

Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility participation to the international training "Introduction of new medicines and new M/XDR-TB treatment regimens" in Belarus, 19 July-2 August 2019

Early 2019, WHO updated and consolidated the new guidelines on DR-TB treatment. New classification of the TB medicines and new oral treatment regimens recommended for the treatment of MDR/RR-TB patients and transition to this treatment schemes require countries to prepare transition plan. Such a plan should take many aspects into account, including the epidemiological situation, diagnostic algorithm, drug management aspects and human capacity.

From July 29 to August 2 the first international training "Introduction of new medicines and new M/XDR-TB treatment regimens" was organized by WHO and held in Minsk, Belarus. The main objective was for the participants to learn the programmatic algorithm for introducing treatment regimens for M/XDR-TB patients according to the new WHO recommendations, with an expanded package of active monitoring and safety management (aDSM). STOP TB/GDF facilitated the PSM part of the training.

During the practical lessons, 23 participants from EECA countries (Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkmenia) prepared draft transition plan for each country. Participants from Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan finished working on their QuanTB file and Kyrgyzstan's representative shared country experience on solving the bottlenecks throughout preliminary stage on preparing medicines procurement plan during transition on new treatment regimens.

Data on the new children-friendly formulations, especially SLD, Rifapentine contained treatment for LTBI, new diagnostic tools and availability for procurement through GDF were received with big interest. The information about TB medicines dashboard with their status across the various guidance documents was new for most of participants and facilitators.



Participants during the lecture, 1st International training at the WHO CC, Minsk

Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility Technical Assistance mission in India, 5-9 August 2019

The Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility, upon the request of the Revised National Control Programme (RNTCP) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare of the Government of India, organized a live support in engaging, working and usage of the Quan TB tool to the PSM team and the Officers related to quantification of the India Programme. This technical live support is the continuation of the workshop organized by STBP/GDF that took place in India in December 2018.

In addition to the members of the PSM team, the officer in charge of the PMDT (Dr. Yogesh Patel) also participated and contributed to the construction of the Quan TB file for the Second Line Drugs of the India Programme. The live support addressed the relevant issues to India, including; the multiplicity of the number of regimens for DR-TB; exploring the possibility of merging the excel worksheet with the Quan TB tool; the development or amendment of assumptions; and the validation of the results. The live support was of immense use to the PSM team of the India Programme.

A debriefing of the live support was made to Dr. Sanjay Mattoo, Additional DDG (TB) who recently took over the Procurement and Supply Chain Management of the Programme, and Dr. K.S. Sachdeva, DDG TB. Now it is expected that the India Programme will be using the QuanTB tool as an outcome of this live support on regular basis for an innovative procurement method of the anti-TB drugs, their quantification and to have a near fool proof Early Warning System (EWS) in place for appropriate intervention to ensure that the drugs are procured in time to avoid any stock outs or overstocks.



Facilitator and participants of the training on QuanTB

Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility Technical Assistance mission in Zambia, 5-14 August 2019

The STBP/GDFTA mission to Zambia, jointly conducted with a Stop TB clinical consultant from 5 to 14 of August, mainly focused on supporting the country plans to transition to the new WHO guidelines for DR TB and adoption of the new TB Preventative Therapy (TPT) options.

During the mission, quantification was undertaken, and several scenarios were developed in order to inform the country on the resources needed to roll out the new WHO guidelines and the new LTBI guidelines. A funding gap was observed mainly due to increased cost for procurement of SLDs than earlier planned and increased funding requirement for TPT medicines. At minimum, the country requires additional USD10,292,269 assuming that only 70% of the DS TB targets for 2019 and 2020 will be achieved and plans to roll out the new LTBI guidelines including 3HP TPT for DR TB contacts will be delayed beyond 2020. The mission also assessed the stock situation for Xpert cartridges and observed that the 2018-2020 GF grant did not factor in universal testing using GeneXpert leading to insufficient funds for procurement of Xpert Cartridges. The increase in Xpert utilization was also not factored in the quantification done in 2018 and as a result, stock out occurred in quarter 1 and 2 of 2019 and low stock levels were observed at the time of the mission. The country has exhausted funding available through GF for procurement of cartridges and there is need to expedite reprogramming of funds to initiate new procurement. Moreover, an in-depth look at stock management revealed a mismatch between actual FLD medicines distributed and DS TB cases notification. The mission recommended regular data quality audits to identify and address factors contributing to the mismatch.

During the mission, a meeting was also held with USAID where the possibility of getting funding to support supply chain management activities within NTP was discussed. In addition, several recommendations were made by GDF team, including; undertake data verification to identify and address factors contributing to mismatch between DS TB notifications, IPT enrollment data and actual consumption; expedite reprogramming of GF funds to be able to initiate new procurement of Xpert cartridges, FLDs and SLDs; mobilize additional resources for procurement of TPT medicines; and expedite delivery of all pending shipments and ensure timely initiation of procurement for the next shipments.

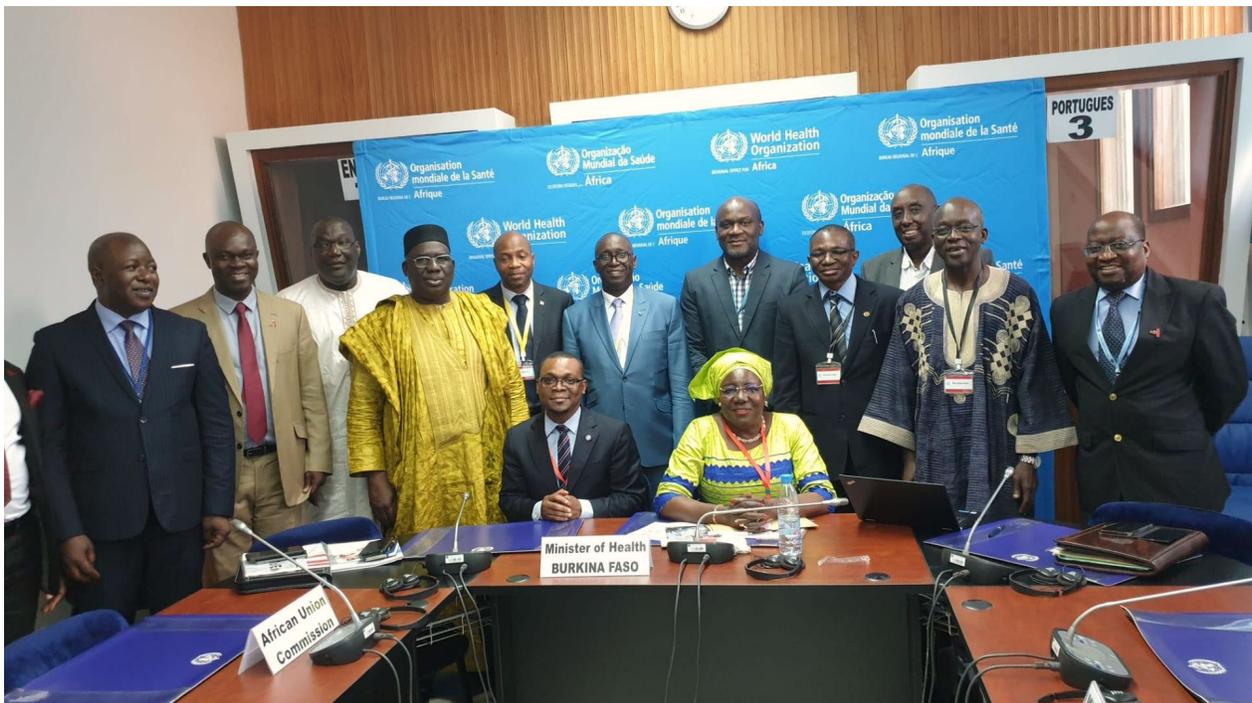


Debriefing meeting with Permanent Secretary Ministry of Health

The Stop TB Partnership' Global Drug Facility participation to the African Ministers of Health meeting on securing access to TB products in Congo, 23 August 2019

Against the backdrop the 69th session of the WHO Regional Committee, the Minister of Health of Burkina Faso organized a meeting jointly with the Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility (GDF) and WHO AFRO to discuss how to improve and secure access to quality assured TB products through national funding mechanisms, for countries in West and Central Africa.

The aim of the meeting was to mobilize Member States to adopt sustainable solutions for the supply of TB products to ensure universal access to these products, a precondition for the elimination of tuberculosis. The Ministers of Health of Burkina Faso, Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Niger, Republic of Congo, Senegal, Togo and the Partners in the fight against Tuberculosis and access to medicines in Africa, participated in the conversation.



Meeting with African Ministers of Health

They discussed the challenges their counties face in the supply of TB products and assessed their projections until 2020. It was a constructive knowledge sharing session for all; the Stop TB discussed GDF's innovative mechanism to support forecasting, quantification, planning and procurement of quality and affordable TB products for the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis.

Together, the participants suggested most reliable and efficient mechanisms for the supply of TB drugs products and accordingly, mandated the Minister of Health of Burkina Faso, as the leader for mobilizing funding to establish a guarantee fund and requested Stop TB/GDF and WHO AFRO to propose a procedure for the procurement of TB products through national funding.