Assessing the national strategic plan for TB prevention, care and control

Objectives: after the assessment reviewers should comment on -

- the quality and appropriateness of the national strategic plan for TB control;
- the strengths and weaknesses of the national strategic plan;
- recommendations for actions needed to improve the quality and soundness of the national strategic plan.

Background:
Developing a national strategic plan to implement TB prevention, care and control services is a fundamental step in organizing TB activities. A sound strategic plan should clearly map the objectives to be achieved in controlling TB and how those objectives should be achieved during a specified period. The national strategic plan for TB prevention, care and control should be aligned with national health policies and the national health plan.

A national strategic plan should specify goals and objectives that will contribute to fulfilling the aims of the national policy to prevent and control TB. The plan must describe the strategic interventions and activities that need to be developed and implemented. It should also specify where and when these interventions and activities will be implemented, and who will implement them. To this end, a sound national strategic plan must (i) include the costs of implementation, and identify sources of funding; (ii) describe how it will be operationalized; and (iii) indicate how the outcomes and outputs will be monitored and evaluated.

Therefore, national strategic plans should include the following five components:

1. a core plan that should include –
   a. an analysis of the burden of TB and TB activities, which should help identify gaps;
   b. definitions of goals and objectives;
   c. strategic interventions and their associated activities;
2. a budget plan;
3. a plan for monitoring and evaluation;
4. an operational plan;
5. a technical assistance plan.

Depending on the country, a preparedness plan for coping with emergency situations may be included as a component of the national strategic plan.

Location: central unit of the national TB programme and, if needed, the relevant ministerial departments

Staff to be interviewed: staff of the central unit of the national TB programme and relevant ministerial departments
Assessment

a. Is the strategy to prevent and control TB included in the national health plan?
b. Is there a national strategic plan for TB prevention, care and control?
c. If yes, is the national strategic plan aligned with and embedded within the national health plan?
d. Does the national strategic plan cover a clearly defined period of time?
e. Does the national strategic plan include a core plan? (the core plan is the narrative component of the national strategic plan).
f. If yes, does the core plan have the following characteristics:
   i. Is there an analysis of the burden of TB and TB prevention, care and control? Does it analyze the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to TB efforts (known as a SWOT analysis)? Is there a gap analysis?
   ii. Does it clearly define the goals and objectives? Are these definitions aligned with the SMART criteria (that is, does the formulation include criteria that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound)?
   iii. Are the objectives consistent with the gap analysis?
   iv. Are the strategic interventions consistent with the objectives?
   v. Are the activities (and sub-activities) consistent with the strategic interventions under which they are specified?

g. Is there a budget plan? If yes,
   i. Is the total budget clearly specified?
   ii. Is the budget specified for each year?
   iii. Have sources of funding been clearly identified?
   iv. Has a funding gap been specified? If yes, for which year and for which strategic interventions and activities?
   v. Have the costs for all interventions and activities (and sub-activities) been clearly established?
   vi. Is the budget plan consistent with the other four components of the national strategic plan?

h. Is there a plan for monitoring and evaluation? If yes,
   i. Have the indicators been clearly identified?
   ii. Do these indicators assess the goals, the objectives, the strategic interventions, and the activities?
   iii. Has the process of calculating, compiling and analysing the data been clearly described for each indicator?
   iv. Is the plan for monitoring and evaluation consistent with the other four components of the national strategic plan?
i. Is there an operational plan? If yes,
   i. For which years has the operational plan been established?
   ii. Have the activities to be implemented been identified by yearly quarters?
   iii. Are the following characteristics clearly specified for each activity to be implemented:
       • when the activity will be implemented;
       • where the activity will be implemented;
       • who will implement the activity;
       • the cost of the implementing the activity;
       • the source of funding for implementing each activity; any funding gaps for each activity;
       • technical assistance needed to implement each activity;
       • the process indicator for monitoring implementation of each activity.
   iv. Is the operational plan consistent with the other four components of the national strategic plan?

j. Is there a plan for technical assistance? If yes,
   i. For which years has the technical assistance plan been established?
   ii. Has the necessary technical assistance been clearly identified by yearly quarter?
   iii. Has the needed technical assistance been specified for the relevant interventions or activities?
   iii. Are the following characteristics clearly specified for each type of technical assistance needed:
       • the terms of reference of the technical assistance;
       • when it will be needed;
       • where it should be provided;
       • what it will cost;
       • the source of funding to obtain the technical assistance and any funding gaps.
   iv. Is the plan for technical assistance consistent with the other four components of the national strategic plan?

k. Is there a preparedness plan? If yes,
   i. Why was it established?
   ii. What emergency events does it cover?
## Framework for conducting reviews of tuberculosis programmes

### Indicators for: **Assessing the national strategic plan for TB prevention, care and control**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Response (yes, partially, no)</th>
<th>Source of information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National strategic plan aligned with and embedded within the national health plan</td>
<td></td>
<td>National strategic plan, national health plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National strategic plan includes all key components (core, budget, monitoring and evaluation, and operational and technical assistance)</td>
<td></td>
<td>National strategic plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriate gap analysis</td>
<td></td>
<td>National strategic plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistency within the core plan</td>
<td></td>
<td>National strategic plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consistency among the five components of the plans</td>
<td></td>
<td>National strategic plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>