

The role of the WHO in the initiative

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Use of gene/genome sequencing for public health purposes

- Gene/genome sequencing already being used in DR surveys in parallel with phenotypic DST in 7 countries (Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Pakistan, South Africa plus Philippines and Ukraine)
- WHO Expert Meeting planned in end 2015 to evaluate the role of gene sequencing for surveillance and diagnosis of DR-TB
- Gene/genome sequencing likely to entirely replace phenotypic DST in surveillance of DR-TB in the coming years

Need of a global sequencing database

- WHO fully supports the need for establishing a global sequencing database
- WHO primary interest is to ensure that there is a public health benefit
- The database should have the largest possible geographical representation
- The database should have broad objectives (but without losing focus)
- The database should be accessible by all

Crucial role of WHO in this initiative

- Liaise with countries to ensure sequencing data are collected in a global database
- Ensure data are managed in a transparent manner in line with countries and patients rights
- Ensure that evidence generated is rapidly translated into policy recommendations
- Ensure that benefits are clearly identified for countries/MoHs contributing data to the database