Introduction

“If I want to know about the programme I ask a nurse”

“Nurses are the backbone of TB control”

“Nurses are undervalued and under-utilised”
Challenges

- Lack of nursing guidelines
- Lack of research evidence
- Lack of an international voice
- Large variety of circumstances
  - Resources
  - Environments
  - Qualification
But...

- DOTS is a global strategy promoting a standardised approach to TB control
- Nurses exist globally and share common ideas and values
Building a clearer picture

- Asking nurses
  - Workshop discussions
  - Role survey
  - Consultation
- Observation
  - Technical assistance visits
  - Research studies
Summary of key activities
(variety of nurses)

- Patient care
- Health education: patient, family and community
- Treatment observation
- Sputum collection
- Management/Co-ordination
- Contact tracing/Screening
- Research
- Teaching
DOTS expansion plan

- Emphasis on improving case detection and treatment success in 22 high burden countries with 80% of global TB burden
Nurses and case detection

- 70% Case detection
  - First point of call in primary care services
  - Health education
  - Holding patient from presentation to registration
  - Recording and reporting
Nurses and treatment success

- 85% Treatment success
  - Patient care - physical, psychological, social
  - Health education – patient, family, community
- Treatment monitoring
- Recording and reporting
Why are nurses not reaching their potential?

- Lack of strategic level representation
- Lack of research evidence
- Lack of consistent training and materials
Make the most of nurses

- Identify leaders in the field
  - Local, national, regional and global

- Develop research opportunities
  - Clinical audit (best practice standards)
  - More funding for operational research

- Develop training opportunities
  - Identifying the nurses’ role
  - Involving nurses in training
  - Training nursing students
Discussion points (2):

- How can DOTS implementation be improved and sustained?
- How can we introduce small changes in national health policy relating to day-to-day running of clinics with DOTS?
- What can we do to help patients by involving their local policy makers, pocket and global TB communities?