DRC is one of the 30 priority countries in the world where the incidence of tuberculosis is high. PSM challenges are huge but in a strategic partnership between NTP, GDF, FM and USAID, stakeholders want to bring effective solutions for the availability of quality TB products.

The main objectives of the mission were to (i) ensure the level of implementation (introduction) of therapeutic and diagnostic innovations, (ii) review the quantification of FLDs and LTCs for 2018-2020, (iii) assist in the establishment of an early warning system, (iv) provide practical technical assistance on all aspects of the supply chain TB products, (v) verify the funding mechanism and funding sources for ongoing procurement.
StopTB / GDF technical assistance mission to the Republic of Kenya – November 6 to December 7 2018

GDF together with the rGC WHO conducted a joint Technical Assistance (TA) mission to the Kenya. The mission aimed at preparing the country for the anticipated changes DR-TB guidelines and supporting the NTLD-P, and in-country partners to improve supply and logistics management capacity for TB medicines as well as the diagnostics particularly for the GeneXpert and related technologies. Achievements: a full quantification exercise was conducted to cover period of 2019 to 2020 for all forms of TB medicines. This quantification was well supported by draft PRF for initiation of orders for all medicines considered for the first regular order to be placed by latest second week of January 2019. There was additional capacity building for the NTLD-P on the use of QuanTB as part of the EWS.
Joint GDF/GLC Technical Assistance Mission to Cambodia - 10-19 December 2018
While the GLC TB specialist focused on programmatic aspects, the GDF consultants worked with the NTP to strengthen various aspects of TB medicines management. Special attention was given to prepare for the adoption of the new WHO MDR guidelines since regimen will change considerably and this will require careful planning of remaining stocks, outstanding deliveries as well as new orders to be placed. To facilitate this process, the GDF consultants developed an Excel-based tool which the facilities can use to report on the number of patients on MDR regimen and the remaining stocks of MDR medicines. A 1.5 day training was provided on MDR and Xpert cartridge management, the use of the new Excel reporting tool and the use of QuanTB.
StopTB / GDF technical assistance mission in Bangladesh– December 9-13 2018

GDF conducted mission to Bangladesh from 9 to 13 Dec 2018 to support quantification for the first and second-line TB drugs and develop in country capacity by conducting on job training on QuanTB tool. During the mission, quantification workshop was carried out for first and second line TB drugs projecting different scenarios for the phasing-in of the new WHO MDR treatment, taking into consideration medicine availability, regimen and proportion to be adopted by the country.

Achievements:

- The outcome served as a vital step in preparing the country for the changes in the MDR-TB treatment.
- In follow up of FLDs quantification, the NTP has finalized their procurement plans and submitted request to GDF for procurement of FLDs through domestic financing.
StopTB / GDF Workshop on Innovative Procurement and Supply Planning to End TB – 10 - 15 December 2018 in Gurgaon, India.

The workshop’s objective is for the RNTCP India and partners to be able to monitor and ensure a steady flow of validated data required for procurement and supply planning, and for TA/capacity development plans and decision-making processes. The workshop is a strong platform for the participants to strengthen their capacity to support the current PSM aspects under domestic, donor funded procurement yielding tangible results in India for the best outcome of the treatment for the patients in India.

Participants:
- The Additional DDG TB Heading the Procurement Division of the RNTCP India.
- One Deputy Assistant Director General (TB) of the RNTCP India.
- WHO consultants who are working with the RNTCP India along with the regular PSM team members of the Government of India.
- The staff members who are handling the Procurement and Supply Chain Management activities under the Additional DDG TB.
- Lead pharmacists from the State of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab. NPO PMDT WCO India who would rather facilitate the participants on the Rapid Communication from the WHO for the management of the MDR TB

Workshop kick off day: NTP Manager Dr Sachdeva and Deputy Director Dr Salhotra give opening remarks in front of 15 RNTCP participants who are ready to be trained on QuanTB!
Congratulations to the India National Program participants for having successfully completed the StopTB Partnership / GDF’s QuanTB training!