

# Stop TB Partnership

<b>SUMMARY SHEET</b>		
Agenda Nr. 1.06-10.0	Subject	Mobilizing technical assistance and resources for ACSM
For Information	For Discussion	<b><u>For Decision</u></b>
<p><b>Introduction:</b> In 2005, as part of the preparation of the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-2015, the Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilisation (ACSM) Working Group developed the 10-year Strategic Framework for ACSM at Country Level. The ambitious Framework outlined ACSM strategies and proven health communication methodologies designed to build political/public support, contribute to improving case detection and treatment completion, combating stigma and empowering people and communities affected by TB and mobilizing resources.</p> <p>Current ACSM integration trends among national TB programs show a rapid increase in ACSM utilization and it is projected that this trend will <b>accelerate</b> as countries commit more of their GFATM grant and country budgets to support ACSM activities as called for in the Global Plan and Stop TB Strategy. As an expected result, more countries are requesting technical and capacity-building assistance to develop and implement sound, evidence-driven ACSM plans and activities. Members of the ACSM Subgroup at country level, Stop TB Partnership Secretariat, WHO and Stop TB partners are attempting to respond but demand is outstripping available ACSM TA financial resources and coordination capacity.</p>		
<p><b>Summary:</b> There exists limited mechanisms for responding to technical assistance requests and coordinating efforts across the partnership in not only ACSM but also in lab, human resource development, MDR-TB, TB/HIV, drug management, monitoring and evaluation and a number of other critical technical elements. The USAID-funded TBCTA project provides one important mechanism for delivering TA in a limited number of technical areas and priority countries. WHO, KNCV, UNION, CDC, PATH, GLRA, ATS and others also provide a degree of much needed TA to countries. However, only a few partners are in a position (due in part to a lack of resources) to provide comprehensive and sustained TA for ACSM and other critical technical areas. Previous Coordinating Board meetings, WHO-STAG and other forums have debated the technical assistance question and discussed approaches for maximizing the available resource pool. The ACSM Subgroup and others view the launch of the Global Plan and the rapid expansion of ACSM activities as a opportunity to create an ambitious, coordinated and pooled TA mechanism across all technical areas.</p>		
<b>Decisions requested from the Stop TB Coordinating Board</b>		
<p><b>Option A)</b> Would the Coordinating Board endorse the creation of a broader range TA mechanism or facility to pool financial resources and leverage partner technical expertise to support not only ACSM expansion but other technical areas as called for in the Global Plan and the ACSM 10-Year Strategic Framework?</p> <p><b>Option B)</b> If a broad range TA mechanism is not endorsed, would the Coordinating Board endorse the creation of a specific mechanism for responding to the growing demand for sound TA for ACSM?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Would the Coordinating Board endorse strengthening the capacity of the ACSM Subgroup at Country Level?</li> </ul>		
<b>Next steps and time frame</b>		
<b>What :</b> Technical Assistance for ACSM		
<b>Who:</b> Subgroup on ACSM at country level		
<b>Timeframe:</b> Ongoing		
<b>Focal Point:</b> Chair of the Subgroup/Secretariat Focal Point		