

Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility's participation to the Joint TB Program Monitoring Mission in Myanmar, 12-20 August 2019

From 12 to 20 August 2019, the Ministry of Health and Sports/National TB Program in collaboration with the World Health Organization have organized a joint monitoring mission of the TB Program in Myanmar. It was participated by both local and international reviewers, including StopTB Partnership's Global Drug Facility. Reviewers visited relevant facilities from national level to sub-national level in order to understand actual program situation, including mystery shopping in some pharmacies. Focused group discussions were also conducted among patients and key health workers who conduct supervised TB treatment at the community.

GDF led the Procurement and Supply Management thematic area where program's achievements were identified and agreed recommendations were provided, which would support the program in the directions and strategies to improve the program implementation. Major achievement of the program is the commendable commitment of the government in the increasing funding allocation for the procurement of TB medicines. Among the recommendations are to enforce laws to ensure the appropriate use of antibiotics, to streamline procurement processes within NTP and the general health services and to immediately implement and use new medicines particularly the new pediatric second line medicines.



GDF with health workers



Field visit of one of the review teams in Mandalay

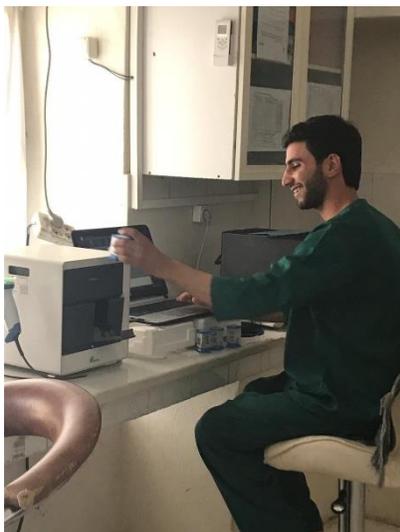
Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility's participation to the Joint TB Program Monitoring Mission in Afghanistan, 21-27 August 2019

The NTP Afghanistan in collaboration with WHO and international partners had conducted a mid-term review (MTR) from 21 – 27 August 2019 to assess the appropriateness and alignment of the strategies and interventions to provide feedback on the overall performance to control TB and to see the progress to reach the program's targets that have been defined in national strategic plan agreed upon during UNHLM. Stop TB Partnership/Global Drug Facility lead the PSM thematic area in this review and actively contributed in comprehensive PSM review of the TB landscape of the country.

During this very short time span of the Program Review; GDF team has not only involved in meeting key stakeholders of the TB Program to understand their contribution and future plans but also performed an in-depth assessment of the Supply Chain landscape of the country ranging from National, Regional, Provincial, district and health facility level to assess and witness flow of anti-TB products and efforts of the program to manage the supply chain. Despite the security situation of the country GDF team was able to visit two provinces i.e. Herat and Balkh (Mazar-e-Sharif) where Regional warehouses, PMDT sites, private and public sector health facilities were assessed to see the availability and rational use of anti-TB drugs and roll- out of new TB tools were discussed.

The Global Drug Facility of the Stop TB Partnership conducted quantification exercises soon after the MTR in which focal persons from WHO, Drug Management Unit and MDR Unit of NTP, Health System Strengthening Unit of MoPH and Local Fund Agent of TGF participated to have a detailed assessment of the in-country situation and update the quantification files based on the most recent information gathered during the MTR. In this exercise; MDR transition plan according to new devised regimens were reviewed, total need of country until December 2021 was calculated, requirement of the new Paediatric DRTB formulations were quantified (which will come as GDF grant).

There was a requirement of rescheduling the shipments in pipeline according to bi-annual distribution system of Afghanistan; hence procurement and supply plans were updated. Some of the second line drugs were below minimum month of stock and EWS gave alerts to place an urgent order with accelerated delivery. Revised delivery planning along with accelerated orders has already been communicated to supply team of GDF and shipments are under process to avert any possible rupture in the supply chain.





Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug's participation to the Joint TB Program Monitoring Mission in Bangladesh, 1-10 September 2019

From 1- 10 September 2019, WHO SEARO in collaboration with WHO Bangladesh and National TB Control Program organized an independent joint monitoring mission, to conduct in-depth review of TB situation in the country and support program in evaluating the progress made with regards to targets agreed in their National Strategic Plan. Stop TB Partnership – Global Drug Facility took lead in PSM thematic area with conducting a detailed review of TB PSM system.

In the frame of the mission, PSM team visited health facilities at all levels, assessed and reviewed organization and management of TB commodities across the Procurement and Supply Chain, starting from the Shyamoli Centrale Warehouse to the patient's home, interviewed patients and DOT providers. During the field visits, PSM team evaluated progress, found key challenges and provided achievable solutions to address these challenges.

During the mission, PSM team reviewed/updated the quantification and procurement plan of FLDs and SLDs together with the national PSM experts, considering the UNHLM and national TB program targets. In addition, quantification exercise was carried out for pediatric patients' treatment using new child-friendly pediatric DRTB formulations. Schedule of deliveries has been planned considering all sources of funds from external and domestic funding. During the meetings, PSM team discussed and reviewed in country situation to implement new WHO guidelines on MDR/RR-TB to better serve patients and communities in need.



Race to END TB

Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Technical Assistance mission in Moldova, 16-20 September 2019

The Global Fund and the NTP requested GDF to Join the GLC mission and provide TA in drugs management aspects (the last GDF mission took place in 2015).

Moldova's National TB program faces several concurrent developments that impact on the TB medicines needed. Many other countries in the region struggle to procure TB medicines in time, fail to assure their quality or end up paying exorbitant prices. We were pleased to observe that despite the very dynamic environment and despite the relatively small quantities needed by the country, Moldova's Medicines Procurement Agency has managed to procure all needed TB medicines and diagnostics, assured that these were of Good quality, with good shelf life (>80%) and at reasonable prices. (However, procurement by CHA on the Left Bank was less robust and we observed risk of stock out, unusual product specifications and non-prequalified products being used).

Moldova's National TB Treatment Guidelines (2017) are being updated to be aligned with the latest WHO recommendations and based on current stock levels and outstanding deliveries, we expect that the country could switch fully towards the new regimens in Q1 of 2020 with negligible expiry of medicines such as Capreomycin that have become obsolete. Standards of storage and stock management were generally good and despite the very low salaries, staff impressed as motivated and skilled.

The team visited the National Administration of Penitentiaries and the Penitentiary Facility Nr 16 Pruncul in which all TB cases amongst prison population are being treated. The penitentiary sector adheres to the national TB Guidelines and was well stocked with the required medicines and diagnostic supplies. During the visit, the team explained the benefits and availability of the new child friendly MDR TB formulations and the program indicated willingness to introduce these in the coming year (to be procured using GF funding). Other topics discussed with the NTP and MoH were the country's views on reaching the UNHLM targets, the optimal use of GeneXpert testing and the options to bridge the remaining funding gaps for the coming years.



Staff looking after TB medicines at the Institute of Phthisiology "Chiril Draganuic".