

Innovative New Approaches and Tools (INAT) Sub-group to the DOTS Expansion Working Group

Workplan 2010-2011

Mission

The sub-group for Introducing New Approaches and Tools (INAT) will ensure that TB endemic countries have access to relevant and timely information and technical assistance to enable the rapid evaluation and introduction of new tools, policies and approaches for TB prevention and control. INAT will ensure that researchers and product developers have access to relevant and timely information from TB endemic countries to enable targeted research and the establishment of an evidence base that will support development of appropriate new tools and enable their rapid introduction.

Objectives

The objectives of the sub-group for Introducing New Approaches and Tools are to:

- 1) Maintain a forum for the pro-active sharing of information between NTPs, national immunization programmes, and other implementing partners on the challenges being faced with evaluating, adopting, introducing or implementing new tools or approaches as an integral part of accelerating progress toward the MDGs
- 2) Prioritize and coordinate a concerted response to the operational challenges identified including:
 - a. Promote the development of guidance related to the introduction of new tools and approaches in upcoming technical guidelines, training materials, operational tools (e.g. budgeting tool) and policies of WHO and other normative bodies; develop other guidance as requested by countries or implementing partners (e.g. guide to select tools appropriate to specific epidemiological and health system contexts)
 - b. Ensure that relevant technical assistance and training is provided to countries or made available within countries with respect to “retooling”; including ensuring that strategic planning, resource mobilization, and routine monitoring and supervision includes consideration of new tools and approaches (note: to be coordinated with TB TEAM and other implementation WGs), and building awareness/capacity for ‘retooling’ among technical assistance partners. Advocate for the appropriate use of new tools based on evidence of best use.
 - i. Note: Technical assistance related to the introduction of new tools and approaches should not be considered apart from core planning and support for DOTS expansion. However, the response to country needs in this area will require a specific focus. INAT can support a consolidated response to the ‘retooling’ needs faced by countries while ensuring that they are managed as an integral part of the planning and implementation of TB programmes

- c. Coordinate the compilation and dissemination of information on emerging new tools and approaches, as requested by countries and in a manner consistent with national planning for attaining the StopTB partnership goals (note: to be coordinated with other WGs)
- 3) Set priorities for operational and evaluation research that will facilitate the widescale implementation of new approaches and tools; notably research that can generate evidence of the impact of new tools/approaches on case detection, case management and equitable access under field conditions; advocate for and coordinate the implementation of priority research
- 4) Track progress in the uptake and expansion of new policies and approaches, coordinating with countries, implementing partners, and WHO regional offices to promote the expansion of these new tools
- 5) Facilitate an expanded membership of the DEWG to include immunization programme implementers particularly from endemic countries as new vaccine introduction becomes imminent, enabling comprehensive planning for TB prevention as well as control.

Sub-group structure

INAT was conceptualized as a sub-group that would cut across all working and sub-working groups, to support the coordination and consolidation of information and assistance flowing to and from TB endemic countries. To achieve this, two fairly distinct streams of work are needed.

Stream One: Preparing for new tools

Under this stream, INAT will capitalize on its position within the DEWG to regularly communicate with high-burden countries and other TB endemic countries to foster preparedness for the tools that are under development and/or evaluation. Similarly, INAT will actively seek inputs from TB control implementers about potential constraints to the uptake of new tools that will be applied to the activities of other working groups. INAT will ensure systematic sharing of consolidated information across tools (e.g. regular compilation and dissemination of pipeline data from all new tools working groups), and can serve as a platform for addressing areas of common concern (e.g. strengthening regulatory frameworks in disease-endemic countries).

Stream Two: Streamlining policy and rolling out innovative new approaches and endorsed tools

The process that takes a field-demonstrated approach or tool into WHO/global policy has been documented. Further consideration of how to maintain the accessibility and efficiency of this process as more approaches enter the review phase is needed, including how to streamline the formulation and communication of guidance to countries when multiple new approaches are endorsed. Already, many new approaches and tools have been endorsed by WHO and the Union in recent years (e.g. PAL, new diagnostic algorithm for TB/HIV, IPT, PPM, new diagnostic approaches and technologies). Few have been successfully scaled up in most or all countries. Furthermore, dissemination of the new approaches or tools is commonly planned independently (i.e. only one tool/approach considered at a time) and with varied pilot or focus countries. INAT will support further coordination of the implementation of new approaches, with a view to providing all disease-endemic countries with better access to information and assistance related to *all* new approaches and to fostering more rapid uptake of appropriate new approaches and tools.

Activities 2010-2011

Activities	Deliverables	Responsible Agencies	Stream
Core business: Introducing New Approaches and Tools sub-group			
1. Organize core group meeting at the Berlin conference of the Union and 2011 conference		Secretariat	1& 2
2. Organize quarterly teleconferences of the core group		Secretariat	1 & 2
3. INAT participation in annual meetings, core group teleconferences and relevant meetings of other subgroups and working groups	Secretariat to develop schedule of meetings and coordinate participation of INAT member	Chair, Core group members, secretariat	1 & 2
4. Update and maintain INAT website with links to related work of members (e.g. reports of Global Alliance, study results fromTDR, MSF, latest pipelines of new tools WGs)	Active website	Secretariat, Chairs, core group	1 & 2
5. Coordinate post-graduate course / satellite session at Union conference 2011	Training / sensitization of NTP managers and partners in issues related to INAT	Secretariat, core group members	1 & 2
Objective 1: Maintain forum for the sharing of information between NTPs, national immunization programmes, and other implementing partners on the challenges being faced with evaluating, adopting, introducing or implementing new tools or approaches as an integral part of accelerating progress toward the MDGs			
6. Include INAT topics in Stop TB List Serve discussions	Prioritized questions and discussion points posted on listserve and responses compiled	Secretariat, core group	1 & 2
7. Coordinate INAT discussion during DEWG and new tools WG meetings and other fora	Needs of countries identified; constraints of developers prioritized and documented; response planned	Core group members, Secretariat (links to other WGs)	1 & 2

8. Stimulate and provide input to surveys and studies related to INAT	Study results publicly available	Global Alliance, TDR, MSF, FIND, Aeras, others	1 & 2
Objective 2a: Promote the development of <u>guidance</u> related to the introduction of new tools and approaches in upcoming technical guidelines, training materials, operational tools (e.g. budgeting tool) and policies of WHO and other normative bodies; develop other guidance as requested by countries or implementing partners (e.g. guide to select tools appropriate to specific epidemiological and health system contexts)			
9. Develop consolidated, operational guide that compiles information on how / when to implement major new approaches and tools endorsed by WHO (similar to diagnostics document) ¹ . Document to include guidance on BCG and recommendations for the use of new tools/approaches in combination(s). Guide to support decision-making, work planning.	Operational guide produced and disseminated through WHO channels, TA missions, consultant training, etc.	MSH, WHO, Core group members	2
10. Support 2-3 countries to develop a plan for introducing INAT, within 5-year NTP plans (piloting tool listed in 9 and informing future briefings of consultants through TB TEAM)	INAT guide (9) piloted in non-focus countries as well as an HBC	WHO, TB TEAM, core group members, partners, secretariat	2
11. Incorporate relevant sections of INAT documents, guidelines, etc into other normative and operational tools of WHO, Union and other partners	INAT considerations included in key upcoming or ‘living’ documents and training tools	WHO, Union, core group members, secretariat	2
Objective 2b: Ensure that relevant <u>technical assistance</u> and training is provided to countries or made available within countries with respect to “retooling”			
12. Document factors contributing to successful roll-out of some approaches (e.g. ISTC, PPM, intro of FDCs) and failures of others to be scaled-up	Case studies posted and considered in any new guidance	WHO, MSF, Secretariat	2
13. In partnership with TB TEAM, promote INAT planning as integral part of technical assistance, GF grant applications, etc. Develop	Schedule of opportunities to train technical partners and NTPs	WHO, Union, TB TEAM, KNCV	2

¹ Refers to Retooling Task Force and New Diagnostics Working Group joint publication “New Laboratory Diagnostic Tools for Tuberculosis Control”

operational guidance and references for technical assistance partners.			
Objective 2c: Coordinate the compilation and dissemination of <u>information</u> on emerging new tools and approaches as requested by countries and in a manner consistent with national planning for attaining the StopTB partnership goals (note: to be coordinated with other WGs)			
14. Develop communication plan	Communication plan developed that defines relevant audiences, information required and medium to share information	TAG, Secretariat, core group	2
Objective 3: Set priorities for operational and evaluation research that will facilitate the widescale implementation of new approaches and tools; notably research that can generate evidence of the impact of new tools/approaches on case detection case management and equitable access under field conditions; advocate for and coordinate the implementation of priority research			
15. Promote inclusion of INAT principles/issues in Research Movement; ensure consideration of research that will support evaluation and operational research motivated by the need to accelerate uptake of appropriate new tools	Research Movement priorities reflecting INAT considerations	TREAT TB (Union), Core group, secretariat	1 & 2
16. Coordinate appropriate inputs for the development of a simulation model of TB control in 2015 to discuss what country may need to prepare	Modelling completed to inform guidance to countries	WHO, Core group, Liverpool (?)	1 & 2
Objective 4: Track progress in the uptake and expansion of new policies and approaches, coordinating with countries, implementing partners, and WHO regional offices to promote the expansion of these new tools			
17. Formalize monitoring and evaluation framework to consistently track uptake of new tools / approaches across focus areas, and building on existing M&E systems where possible (e.g. WHO reporting)	Inventory of data collection efforts: indicators and source of data (GF, GDF, Working groups, Impact Task Force); M&E framework for tracking uptake of new tools	Secretariat, core group members, WHO, MSH	2

Objective 5: Facilitate an expanded membership of the DEWG to include immunization programme implementers particularly from endemic countries as new vaccine introduction becomes imminent, enabling comprehensive planning for TB prevention as well as control.

18. Guidance for use of BCG to be updated, with considerations for new vaccines in future	Guidance developed and disseminated	ECDC, WHO, core group	1
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Outputs for year 1-2:

- 1) Operational guide to support decision making and adoption of new approaches and tools (similar to RTF document on new diagnostics but with a focus on endorsed approaches)
 - a. Dissemination plan through existing platforms, TB TEAM, etc.
 - b. Piloting in 2-3 countries
- 2) Updated new tools pipelines consolidated and widely disseminated
- 3) M&E framework for tracking uptake of new tools
- 4) Communication plan
- 5) Guidance for use of BCG