



### **WHO Global Open consultation for innovative Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

The WHO Ebola report on health worker infections, stated that during the 2014-2016 Ebola virus epidemic in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, “the most frequently reported were deficiencies in administrative, engineering and environmental controls, inappropriate use or lack of personal protective equipment (PPE), defective IPC practice and behaviour, and poor employment conditions and social determinants”. Healthcare workers at the frontline working to save lives were at 21 to 32 times greater risk to acquiring infection than the general population ([http://www.who.int/hrh/documents/21may2015\\_web\\_final.pdf](http://www.who.int/hrh/documents/21may2015_web_final.pdf).)

While PPE use or failures could not be linked to transmission of infection, challenges in training, sustained training and other human factors suggested that improved PPE characteristics, design and training along with other infection prevention strategies can reduce the occupational risk for developing infections.

PPE component are not designed to purposely fit together as an outfit to protect against highly transmissible infections like the Ebola virus. Healthcare workers at the frontline experienced extreme overheating, inability to communicate, inconsistent training and other factors that impaired greatly their ability to deliver compassionate services.

Therefore:

Technical Advisory Committees with members from WHO, UNICEF, MSF, USAID, ECDC, healthcare workers and many other academic and governmental organizations have been working towards defining an innovative product that can protect healthcare workers at the frontline and allow them to provide effective care to patients.

**Ten ideal characteristics are proposed and these are open for public consultation so that the ideal PPE could be designed and manufactured accordingly, please share this link to anybody related to use, design, management of PPE. WHO would welcome both institutional/organization responses as well as from individuals.**

**The consultation is open from 6<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September**

at: [http://www.who.int/medical\\_devices/document4open-consultation/en/](http://www.who.int/medical_devices/document4open-consultation/en/)

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