

**Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility (GDF) undertakes monthly missions to provide technical assistance to countries and support National TB Programs in managing procurement.**

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*Participants and facilitators of the workshop in Cambodia*

Stop TB Partnership's GDF conducted from 2-8 May 2018 a first-ever technical assistance mission focusing on procurement and supply management of diagnostics and laboratory supplies, building its capacity in this specific domain.

The GDF team assisted the national TB program (NTP) of **Tajikistan** and stakeholders to refine the procurement plans under Global Fund, USAID and domestic financing as well as its existing laboratory inventory monitoring tools, to strengthen the country's ability to ensure an uninterrupted supply of diagnostic tests for patients. As a follow-up to the mission, GDF is customizing a spreadsheet that will allow the country to accurately forecast its needs for laboratory supplies and associated budgets, based on anticipated demand and considering inventory.

GDF will soon be issuing a call for experts in procurement and supply management of laboratory supplies to join its roster of consultants for providing technical assistance to countries. Additionally, a quantification tool that provides the same functionalities that the QUAN-TB software currently does for

medicines is also under development, which will empower countries in forecasting and order planning for TB diagnostics and laboratory supplies.

GDF representation participated from 22-24 May in the National conference “Integration of Partnership with Science and Innovative Technologies in Implementation of END-TB Strategy in Uzbekistan” In Qarshi City, the capital of Qashqadaryo Region in **Uzbekistan**.

Organized by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan and its Republican Specialized Scientific Practical Medical Center of phthisiology and pulmonology, the conference was supported by USAID TB control program in Uzbekistan, implemented by Project HOPE.

This conference was one of the most important events on the medical activities in Uzbekistan’s healthcare system and focused on improving delivery of specialized TB care in all regions of the country. It presented a unique platform for sharing expertise and experience in the most important achievements in the clinical practice of tuberculosis care.

A regional capacity-building workshop on new WHO policies and guidelines for Programmatic Management of Drug Resistance Tuberculosis (PMDT) in Johannesburg, **South Africa**, from 14-18 May 2018 brought together GLC consultants, WHO Country Office TB focal points as well as representatives from WHO Global TB team, WHO Afro, USAID, Global Fund and GDF.

The main objective of the workshop, organized by WHO, was to orient new and old consultants on the new policies and guidelines taking into account the challenges national TB programs are facing in scaling out PMDT services. The key message which strongly came up from all key stakeholders-USAID, WHO, Global Fund and Stop TB Partnership/GDF was that wastage should not be an obstacle to expedite the adoption of the new WHO treatment policies. The need to strengthen collaboration and coordination among key stakeholders and immediately identify countries which are yet to adopt the new tools to assess the key bottlenecks and provide tailored technical assistance to accelerate the uptake was also highly emphasized.

Stop TB Partnership’s GDF facilitated once again the TB pharmaceutical management session at this year’s **Azerbaijan** hosted International Training Course on “Strengthening TB Control in prisons of M/XDR-TB high-burden countries” organized by the WHO Collaborative Centre on prevention and control of TB in prisons.

The 2018 International Training took place from 14-19 May and included participants from Belarus, Kazakhstan, Russian Federation, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and El Salvador penitentiary sectors. The course participants showed a vivid interest in TB pharmaceutical management issues and principles in line with the new TB tools introduction.

The Main Medical Department of the Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan is an internationally recognized excellence center for TB and MDR-TB control. It serves as a demonstration site for representatives of many countries in and beyond the European Region and hosts the WHO Collaborative Centre on prevention and control of TB in prisons since 2014. The objective of the Collaborative Centre is to ensure the continuous capacity building of medical and nonmedical staff of penitentiaries. The Collaborating Centre organizes at least one international training each year for individuals responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating TB activities in Penal institutions. Since 2016, StopTB partnership’s GDF has been supporting the Centre to facilitate TB pharmaceutical management sessions.



*Patients waiting to receive medicines to treat MDR-TB in the Philippines*

GDF technical assistance mission team to **Philippines** from 16 to 25 April 2018 made a number of recommendations to the NTP in order to support the country in improving data management for better quantification, forecasting, procurement and distribution decision making, better specification of market issues and improve inventory and storage of TB products.

The Philippines have been procuring all the first line TB drugs using domestic funding while second-line TB drugs are financed by the Global Fund. QuanTB tool was successfully implemented for quantification and forecasting for the SLDs. Because of unavailability of stock data, the tool is not in use for first-line drugs. GDF mission team recommended integration of Integrated Tuberculosis Information System (ITIS) and Program Management Information System (PMIS) systems effectively to make the data available for better quantification, forecasting, procurement and distribution decision making.

The country procured pediatric FDCs from GDF in the previous year. Because of the procurement laws, the NTP had to undergo long processes which delayed the procurement and resulted in shortage and discreet procurement of pediatric TB syrups. After a detailed discussion with the procurement arm of Department of Health, COBAC (Central Office Bids and Awards Committee), the GDF mission team

recommended NTP to specify the market issues with the products and preferred mode of procurement during the submission of the procurement plan.

COBAC will then determine the appropriate procurement method according to their rules and regulations. In the meantime, it was recommended to the FDA (local, national drug regulatory authority) to expedite the registration of the WHO prequalified TB products.

Philippine is in a process to scale up the iDOTS (Integrated Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course) to all health facilities (more than 2,600) in the country. Effective supply of MDR-TB medicine has been an identified challenge. Options were analyzed, and as a short-term solution, the team recommended that multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) treatment centers will make additional requisition for the estimated/expected patients from the iDOTS centers under respective catchments and add them with their quantity while reporting. In the long-term solution, the storage and distribution will be governed from regional and/or provincial level.

The GDF team also recommended to pilot the non-kits approach for the FLD adult and assess the user acceptance, procurement, inventory management and storage benefits and ensure buffer in all level of the supply system.

Stop TB Partnership's GDF conducted a regional workshop on innovative procurement and supply management (PSM) from 7-11 April 2018 in **Cambodia**, aiming to improve PSM practices for TB medicines and ensure rational uptake of new TB tools by developing technical capacity of participants to accurately monitor programmatic and stock variations over time, perform strategic procurement and implement an early warning system.

The workshop was attended by 24 participants from six countries in the Western Pacific region including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines and Vietnam, representing NTP and donor-funded staff responsible for procurement, forecasting and inventory management of TB medicines, and other members of the Ministry of Health involved in the decision of TB medicines supply.

The workshop concluded successfully with all participants developing quantifications using their respective real country data and action plans to prevent stock-outs, over stocking and wastage of TB products. The general feedback from participants was highly exceptional with participants commenting that the workshop was essential for the success of TB medicine management in their respective countries.

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As the largest supplier of TB commodities, GDF plays a key role as a market coordinator to improve supply security and the affordability of quality-assured TB medicines and diagnostics. In addition, the team provides technical assistance to countries and supports national TB programs in managing procurement.