

# Stop TB Partnership

## SUMMARY SHEET

Agenda Nr. 1.05-10.0	Subject	Focus on Africa
For Information	For Discussion	<u>For Decision</u>

### Introduction

While virtually every African country now has a TB control programme, Africa is the only continent where the incidence of TB is estimated to be rising (sufficiently to cause a global increase). 2.3 million cases of TB are estimated to occur each year in Africa with some 540,000 deaths. The fight to control TB globally, and to achieve the TB focused Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), will therefore be won or lost in Africa. The main barriers to better control of this disease are the HIV epidemic and the performance to date of health systems, including TB control programmes.

### Summary

African leaders need to explicitly press for improved TB control, as a means of directly saving lives, improving socio-economic conditions for families and communities, and contributing to both national economic development and achievement of the MDGs. Better connections between TB, anti-poverty initiatives and health system strengthening must be forged to ensure TB treatment is accessible to all socio-economic groups.

African leaders and health professionals must take the lead in defining their priorities and allocating available internal resources; both financial and non-financial. Initiatives such as the PRSP (Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers) and MTEF (Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks) and other broad planning mechanisms also hold the potential to addressing constraints and place financing for TB in a sustainable and flexible long term strategic plan.

Health care systems need urgent support to address the constraints mentioned in the background paper (DOC 1.05-10.1); professional and robust management and tackling the health workforce crisis are key. In the African context, setting a strengthened DOTS-based TB control programmes along with joint TB/HIV activities under a holistic "One Patient with Two Diseases" approaches, within the context of overall health system reform, is essential.

**Enclosed are a background paper and draft road map (DOC 1.05-10.2) for African TB control for 2005-2007 - including specific recommendations for action with financing needs.**

### Decisions requested from the Stop TB Coordinating Board

- 1) The Coordinating Board is requested to discuss and to decide whether to support a "road map" for African TB control for 2005-2007.

### Next steps and time frame

WHAT	WHO	WHEN	FOCAL POINT
Task Force to implement Board components of the Road Map.	Board	Ongoing	Partnership Sec & TB/HIV WG & Sec