

SUMMARY SHEET

Agenda Nr. 2.04/4	Subject	High Level Missions
For Information <input type="checkbox"/>	For Discussion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	For Decision <input type="checkbox"/>

Introduction

The High Level Mission (HLM) by partners of the Stop TB Partnership to TB high burden countries is a powerful political advocacy tool in support of TB control and DOTS expansion. The purposes and expected outcomes of such mission differ greatly from a regular technical mission. It aims to influence top level political decision makers at country level to include TB in their priorities. The experiences to date and the lessons learned are presented.

Summary

The NTP as the national focal point for TB control and DOTS expansion is part of the government hierarchy and as such dependent on the prevailing political leadership and policy. In this position it is in some cases quite difficult to enhance the profile of TB control from within and/or to raise crucial issues related to TB control for the political leadership to address. External high level delegations have the advantage of comparatively easy access to the highest levels of political decision making. Crucial strengthening of the TB control profile can be accomplished if political awareness has been increased for specific items.

Experiences with HLMs show that the purpose and expected outcomes must be clearly defined beforehand, with clearly described commitment and expectations of all participants. Without such predetermined purpose, a HLM can easily become just another courtesy visit without significant impact. The Terms of Reference must therefore be specific and to the point so that tangible action as a result of the HLM is feasible and measurable. Best results were obtained when the HLM was preceded by a (joint) technical review mission to the country, allowing relevant policy recommendations to be included in the HLM's agenda. Unfortunately no reports to the CB on previous HLM were made.

Decisions requested from the Stop TB Coordinating Board

To endorse the further use of High Level Missions as an international strategic political advocacy tool in support of TB control. T

To empower members to find its representative from the constituency for such missions so Board member does not always feel personally obliged to attend, but can go out and ask its constituency to send a representative.

Next steps and time frame

WHAT	WHO	WHEN	FOCAL POINT