and nose with their bent elbow when they cough or sneeze. Everyone should avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth * Hand hygiene practice: regularly and thoroughly wash your hands with soap and water. After examination of each patient the examiner should clean their hands with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer (60-80% alcohol) |  |
| Outreach venue | * SOP specifies that hand washing facilities with soap and water or hand sanitizers (60-80% alcohol) or chlorinated water (water solution of sodium hypochlorite, 0.05%) are available at registration and inside, just prior to operation. |  |
| Screening of attendees for COVID-19 symptoms | * SOP considers the inclusion of screening individuals for COVID-19 symptoms prior to registration. * If screening is positive, the individual will be referred for COVID-19 services; consider identifying an isolation space/room for people screening positive who cannot leave the site immediately |  |
| Triage and counselling | * SoP considers conducting triage of trichiasis case prior to registration to reduce crowding at the health facility * SoP includes the provision of face masks for all cases confirmed to have trichiasis. * Counselling of trichiasis cases respects physical distancing and includes information on COVID-19 transmission. |  |
| Registration & crowd control | SOP minimizes crowding by:   * Limiting the number of family members accompanying the person to undergo examination and management to only one companion. Ideally, the case finder will provide this accompaniment * Maintaining at least 1 metre (3.3. feet) distance between any two individuals (consider marking off distances) * Limit the number of suspected cases to examine and potentially manage each day to 40-50. Coordinate with the case finders to stagger presentation at the outreach. |  |
| PPE during surgery | SoP includes additional PPE for the surgical team:   * Gloves are required for the surgeon and assistant. They should be changed after each patient and used gloves should be disposed of appropriately in a bin with a lid * The surgeon should use a face shield in addition to a face mask |  |
| Surgical space, equipment and surfaces | SOP establishes schedules for regular cleaning of equipment and surfaces, including   * Thorough cleaning and disinfection before the first case and after each case. * Equipment and surfaces should be cleaned with water and soap or a detergent, followed by a disinfectant; safe waste management protocols must be followed * For disinfection, use 70% ethyl alcohol for equipment and sodium hypochlorite at 0.1% (equivalent to 1000 ppm) for surfaces |  |
| Supervision | SoP ensures that each surgical team has a supervisor attending the first outreach after the resumption of trichiasis programme activities.   * Supervisors have been provided a copy of the revised supervision checklist |  |
| Day one follow up | SoP encourages surgical patients to only remain at the outreach site for day one follow up if they cannot return home and come back in the allotted time. |  |

**Declaration**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Comments and recommendations from Evaluator** |  |
| **Signed** |  |
| **Date** |  |