

PRINCIPLES OF PARTNERSHIP WITH STOP TB

Stop TB and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria share as a core objective accelerated global tuberculosis control based on broad-based national ownership. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Fund and the Stop TB Coordinating Board, representing the Global Forum of the Stop TB Partnership, can ensure close collaboration between these two initiatives in order to better advance this objective.

Background on Stop TB

The Stop TB Partnership (Stop TB) consists of governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector and research institutions. This Partnership aims to generate and to focus resources to fight tuberculosis using the most appropriate strategies, namely DOTS and DOTS plus.

Stop TB has developed a comprehensive strategy document entitled the "Global Plan to Stop TB," which is used as a guide for both disbursement decisions by donors and a strategic framework for country implementing partners. A Global DOTS Expansion Plan has also been developed, including specific strategies for the 22 high burden countries.

The Global TB Drug Facility (GDF) of Stop TB provides a pooled procurement mechanism to ensure the supply of high quality anti-tuberculosis drugs at the lowest costs. It links TB drug supply to DOTS expansion, drug management and programme monitoring. Given the sensitive nature of the market for second-line drugs for the treatment of multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB), Stop TB makes recommendations concerning MDR-TB proposals through the Green Light Committee (GLC).

Synergy with the Global Fund

In aiming to provide additional financial support for the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, the Global Fund builds on existing national and international initiatives, networks and expertise; leverages and promotes proven effective strategies; and contributes towards expansion of the implementation capacity at country level, on the basis of partnerships including governments, civil society and the private sector.

Combining the technical, logistical and strategic expertise and experience of Stop TB with the financial resources of the Global Fund will result in better and more effective resource allocation for the fight against tuberculosis with verifiable impact for patients and communities in countries of great need. It will also contribute to improved strategic support for countries, thereby lowering costs of program preparation and management.

Mutual resource contributions

Stop TB will apply its components, including working groups and the GDF, and its extensive network of country expertise to support the success of the Fund. In return, the Fund will endorse and incorporate into its operations Stop TB's expertise and services in the appraisal of applications and in the allocation of funds.

Specifically, Stop TB will do the following:

1. The Stop TB DOTS Expansion partners, through the relevant working group, will assist countries in the development of plans and proposals to be submitted to the Fund and in the implementation and monitoring of funded programs. The TB/HIV working group will

specifically stress the importance of countries submitting proposals which include joint TB and HIV activities, as the epidemiological and service response links between AIDS and TB are obvious and important sources of shared value;

2. Stop TB will support the appraisal of proposals in so far as it can do so without creating a conflict of interest given its support for proposal development. Stop TB commits to regularly updating the technical expertise of the partnership serving the Fund, specifically the TB experts selected to the Fund's Technical Review Panel. Also, the GDF will maintain the precedent that TB experts on the Fund TRP simultaneously serve as members of the GDF's independent Technical Review Committee;
3. For procurement, Stop TB will ensure that the GDF is available for the purchasing of anti-tuberculosis drugs, offered hand-in-hand with cultivation of drug management competency and capacity. Further, the GLC can be used to support the processes of proposals including components to treat MDR-TB, and GLC approval will be a requirement for Fund support to MDR-TB related programs [assuming Board approval of relevant PSM Task Force recommendation].
4. Stop TB, through its components – working groups, GDF and GLC, will assist countries in the implementation and monitoring of funded programs and will provide technical and strategic feedback to the governing structures of the Fund and Stop TB on the basis of what they observe in these efforts.
5. Stop TB will collaborate with the Fund in advocacy, information exchange and resource mobilization. Just as the Fund will affirm the role and value of Stop TB, the efforts of Stop TB will promote sustained and substantial support for the Global Fund.

Implementation and management modalities

A Collaborative Taskforce, composed of representatives of the Secretariats of the Fund and Stop TB, will be established to ensure the smooth implementation of the MOU. The Collaborative Taskforce will meet every three months in Geneva, will record its discussions in minutes and will share these to their respective boards.

The TB experts on the Fund's Technical Review Panel will have cross-representation on the GDF's Technical Review Committee. The Stop TB Coordinating Board will explore with the Fund's Executive Director the possibility of cross-representation between the senior leadership of both initiatives.

The Memorandum of Understanding will be valid for a one-year period, subject to renewal and a review of performance.