

Stop TB Partnership

SUMMARY SHEET

Agenda Nr. 1.06-8.0	Subject	Role of Stop TB Partnership in Health System Strengthening
For Information	For Discussion	<u>For Decision</u>

Introduction

- At its November meeting, the Board endorsed the framework for the **Best Practice Principles (BPP) for Global Health Partnerships (GHPs) operating at country level**. The BPP have been finalized by the Secretariat of the High-Level Forum on the Health MDGs, based on discussions in Paris in November. They are now ready for consideration for formal endorsement by the Stop TB Partnership as well as Board discussion on how to advance their application.
- WHO's Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis (STAG-TB) asked the Stop TB Department to establish a **Task Force on Health System Strengthening and TB Control** to guide WHO's effective engagement in this priority area of work. The Task Force held a first meeting in January, and their work will continue until June. As many areas of work proposed entail joint work of WHO and partners and collaboration across partnerships, the meeting report is put forward for information of the Coordinating Board and Board members are encouraged to participate in next steps.
- Several **major initiatives are under way among agencies and donors in global health to respond to health systems weaknesses**, including those related to the health workforce crisis in Africa (and Asia), information systems, and basic financing for system strengthening.

Summary

- The Best Practice Principles (BPP) for GHPs (attached) consist of 21 principles around six themes: ownership; alignment; harmonization; managing for results; accountability; and governance. As the Stop TB Partnership is not a legal entity unto itself, the principles would apply to its constituent members and its Secretariat in their capacity operating together at country level on behalf and in support of the Stop TB Partnership's aims. Some elements of the Principles relate to GDF aims to enable sustainability of national financing for drugs and improved drug supply systems. Others are consistent with the aims of national TB programs, technical assistance and donor partners to align their medium-term plans for TB within larger health system plans, to harmonize TA missions and reporting requirements. Lastly, the Principles reflect also actions now being taken across partnerships to collaborate in helping finance and strategize to improve health systems.
- The WHO Health System Strengthening and TB Control Task Force met in January and considered a background paper on the synergies between the Stop TB Strategy (which underpins the Global Plan to Stop TB) and health system strengthening priorities, and worked to elaborate priorities for joint analysis and action in three areas: (a) further aligning WHO's TB work programme 2006-2007 with these aims; (b) effective involvement in health system strengthening initiatives/partnerships; (c) preparing analytic tools and research. (Report attached)
- Several major initiatives are under way to respond to the most pressing health system strengthening issues and the Stop TB Partnership could play an active role in these, including a global health workforce alliance, to be launched on 7 April; joint efforts to support health information systems and systems measurement (Health Metrics Network); and direct health systems financing via disease control financing mechanisms.

Stop TB Partnership

Decisions requested from the Stop TB Coordinating Board

- To endorse Stop TB collaboration in addressing health system weaknesses (including human resources), monitoring and coordination, aligning and operationalizing the Best Practice Principles for GHPs operating at country level
- To provide guidance on how the Board can contribute further to partnership collaboration on health system strengthening, particularly initiatives related to human resources and financing.

Next steps and time frame

What : Ensure alignment with Best Practice Principles

Who: Partners

Timeframe: Ongoing

Focal Point: Secretariat