Eliminating the Catastrophic Economic Burden of TB: Universal Health Coverage and Social Protection Opportunities

Stakeholders from high TB-burden countries, multilateral and bilateral agencies, civil society organizations, researchers, and technical experts met in São Paulo, Brazil, from 29 April to 1 May 2013 for a WHO consultation on eliminating the catastrophic economic burden of TB. This consultation was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of Brazil. More

Annual TBTEAM meeting
WHO TBTEAM convened TB partners on 13-14 June 2013, in Geneva to energize support to Global Fund TB grant access and implementation. The meeting reviewed key issues including, the importance of countries having National Strategic Plans that are fully funded; analyses of the situation through epidemiological assessments and programme reviews; the Global Fund New Funding Model and its likely process in full roll out; and stronger engagement among TBTEAM partners to ensure that current approved grants are smoothly implemented. Access the meeting presentations.

Regional TB/HIV Implementation Workshop and 18th Core Group Meeting of the Global TB/HIV Working Group
The World Health Organization, supported by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), convened a regional TB/HIV Implementation Workshop followed by the 18th Core Group meeting of the TB/HIV Working Group of the Stop TB Partnership from 30 April to 1 May 2013 in Maputo, Mozambique. The event brought together more than 120 participants, comprising key international partners as well as national and regional HIV and TB stakeholders including community and civil society representatives from 14 countries in the African region. More

5th Annual Meeting of the Global Laboratory Initiative
The 5th Annual Meeting of the Global Laboratory Initiative (GLI) was organized in Les Pensières, Veyrier-du-Lac, France, from 15-18 April 2013. The overall goal of the GLI Partners meeting this year was to bring together leading global agencies, international technical and funding partners, representatives from research organizations, non-governmental agencies, country TB control programmes, the TB Supranational Reference Laboratory network, patient communities and other stakeholders working in partnership to address the challenges of increasing access to diagnostics within quality laboratory services for better TB control. The secretariat of the GLI is provided by the WHO Global TB Programme in Geneva. To access the meeting presentations please click here.

National TB Strategic planning framework and toolkit
The development of a national TB strategic plan (NSP) to implement TB care and control services is a fundamental step in the organization and management of TB care and control in a country. A good NSP should map out the programme's vision based on the country's actual needs. Given the diversity of approaches by countries in NSP development, the WHO Global TB Programme is developing a framework of key components to assist countries in improving their NSPs and which should fulfill key requirements and follow a well-defined methodology. Included in this framework is an educational training material taking into account the WHO Planning and Budget Tool as an integral part of NSP planning. The framework has been tested and promoted in 2012-2013 in five WHO regional workshops (Eastern Mediterranean, Western Pacific, Africa, Europe and South East Asia). The Global TB Programme is also working with partners and donors, such as the Global Fund to support country ownership of the process and investing in the development of comprehensive and sound NSPs. The framework and toolkit will be launched in late 2013.

13th meeting of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for TB (STAG-TB)
The thirteenth meeting of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis (STAG-TB) took place at WHO Headquarters on 11-12 June, 2013. The meeting was organized by the WHO Global TB Programme. Recommendations were provided on critical areas of WHO work including, development of post-2015 TB Strategy and targets; Xpert MTB/RIF roll-out and updated policy guidance preparation; rational introduction of new drugs; revision of the International Standards of TB Care (ISTC); scale up of MDR-TB response; guidance on treatment of latent TB infection and, TB and migration. The meeting report will be available soon on the STAG-TB website. A pre-STAG consultation was held on 16 June to inform the research pillar of the post-2015 strategy.

WHO launches interim guidance on the use of bedaquiline to treat MDR-TB
13 June 2013 | Geneva | For the first time in over 40 years, a new TB drug with a novel mechanism of action - bedaquiline - is available, and was granted accelerated approval by the United States Food and Drug Administration in December 2012. There is considerable interest in the potential of this drug to treat MDR-TB. However, information about this new drug remains limited. It has only been through two Phase IIb trials for safety and efficacy. The World Health Organization (WHO) has therefore issued "interim policy guidance". More

TBTEAM working with countries to maximize Global Fund TB investments
Currently US $ 2.5 billion is available in Global Fund resources for countries through 130 active signed TB grants. A further US $ 1 billion is available in grant renewals. Implementation of Global Fund grant activities and expenditure of funds between now and December 2013 are critical as the new funding model will be operationalized in 2014. At that time the Global Fund will make an assessment of all funds still available to countries for spending. It is very important that all current TB grant managers have to disburse and expended as much money as possible in their existing grants before the end of 2013. Where funds are not utilized, these will be treated by the Global Fund as part of the existing TB funding pipeline available from 2014 onwards. TBTEAM is working closely with countries to:
1. Monitor implementation performance and fund disbursement on a monthly basis through focal points in countries and key stakeholders - flagging problem areas early.
2. Identify and address the causes of delayed disbursement – prioritizing the twenty countries with 65% of this problem.
3. Help countries develop sound phase 2 requests and concept notes. This will be based on country reviews, impact assessments, and updated strategic plans. Follow up will be undertaken of grants to be signed soon, to ensure they are on track.
4. Regional workshop will be organized for NTP managers and PIs in coordination with TB technical partners, to orient countries on the new global fund and endorse strategic plans.
5. A United TBTEAM Global Fund Situation Room organized jointly by TBTEAM, the Global Fund and the Stop TB partnership will be set up to update countries on the funding model and to identify issues that require higher level intervention and support in countries. TBTEAM, the Tuberculosis Technical Assistance Mechanism, with a secretariat housed in WHO, is the Global coordination mechanism for technical TBTEAM working with countries to:

- Help countries develop sound phase 2 requests and concept notes. This will be based on country reviews, impact assessments, and updated strategic plans. Follow up will be undertaken of grants to be signed soon, to ensure they are on track.
- Regional workshops will be organized for NTP managers and PIs in coordination with TB technical partners, to orient countries on the new global fund and endorse strategic plans.
- A United TBTEAM Global Fund Situation Room organized jointly by TBTEAM, the Global Fund and the Stop TB partnership will be set up to update countries on the funding model and to identify issues that require higher level intervention and support in countries.
- TBTEAM, the Tuberculosis Technical Assistance Mechanism, with a secretariat housed in WHO, is the Global coordination mechanism for technical assistance for countries from among the global network of TB techni...
Universal access to care for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis: an analysis of 118 countries.
Falzon D, Jaramillo E, Wares F, Zignol M, Floyd K, Raviglione MC.

Managing tuberculosis in people who use and inject illicit drugs.
Getahun H, Baddeley A, Raviglione M. 

Drug-resistant tuberculosis: time for visionary political leadership.
Abubakar I, Zignol M, Floyd D, et al. 

Setting new targets in the fight against tuberculosis.

Global epidemiology of tuberculosis.

Epidemiology of antiretroviral drug resistance in Saudi Arabia: findings of the first national survey.

Tuberculosis. 
Zumla A, Raviglione M, Hafner R, von Reyn CF. 

WHO and the future of disease control programmes.
Lancet 2013 Feb 2;381(9864):413-8.

Unscaled and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis.
Jaramillo E, Weyer K, Raviglione M. 

Prospects for tuberculosis elimination.

Rapid molecular TB diagnosis: evidence, policy making and global implementation of Xpert MTB/RIF.
Weyer K, Mirzayev F, Migliori GB, et al. 

Rapid molecular TB diagnosis: evidence, policy making and global implementation. 
Lönnroth K, Corbett E, Golub J, et al. 

Rapid molecular TB diagnosis: evidence, policy making and global implementation. 
Lönnroth K, Glaziou P, Floyd K, Raviglione MC. 

Evaluation of negative Pulmonary Tuberculosis in HIV-infected adults.
J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr. 2013

Multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis. 
India. 

Drug-resistant tuberculosis treatment.
Lu C, Liu Q, Sarma A, Fitzpatrick C, Falzon D, Mitnick CD. 

Screening of patients with tuberculosis for diabetes mellitus in India. 
India Diabetes Mellitus-Tuberculosis Study Group. 

Screening of patients with diabetes mellitus for tuberculosis in India. 
India Diabetes Mellitus-Tuberculosis Study Group. 

Panel drug and food for thought (editorial).

Moving the goalsposts for tuberculosis targets in Africa.

Multi-country global workshop on TB prevalence surveys and TB surveillance
Following six previous global workshops on TB prevalence surveys, a multi-country workshop was organized by the TB operational guidance document can be implemented. The manual provides specific suggestions to national TB programmes as well as nongovernmental organizations and civil society organizations. An informal meeting of experts from the NGO sector was convened at WHO in Geneva from 13-14 March, 2013 to help develop the section in the manual on how TB surveillance can be integrated into other development areas. The manual is expected to be launched later in 2013. Learn more about the ENGAGE-TB Approach.

Indonesia Joint External Monitoring Mission
The Indonesia Joint External Monitoring Mission (JEMM) took place from 11-22 February 2013. The mission team consisted of 21 international experts, 44 experts from the country Stop TB Partners, non-governmental organizations, community groups and professional organizations and 24 experts from the National Tuberculosis Program (NTP) and Ministry of Health, Republic of Indonesia. The mission took account of progress made on recommendations of the previous monitoring mission in February 2011, on the TB Control National Strategic Plan in Indonesia 2010-2014 and the findings of field visits to DKI Jakarta, East Java, North Sulawesi, Maluku and Bangka Belitung. To read the recommendations made by the review, please click here.

New briefing notes
Information note on TB financing and funding gaps in 118 countries eligible for Global Fund support
Information note on use of bedaquiline to treat MDR-TB
Infographic: Impact of TB care: Save lives
Infographic: Maximizing Global Fund investments in TB
Improving early detection of active TB through systematic screening
Pharmacoepidemiology in TB care
Sticker treatment regimens for multidrug-resistant tuberculosis

Links to our regions
African Region
Region of the Americas
South-East Asia Region
Western Pacific Region

Contact Us
World Health Organization
Global Tuberculosis Programme
20, Avenue Appia | CH-1211
Geneva | Switzerland
Tel: (+41) 22 791 3111
Fax: (+41) 22 791 3131
Email: disphub@who.int

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