

Global Drug Facility

Briefing Note

March 24, 2010

The Global Drug Facility (GDF) of the Stop TB Partnership continues to provide medicines, diagnostics and consumables to an even greater number of national TB programs and patients with each year of operation. Since its inception on World TB Day in 2001, GDF has delivered more than 16 million patient treatments to over 100 countries.

GDF continues to expand its services with an eye to becoming a "one stop shop", offering a full range of products to meet the needs of its customers. TB programs can today procure first line and second line (MDR-TB) medicines through GDF, confident that they are of good quality and reasonably priced. Through the Expand TB project with partners UNITAID, FIND and GLI, GDF now procures diagnostics and laboratory equipment for target countries in addition to providing the previously developed diagnostic kits. GDF has also been promoting the newly revised Pediatric TB treatment guidelines through regular communication with country TB programs and TB medicine suppliers to ensure that they have the maximum lead time to make the necessary changes to support them.

In the last year, GDF greatly expanded its product quality assurance program to bring more suppliers products to the market. This activity has helped to keep prices stable, and has improved the treatment outcome of tuberculosis patients to "cured" due to the good quality of medicines provided to them.

Approaching its second decade of operation, GDF will expand its work in MDR-TB programs as more and more countries identify and diagnose additional patients. The MDR-TB scale up expects to bring upwards of 60,000 additional MDR-TB patients to treatment in the year 2011. GDF will strive to offer an even more valuable resource center for procuring TB medicines, diagnostics and consumables, for identifying good quality suppliers, for stabilizing global prices and for providing appropriate technical assistance to TB programs worldwide.

GDF would like to thank the many individuals and other donors such as CIDA, DFID, UNITAID and USAID that have been so generous in donating millions of dollars to help the GDF reach its objectives this year. GDF hopes this support continues in the future as in partnership, we work towards our goal of a world free of tuberculosis.