

Stop TB Partnership's GDF's participation at the EMRO Inter-Country Workshop on Transition Towards New Policies and Treatments from DR-TB and LTBI Management in Pakistan, 29 April – 01 May, 2019

Stop TB Partnership/GDF actively participated in WHO EMRO Inter-Country Workshop on Transition Towards New Policies and Treatments from Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis and Latent TB Infection Management which was held in Lahore, Pakistan from 29 April – 01 May 2019 in which NTP delegates of more than 16 countries of Eastern Mediterranean Region and international partner organizations were present. The focus of the meeting was the expansion plans of MDR TB and LTBI with special considerations in the context of the UN General Assembly Political Declaration on TB and multisector accountability framework.

Stop TB Partnership's Grant and Innovation team participated in panel discussion and highlighted the Stop TB perspective on new TB policies and its scale up. GDF team delivered a presentation on PSM implications and GDF support to countries for effective implementation of the new WHO MDR-TB treatments. GDF team oriented the participants on services offered by GDF and products available under GDF platform for the countries to benefit from this unique opportunity. Furthermore, expected demand of medicines used to treat MDR TB and challenges associated with its implementation and possible solutions were discussed during GDF session. Stop TB Partnership and GDF team facilitated the countries group work sessions and walked them through the worksheets to update the transition planning tool for DRTB and LTBI. Additionally, GDF addressed specific questions regarding the availability of medicines at GDF, prices, lead time, order management and delivery planning to properly plan for the implementation of new WHO DRTB guidelines.



Participants of the meeting

Stop TB Partnership's GDF's Technical Assistance mission in Papua New Guinea, 6-17 May, 2019

From 6 to 17 May 2019, STOP TB/GDF participated in the Papua New Guinea's joint program review organized by WHO to assess the progress made in the programmatic and global supply chain of anti TB commodities. The GDF team met with Pharmaceutical Branches within the National Department of Health, visited TB medicine central storage in Port Moresby, Central Public Health Laboratory, as well as Services Delivery Points in National Capital District and Central Provinces, and had meetings with different stakeholders to understand the current PSM practices. GDF provided PSM inputs, made recommendations and participated in the high-level debriefings that were given to the Secretary General Health of Papua New Guinea, along with the TB review team, senior officials and WHO Country Representative. In parallel, the GDF team worked with the NTP PSM team to update the quantification and forecasting files.

TB medicines, both first-line and second-line, adult and pediatric, as well as the other supplies such as ancillary medicines, medical supplies and TB laboratory supplies are funded by the PNG Government. The government procures, through GDF, quality assured TB health products.

FDCs are now commonly used, Pediatric TB medicines are available in the appropriate FDCs formulations and Category II treatment is not used anymore. Regarding the second-line drugs, the NTP is transitioning to long regimen without injectable and to the short regimen with Amikacin instead of Kanamycin.



Visit to the Central Pharmacy – Kwikila BMU – Central Province – 10/5/2019



WHO TB Programme review – Kwikila BMU – Central Province – 10/5/2019

Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility's participation at the South East Asia Regional Meeting of National TB Control Programme Managers and Partners in India, 13-15 May, 2019

Stop TB Partnership's GDF participated in the meeting of National TB Control Programme Managers and Partners from May 13-15, 2019 that took place in New Delhi, India.

During the meeting, enormous commitments from countries and partners were revisited. Donors have emphasized that funding and technical assistance are available, while countries presented implementation plans how to have a comprehensive approach (diagnostic, treatment and preventive therapy) to end TB for achieving the UNHLM objectives.

The general objective is to accelerate TB activities in the region in line with the UNHLM objectives. Some specific objectives include: to review progress and challenges towards the achievements of end TB targets; to discuss implementation of end TB strategy; to identify modalities for achievement full funding for TB programs; to identify areas for which further country specific TA is required, and to update NTP managers on the new technical guidance and UNHLM targets.

More than 44% of the TB incidence and 50% of TB mortality is from SEARO, requiring more than 35% decline in mortality and more than 20% decline in incidence by 2020 towards ending TB. Only 45% of estimated RR-TB among notified PTB case started on treatment. 9 out of 11 countries have increased their expenditure on TB.

A health SEA regional committee is soon coming, and the TB community led by SEARO is raising 2 TB topics for endorsement by the regional committee: regional action plan for LTBI and research. Once these topics

are endorsed, it means country states are committing to the actions set for these 2 topics, which should then be reflected in the NSP. This shows the strong push for LTBI preventive therapy, particularly the use of 3-4 RH and 3HP (Rifapentine with Isoniazid) in the region.



Panel discussion with key NTPs and partners (India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, UNION)

Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility Technical Assistance Joint mission with WHO Europe and rGLC in Armenia, 22-31 May, 2019

Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility Technical Assistance Joint mission with WHO Europe and rGLC took place from 22-31 May, 2019 in Armenia to support the NTP and key stakeholders strengthen the supply chain management of TB products, including forecasting, supply planning, procurement and inventory management of TB commodities, aligned with country policy decisions and new WHO guidance on DR-TB treatment.

During the mission, series of meetings and interviews were conducted with management and technical staff of NTP, MOH, National Drug Regulatory Agency, WHO Armenia, Criminal Executive Institutions, Regional Public Health Facilities. The major areas of strength and improvement in TB program and pharmaceutical management were assessed and recommendations to alleviate major challenges were identified and discussed with stakeholders. Relevant staff from NTCC and GF-PIU were trained on data analysis and use of QuanTB as a quantification and early warning tool. Quantification and Stock Status Analysis, using QuanTB, was performed and procurement requirements were developed for the 2019-2021 period. Priority areas of actions were identified such as: cancellation or postponement of pending orders, emergency procurements, reallocation of funding etc.

On 31 May 2019 two consecutive debriefing meetings were carried out and the Deputy Minister thanked the mission experts for the great work done and she expressed readiness of the Ministry and NTP to consider the findings and recommendations of the mission as inputs for future developments.



Meeting with pharmacy and nursing staff and DOT in progress at Armavir polyclinic-TB cabinet



Debriefing meetings on May 31, 2019

Stop TB Partnership's GDF's Technical Assistance mission in Nepal, 27 May – 7 June, 2019

The Joint Program Review mission to Nepal was conducted from May 27 to June 9, 2019 with a key objective of reviewing the implementation of the 2016-2021 National Strategic Plan. The Stop TB Partnership/ Global Drug Facility lead the PSM and drug management thematic area and was part of the team of technical experts drawn from various technical and developmental agencies.

Among the achievements observed was the progress made by the NTC towards implementation of the new WHO guidelines for DR-TB. The review provided an opportunity for the GDF team to support the country with the development of plans to implement the new child friendly formulations for DR-TB and new regimen for LTBI. The GDF team worked with the NTC PSM team to undertake a forecasting and quantification exercise which resulted into the development of Procurement and Supply Plans with special emphasis on steps for smooth transition to the new MDR regimens. The implementation is expected to start in November 2019 for Adults and in February 2020 for Pediatric SLDs. Additionally, the government of Nepal has made significant progress in transition to domestic finances for procurement of anti-TB medicines and diagnostics as approximately 100% of FLDs, 50% of SLDs and over 70% of laboratory diagnostics are financed by the government with the remaining being funded through the GF grant. Stop TB Partnership – GDF mission team worked with the NTC PSM team to draft a comprehensive plan for the

procurement of pharmaceuticals and health products while encompassing different funding streams and procurement sources to ensure timely availability of QA medicine without interruption.

The mission team recommendations focused on the improvement of coordination between National and Provincial PSM staff through regular trimester PSM meetings at the districts; the re-design of the TB commodity and information flow in line with the new federal system; and the establishment of supportive supervision of Pharmaceutical and health products across the supply chain until municipality level with adequate budgetary provisions.



Drug Store at MDR Treatment Center, Kathmandu



District Warehouse situation with new federal system

Stop TB Partnership’s Global Drug Facility Technical Assistance Joint mission with rGLC in Azerbaijan, 17-21 June, 2019

In 2018, the Ministry of Health signed an MOU with the UNDP country office to procure all the state financed TB medicines. This is a sensible development as national procurement processes are often unable to attract bids for quality assured TB medicines or end up paying exorbitant prices due to lack of genuine market competition. Furthermore, the country has now for the first time procured FDCs for treating adult DS-TB while pediatric formulations have been procured for both DS- and DR-TB TB in children. These products will arrive in the 2nd half of 2019.

In terms of achievements, the consultants observed that Azerbaijan has achieved a good level of quality assurance and quality control of TB medicines as these are procured from prequalified sources and samples are taken upon arrival and after distribution to be tested at the national ISO 17025 certified QC laboratory. High standards of drug management in all health facilities visited were also observed, including in the main penitentiary institution that was visited. Finally, it was noticed that pharmacovigilance has been strengthened over the last years and the next stage would be for the country to implement an “Active” surveillance of adverse drug reactions to TB medicines.

Amongst the main recommendations from the mission is that the country uses the coming 6 months to strengthen the central level of stock monitoring, using QuanTB. A first set up was made during the mission in which data from all MDR and XDR patients as well as all current and ordered stocks were combined into one QuanTB file. This should now be kept updated and used to continuously monitor the supply situation to timely detect risks of stock out or expiry so that appropriate action can be taken. The Program should share these files quarterly with the GF Program Implementation Unit, GDF and the regional WHO office.

On 22 June 2019 and in parallel of the mission, StopTB Partnership's GDF has been supporting the WHO Collaborating Centre to facilitate a drug management session on "Strengthening TB control in prisons of M/XDR-TB high-burden countries" at the International Training Course for individuals responsible for the planning, implementation, and evaluation of TB activities in penal institutions.



GLC consultant (left) and GDF consultant (right) assessing patient files