

Letter of Commitment (LoC)

1. Background

Under the lead of National Stop TB Partners and in partnership with NTP and technical support of Stop TB Secretariat Geneva, 60 participants from the NTP, civil society organizations, WHO country office, International Organizations and the private sector meet in Yaoundé- Cameroon, March 21, 2013, as part of a Country Dialogue to explore sustainability initiatives to support TB in Cameroon.

At the opening ceremony, the Permanent Secretary of the NTP, Dr. Jean Louis Abena deplored the lack of attention to the fight against TB in Cameroon and has called for greater collaboration between different actors, which will significantly increase case detection and treatment success rate. Completing his remarks, he scored all his support to the initiative of an exploratory meeting for a formal Stop TB Partnership Cameroon.

The “Partnership” brings together civil society partners and TB stakeholders across the country on a common platform towards supporting and strengthening Cameroon’s TB control efforts. It seeks to harness the strengths and expertise of various partners in various technical and implementation areas, and to empower affected communities, in TB care and Control. It consists of technical agencies, governmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, affected communities, the corporate sector, professional bodies, media and academia.

2. Partnership Vision, Mission and Objectives:

2.1. Vision

A Cameroon free from Tuberculosis.

2.2. Mission

Contribute to Cameroon’s TB control efforts through a unified response from civil society and all other stakeholders, in line with NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS STRATEGIC PLAN.

2.3. Objectives

- To be a platform for coordination of agencies and stakeholders to contribute to the fight against TB, MDRTB and TB/HIV co-infection, and to share successes/ lessons/ constraints/ innovations, etc...
- Strengthen community-based TB sustainable activities.
- Mobilizing resources to support partner activities, and providing an interface with donors
- To provide accurate information about TB, MDRTB and TB/HIV co-infection, and the fight against them.
- To promote the emergence of TB/HIV advocates and champions among civil society organizations, the private sector, councils and renowned personalities

- To achieve and sustain the NTCP case finding and cure rate targets.
- Reaching out to include the full range of potentially relevant organizations as members, in order to harness all available resources and move towards a self-sustaining movement for TB control in Cameroon.

The partnership proposes to identify new medium and long-term activities to achieve this broader vision. In order to realize this vision, the members make this Letter of Commitment (LOC) to the Partnership.

3. Structure of Partnership

3.1. General assembly

The General Assembly is the highest body of Stop TB Partnership Cameroon. It comprises all organizations and institutions working on TB in Cameroon, who signed the Letter of commitment and the code of conduct. It defines the general policy of Stop TB Partnership Cameroon. This body met annually and shall be convened by the Secretariat upon Core group recommendation. It discusses the issues submitted by the core group.

3.2. Core Group:

The Partnership's Core Group comprises members from various partner organizations, and standing invitees include the representative of the National TB Control Program (NTCP), a World Health Organization (Cameroon) representative ,GIZ and Technical Adviser . The Core Group will be the main advisory body for the partnership and projects undertaken by the partnership. It will provide necessary advisory services/guidelines for the partnership. The Core Group will meet quarterly or at any time felt necessary. The mandate of the Core Group will be five years, renewable, aligned to the duration of the national strategic plan

This group consists of six representatives including NTP, WHO country and others such as non-governmental organizations, the private sector, community-based organizations and religious organizations. Special conditions may, however, allow the group to expand or reduce its composition.

3.3. Secretariat of Partnership:

A Secretariat hosted by the Organization FIS (For Impacts In Social Health), provides technical, administrative and representation support to the Partnership. The Secretariat operates as a coordinating mechanism; works transparently and is currently accountable to the Core Group. It regularly interacts with government and other stakeholders. Its role is to support the Partnership towards the achievement of common objectives, and to facilitate, create synergies and add value to the work of others in the Global Partnership to Stop TB.

4. Commitment made by the Partner:

The Partner is joining out of its own volition, that it shares the vision, mission and objectives of the Partnership, commits to contribute to the Partnership to the best of its potential and abilities, respect the core values of the Partnership including mutual trust and respect, and appreciates the need to work jointly to multiply the impact.

5. Responsibilities of Partners

Partners shall be expected to:

- (i) Mobilize additional resources
- (ii) Identify gaps in the fight against TB in Cameroon and design and support appropriate interventions.
- (iii) Identify other organizations that subscribe to the purpose and objectives of the partnership
- (iv) Attend meetings and participate in decision making
- (v) When appointed, allow their staff to serve as officers of the Partnership, being fully or partially supported by the Partnership.
- (vi) Update other partners on their activities.

6. Code of Conduct.

A code of conduct annexed to this document specifies the operating procedures of Stop TB Cameroon including the rights and duties of partners. Each partner is also subject to the signing of this code.

7. Amendments to the LOC

Amendments may be made to this LOC provided that Core Group agree to such amendments. All changes must be discussed and approved in a Core Group meeting.

8. Duration and Validity of LOC

This LOC shall come into immediate effect on signing and shall remain in place for a period of two years. Upon/before expiry of the LOC, the Core Group shall convene a meeting and extend the validity of this LOC to such period as may be unanimously approved.

Signed this on theday of....., Place.....

Signed on behalf of.....