Looking beyond 2015: Reaching out for input in designing a new TB strategy and targets

At the World Health Assembly (WHA) in May 2012, Ministers of Health called on the World Health Organization (WHO) to develop a post-2015 TB strategy and accompanying targets for a resolution in 2014. WHO, working with the Stop TB Partnership, is pursuing this process. Partners were invited through a questionnaire to provide ideas on the way forward; analysis was done of varying country epidemics followed by formulation of possible new targets and a strategy framework with three proposed pillars: innovative TB care, bold policies & supportive systems, and intensified research and innovation. The WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG-TB) endorsed the approach and plans for further consultation, and along with partners debated options for goals and targets. Further input has come at regional meetings of National TB Programme Managers, and at meetings linked to the 43rd Union World Conference on Lung Health. WHO and the Stop TB Partnership have created portals to gather further input and feedback. The final proposed strategy and targets will be presented to the WHO Executive board and WHA in 2014.

Launch of Global TB Report
WHO warns global fight against TB “now at a crossroads”

17 OCTOBER 2012 | WASHINGTON DC - An estimated 20 million people are alive today as a direct result of tuberculosis (TB) care and control, according to the WHO Global tuberculosis report 2012. The report was launched on 17 October 2012 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC by WHO jointly with partners from NIH, CDC, PEPFAR and USAID. More on this story

Access the 2012 Global TB Report
Access the latest TB factsheet

TBTEAM supported proposals most successful in Global Fund’s Transitional Funding Mechanism

TB proposals submitted to the Global Fund’s Transitional Funding Mechanism (TFM) were most successful among the three diseases with an 86% recommendation rate and no rejections. Countries submitted 21 TB proposals which were developed with support from TBTEAM partners. TB applications received 25% of the total approved funding (USD 130 million). This is much higher than the current cap of 16% placed on TB proposals by the Global Fund’s current funding allocation model.

Following the cancellation of the eleventh round of funding by the Global Fund, a Transitional Funding Mechanism (TFM) was established. The aim of the TFM was to provide funding for the continuation of essential prevention, treatment and/or care services of the three diseases (HIV, TB and malaria) currently financed by the Global Fund.

TBTEAM which is hosted by WHO, is also working closely with countries to help them develop strategic plans and undertake gap analysis in preparation for future funding proposals to the Global Fund. In 2012, TBTEAM organized global and regional strategic planning workshops with 63 countries which account for 70% of the world’s TB burden to help them strengthen national strategic plans and also successfully apply for resources from the Global Fund.

Second meeting of the WHO Task Force for new drug policy development

A second meeting of the Task Force for new drug policy development was organized in Geneva from 11-12 October 2012. The meeting focussed on formulating and endorsing a strategic roadmap, which outlines key steps for WHO to develop suitable and timely recommendations for the introduction and use of new drugs/regimens for the treatment of drug-susceptible and drug-resistant TB in various settings. Further, information notes on relevant issues were prepared for countries.

The Task Force for new drug policy development was established following a WHO Expert Meeting organized in June 2011 in Geneva to examine the potential implications and consequences of the introduction of new or repurposed drugs for the treatment of drug-susceptible and drug-resistant TB in the market, and the subsequent recommendations from the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Tuberculosis (STAG-TB). More information
The 43rd Union World Conference on Lung Health and related meetings

In conjunction with the 43rd Union World Conference on Lung Health, WHO organized several side meetings in November 2012, including: the Childhood TB Subgroup meeting, MDR-TB stakeholders meeting, the Eighth PPM Subgroup Meeting, the Infection Control Subgroup meeting, a consultation on the WHO/CIDA initiative to increase case detection in five countries and other symposia including on . In addition Various symposia on diverse TB topics were organized during the Union Conference, including a satellite symposium on the ENGAGE-TB Approach on 16 November 2012. The meeting reports and presentations for some of the meetings are available on the links above; other meeting/symposia presentations will be available on the WHO TB website in the coming weeks.

Recent scientific articles

A sustainable agenda for tuberculosis control and research.

Scaling up interventions to achieve global tuberculosis control: progress and new developments.


Challenges and controversies in defining totally drug-resistant tuberculosis.

A descriptive study of TB cases finding practives in the three largest public general hospitals in Vietnam.

WHO guidance on electronic systems to manage data for tuberculosis care and control.

Antiretroviral Therapy for Prevention of Tuberculosis in Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis.

Tuberculosis and HIV in people who inject drugs: evidence for action for tuberculosis, HIV, prison and harm reduction services.

Hurry up and wait? Accelerating access to the Three I's for HIV-TB.

CDC Grand Rounds: the TB/HIV syndemic.

European union standards for tuberculosis care.

Screening of patients with tuberculosis for diabetes mellitus in China.

Screening patients with Diabetes Mellitus for Tuberculosis in China.

Working with workplaces for TB care and control [Editorial].
Uplekar M, Dias HM. Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2012 Dec;16(12)

12th meeting of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for TB (STAG-TB)

The twelfth meeting of STAG-TB was held on 18-20 June, 2012. Recommendations were provided on critical areas of WHO work and global TB priorities, including promising early results and challenges with the scale-up of rapid diagnostics, the process for development of new TB drug policy, and future TB strategy. To access the report of the meeting please click here.

Transforming the HIV/TB response: Defining the next ten years

The World Health Organization, in collaboration with Georgetown University, organized a high level international consultation on behalf of the TB/HIV Working Group of the Stop TB Partnership, in conjunction with the AIDS 2012 conference in Washington DC on July 21, 2012. The aim of the meeting was to discuss innovative ideas and ways to define and shape the global TB/HIV response for the next decade. It also harvested experiences and identified key challenges and barriers in the scale-up of collaborative TB/HIV activities, including key research gaps. More on this story

New Publications

Recommendations for investigating contacts of persons with infectious tuberculosis in low- and middle-income countries

ENGAGE-TB: Operational Guidance on Integrating community-based TB activities into the work of NGOs and other CSOs

A practical handbook on the pharmacovigilance of medicines used in the treatment of tuberculosis
Socio-economic position in TB prevalence and access to services: results from a population prevalence survey and a facility-based survey in Bangladesh.

For more information please go to www.who.int/tb