



Stop TB Partnership

SUMMARY SHEET

AGENDA NR. 1.11 - 6.0	SUBJECT	TBTEAM
FOR INFORMATION <input type="checkbox"/>	FOR DISCUSSION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FOR DECISION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

BACKGROUND (INCLUDING PROBLEM STATEMENT):

During several discussions of the last Coordinating Board meeting in Johannesburg, TBTEAM came up as a crosscutting issue for technical assistance. In order to better inform board members it was requested that a TBTEAM presentation and thorough discussion on the modus operandi, structure, capacity and financing, be included in the next board meeting (see Decision and action points, 19th Coordinating Board meeting). TBTEAM (TB Technical Assistance Mechanism) is a platform for enhancing the capacity of planning and coordinating of country technical assistance. It is a Stop TB Partnership Initiative, with its secretariat hosted in the Stop TB Department of WHO and links with TB technical assistance providers.

So far TBTEAM has focussed more on addressing the TA coordination issues at the global and regional level, while countries continue lacking capacity in identifying, prioritizing and requesting the TA that they need. In order to strengthen that capacity of the NTPs and facilitate the implementation of the TB strategic 5 year plans, TA plans of the Global Fund and other Partners (such as TBCARE), need to be integrated into a costed national TA plan. These TA plans, which should be central to defining country TA needs, are not yet in place in most countries. While there are 81 countries that have prospective TA missions entered in the TBTEAM website for 2011, only a few countries have prepared comprehensive TA plans.

In addition, utilizing the funding available through Global Fund TB grants in an efficient and effective manner is critical to achieving the global TB goals and targets. However, TBTEAM TA missions have not sufficiently demonstrated improvement of Global Fund grant implementation.

Building on progress made and lessons learnt thus far, TBTEAM is adapting its strategy to better facilitate TA planning and its coordination at the national level as well as improve the quality of adequate external TA which should be better informed by the analysis of country needs.

The new strategic approach of TBTEAM aims to improve the ability of NTPs to identify and address challenges in the implementation of the Stop TB strategy, including the activities supported by the Global Fund grants. TBTEAM will conduct strategic and systematic analysis of country needs and Global Fund grant performance to inform the provision of quality TA, and will strengthen the capacity of NTPs to plan and coordinate TA among relevant partners.

In addition, the provision of technical assistance to countries in Global Fund proposal preparation needs to be targeted to where it will be most effective.

In order to improve the quality of the GF applications and better target the support to the applicant countries, WHO and partners have developed a technical assistance strategy to assist countries in preparing proposals for Global Fund round 11. This strategy will prioritize countries without the funding from recent GF rounds and with good disbursement record; countries with the updated strategic plans and available analysis of identified programmatic and funding gaps. Commitments to this strategy currently amount to USD 0.7 million out of the 2.26 million needed.



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SUMMARY/OUTLINE OF THE SESSION:

During the session on TB TEAM held on 1 April 2011, the following will be presented :

- The current TBTEAM structure, achievements, challenges and the new strategic direction;
- The funding shortfall for TA for the Global Fund Round 11 preparation, with an appeal for partner support, including assistance in better use of existing financial resources.

DISCUSSION POINTS FOR THE COORDINATING BOARD:

- Discuss the TBTEAM structure, modus operandi, capacity and resources
- Discuss the best approaches to strengthen country capacity to raise and spend available resources, including those of the Global Fund.

DECISIONS REQUESTED FROM THE COORDINATING BOARD:

In addition to raising resources for countries it is essential to ensure the best use of existing funding (including the GF grants from previous rounds).

TBTEAM is requesting the CB to call on STBP partners to:

- prioritize support to country TB care and control programmes in the best use of approved Global Fund grants and other in-country resources;
- support the WHO and partners assistance to countries for Global Fund Round 11 applications.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None

EXPECTED SOURCE(S) OF FUNDING: NA

NEXT STEPS

ACTION REQUIRED: The Board to issue a call on STBP partners and donors to commit funding to Round 11.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY/OFFICER: Secretariat

TIMEFRAME: April-May 2011