TBTEAM – Paris 13 October
Regional Perspectives
TB Expert Capacity

WHO AFRO
Dr. Bah Keita
TB Programme Manager
Tuberculosis
Program Manager
MO – DOTS expansion
MO - TBHIV

Administrative support

IST
Eastern & Southern Africa
• MO Drug resistance
• MO DOTS expansion
• Medical Officer Surveillance - Vacant
• Technical Officer Laboratory
• Technical Officer GDF
• Technical Officer ACSM
• Secretaries (2)

IST
Central Africa
• MO DOTS expansion
• Medical Officer Surveillance - Vacant
• Secretary

IST
West Africa
• MO DOTS expansion
• Medical Officer Surveillance - Vacant
• Technical Officer GDF - Vacant
• Secretary - Vacant
Technical staff capacity in the Africa Region

- Region is divided into three sub regions WA, CA and ESA – total 46 countries

- Technical staff capacity is seriously challenged.
  - For 6 months in 2008 no technical staff in the station in WA and CA and only 2 MOs in ESA during the same period
  - Currently no surveillance officers in any of the sub regions
Technical support needs

- Major requests relate to support for GF applications, GLC proposals, laboratory support, Programme reviews, GDF monitoring and Planning etc

- TBTEAM Tools
  - Stop TB missions and events (including open requests for assistance)
  - Stop TB experts
  - Stop TB partner mapping

Have been useful in accessing information regarding TA
Challenges

- Some of the key challenges is the heavy workload of Regional / IST Staff who are charged with very many tasks resulting in time constrains for the TBTEAM activities. As a result, country TBTEAM focal points have not been identified.

- Availability of consultants especially for simultaneously occurring needs like proposal development for GF is a significant challenge.

- The pool of consultants to tap from is very small.

- The consultant training is not regular.

- Laboratory technical support is also short for the country needs.

- GLC proposal development and PAL component are also very weak.

- Financial resources for activities.
Opportunities

- By posting requests on the TB TEAM website, the region has been able to access TA from consultants to support some of the countries.

- 18 countries were supported through this mechanism in the GF round 8 application.

- There is good collaboration between AFRO and HQ and partners in the technical support areas. Tapping into this will allow easier access to TA.
The TBTEAM mechanism is very useful in supporting the region to tap into existing pool of expertise in and outside the African Region.

It is necessary to strengthen the Technical team of the regional and sub regional levels to be able to make maximum use of the TBTEAM mechanism.
Way forward

- TBTEAM information will be uploaded in the ATM website of the regional officer for easier access to more countries.

- It is hoped that in the future, resources will be available to fund a post of a TO who can coordinate TBTEAM activities in the region and countries.