WHO:
GDF Regional Technical Adviser (RTA) for EECA, Maya Kavtaradze
GDF consultant Ron Wehrens
GDF consultant Zhyldyz Ysykeeva

WHAT: Stop TB Partnership’s Global Drug Facility Technical Assistance Mission to Uzbekistan

WHERE: Uzbekistan, Tashkent

WHEN: 17-21 September 2018

WHY is this meeting/mission taking place? i.e. what is the objective?

Republic of Uzbekistan, which is a priority country for GDF, remains in the list of the 30 high MDR-TB burden countries. Since last decade, uninterrupted supply of anti TB medicines in Uzbekistan has been ensured through direct procurement from GDF and financed by the global fund; The Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan is committed to assuming funding of procurement of TB medicines gradually, and the first step is the procurement of FLDs, but there is no clear plan how the state procurement will be conducted. Most of the quality assured TB medicines are not registered in the country, but GDF TB medicines always received a waiver for registration and one-time permission for import. However, due to strengthened country regulations in pharmaceuticals registrations, yearly 2018, import permission for GDF shipment took about seven months. Currently, the National TB program and the Principal Recipient are working on GDF QA TB medicines registration, and GDF is helping to facilitate the required documents submission by the manufacturers for registration. The NTP has established quantification and early warning system (EWS) using QuanTB tool, but patient data collection system requires revision in line with the implementation of new TB drugs and novel regimens. Especially EWS becomes very important in line with expected changed according to the WHO Rapid Communication: Key changes to the treatment of multidrug- and rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis.

Based on all above mentioned, GDF conducted TA mission and in collaboration with the National Teams, GDF RTA and consultants reviewed and updated the quantification, supply planning, order management, and early warning system in TB medicines including revision existing patient and stock related data collection system. Mission members Assessed registration process of GDF products – to understand how this will impact the delivery of TB medicines and diagnostics and discussed possible ways how to ensure procurement of QA TB medicines with the state financing (i.e., using international pooled procurement, e.g., GDF direct procurement).

Table 1: Photos from the mission

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the file</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>2018 September_GDF TA Uz (1)</td>
<td>Director of the DOTS center (Principal Recipient of TGF TB grant) and director of National the Republican Specialized Scientific and Practical Medicines Center of tuberculosis and pulmonology of Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan (NTP manager), holding the highest national award of the country that was assigned to the national TB program in 2017</td>
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<td>2018 September_GDF TA Uz (2)</td>
<td>GDF consultant and TB nurse at the XDR-TB department of the Republican Specialized Scientific and Practical Medicines Center of tuberculosis and pulmonology of Ministry of Health of the Republic of Uzbekistan (TB center)</td>
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<td>Image Name</td>
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<td>GDF consultants at the at the drug store of Tashkent oblast TB Center</td>
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<td>GDF RTA and Consultants at the meeting with the Principal Recipient of the Global Fund TB grant (DOTS Center)</td>
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<td>GDF RTA, GDF Consultant and the director of TB center, in front of the Ministry of Health of Uzbekistan</td>
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<td>GDF RTA and GDF Consultants at the debriefing meeting that was held on 21 September at the national TB center</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDF RTA and Consultants at the meeting with the Principal Recipient of the Global Fund TB grant (DOTS Center)</td>
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WHO: GDF Regional Technical Adviser (RTA) Zaza Munez

WHAT: Stop TB Partnership’s participation to sub technical working group on drugs and supplies management in the Philippines

WHERE: Philippines

WHEN: 11 October 2018

WHY is this meeting/mission taking place? i.e. what is the objective?

Stop TB Partnership’s GDF participated in a sub technical working group on drugs and supplies management in the Philippines on October 11, 2018. The meeting was chaired by NTP to discuss the quantification and forecasting of SLD for procurement considering the NTP’s plan to transition and implement WHO rapid communication early next year.

GDF has been providing valuable assistance when it comes to quantification and procurement, especially in working with NTP and partners to develop medicine status scenarios in the transition. Others present in the meeting were WHO, USAID, GF PR, and other partners.
WHO:
GDF Regional Technical Adviser (RTA) Arsène Ouedraogo

WHAT: Stop TB Partnership’s participation to a technical meeting on procurement and supply planning of the new TB MDR regimen that is part of a rGLC mission to Burkina Faso

WHERE: Koudougou, Burkina Faso

WHEN: 18 October 2018

WHY is this meeting/mission taking place? i.e. what is the objective?
From 16 to 19 October, rGLC provided technical assistance to Burkina Faso. StopTB / GDF participated to a technical meeting on procurement and supply planning participate for the definition of the new TB MDR regimens. Burkina applies the new recommendations from April 1st, 2019". Pictures of WHO country office.
WHEN: 15-16 October 2018

WHERE: Tbilisi, Georgia

WHO: National TB program managers and leading TB specialists from EECA countries; academia and research institutions; international agencies (WHO, USAID, Global Fund, and others)

From STBP: Lucía Ditiu, Andrei Mosneaga, Elena Mochinova, Maya Kavtaradze

DETAILS

- The meeting is organized by the Georgian NTP and WHO Regional Office for Europe
- Stop TB Partnership participates with presentations, keynotes, facilitation of panel discussions – to promote endTB agenda as follow-up of UN HLM
- Ukraine is a priority / 'core' country for STBP

Aim: To share the achievements and challenges that countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) experience in the in achieving targets of the Tuberculosis Action Plan for the WHO European Region 2016-2020.

Objectives

- Demonstrate the progress made and challenges identified in the implementation of the Tuberculosis Regional Action Plan and WHO policies on MDR-TB treatment and care with the closer look at the new drugs and shorter regimen, including experience with active pharmacovigilance, patient-centered models of care and research and development;
- Define technical assistance needs of countries, including revision of Tuberculosis National action plans and MDR-TB treatment policies based on WHO recommendations;
• Discuss follow-up actions of the High-Level Meeting on TB at the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA);
• Agree on next steps by counties, WHO and other key partner organizations;
WHO:
GDF Regional Technical Adviser (RTA) Waqas Rabbani
GDF Country Supply Officer (CSO) Marion Grossmann

WHAT: Stop TB Partnership’s technical mission to Afghanistan to review the country’s progress in the uptake of new TB tools, to support the quantification of TB medicines, and to develop transition plans considering the new WHO rapid communications on MDR-TB.

WHERE: Afghanistan

WHEN: 24 September to 5 October

WHY is this meeting/mission taking place? i.e. what is the objective?
StopTB Partnership’s GDF is currently on mission in Afghanistan to review the country’s progress in the uptake of new TB tools, to support the quantification of TB medicines for the development of the procurement and supply plans, and to develop transition plans considering the new WHO rapid communications on MDR. The mission team also undertook a field visit to Mazar-e-Sharif in northern Afghanistan to better understand the TB supply chain in-country, and to witness the decentralization efforts by the National TB Programme for MDR treatment in selected provinces.

Picture 1661 – Temporary central store at the Afghan-Japan Communicable Disease Hospital (AJCDH), Kabul

Picture 1665 – Review MDR recording and reporting tools at the Afghan-Japan Communicable Disease Hospital (AJCDH), Kabul

Picture 1766 – Regional TB DOTS clinic in Bolkh province, Mazar-e-Sharif
WHO: GDF Innovative training on Procurement and Supply Planning to NTPs in the AFRO Anglo region - hosted by Technical Adviser (RTA) Salama Mwatawala

WHAT: Stop TB Partnership’s Global Drug Faccility’s Demand Technical Assistance and Capacity Building Team training NTPs from 15 countries in the AFRO Anglo region to use the new version of QuanTB – allowing them to create transition supply plans and costing scenarios to better consider timelines for their countries to adopt the new WHO MDR-TB treatment guidance

WHERE: Tanzania

WHEN: 1-5 October 2018

WHY is this meeting/mission taking place? i.e. what is the objective?

NTPs of GDF priority countries regularly need refresher trainings on quantification and procurement and supply planning to strengthen their national procurement processes accordingly. The objective of this workshop was to pair this refresher training with newly developed tools and guidance on how and when to procure new drugs in line with WHO’s new MDR-TB treatment guidance – and address overarching programmatic and procurement questions and concerns from countries as they consider how and when to adopt this new guidance in their countries.
**WHO:** GDF Country Supply Officer Alessio Mola

**WHAT:** WHO 2018 Sondalo Course

**WHERE:** Cepina, North Italy

**WHEN:** 29 September 2018

**WHY is this meeting/mission taking place? i.e. what is the objective?**

The Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility leading the core Drug Management component of the WHO 2018 Sondalo Course, bringing up-to-date participants on best practices for forecasting, quantification and early warning, also in view of the latest updates in MDR-TB treatment regimens.

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**WHO:** GDF Consultant Charles Njuguna

GDF Consultant Maria Ochigbo

**WHAT:** GDF mission to Tanzania conducted jointly with the WHO/Green Light Committee

**WHERE:** Tanzania

**WHEN:** 8 to 17 October, 2018

**WHY is this meeting/mission taking place? i.e. what is the objective?**
Tanzania’s National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Program (NTLP) have made tremendous progress in program and supply chain management. Areas of notable progresses includes; decline in Tb incidence and mortality rates; implementation of new paediatric formulations and new medicines Bedaquiline and Delamanid; prompt initiation of plan for transitioning to the new WHO guideline on DR TB management. To ensure a hitch-free transition, the mission team worked with NTLP to support their transition plan which had July 2019 as the commencement date. The new regimens were designed and implementation information provided with the support of the GLC consultant. The GDF team conducted the quantification and supply planning based on the transition plan. At the end of the mission, the country had already started the procurement process.

The mission team requested WHO through the WR to advocate to the government, GF and partners for support to bridge the financial gap in implementation of the country transition plan to the new WHO guidelines. WHO was also requested to assist NTLP to mobilize technical assistance from partners for the review of the treatment guidelines, sensitization of HCWs, and expansion of active drug safety monitoring (aDSM).

Recognizing the importance of diagnosis in the prevention and treatment of TB, the country has continued to scale up laboratory services to support TB diagnosis and patients monitoring and has capacity for LPA with 2 labs planned to be commissioned in 2018. Two Labs have capacity for liquid culture using MGIT with 2 additional ones planned. 28 Digital X ray machines have been procured with 50 additional machines planned under GF support. In 2018, NTLP deployed an additional 91 GeneXpert Machines to bring total national coverage to 210 (mainly module 4) machines.

An electronic LMIS (e-LMIS) has been implemented at the district level. This platform is used for submitting orders and reports from district to the zonal level. The mission team held meeting with partner supporting the e-LMIS to fast-track uploading of facility level LMIS reporting tools for DS and DR TB into the e-LMIS during the ongoing system upgrade. This will enable NTLP optimize the e-LMIS to improve peripheral stock visibility up to facility level and track key supply chain indicators such as Month of Stock (MOS) usable and unusable, stock outs, short dated stocks to inform decision making.

Some of the challenges observed were low stock levels of some FLD and SLDs at the central MSD level due to delays in procurement process. Inadequate inventory management and storage facilities at the district level were also observed. NTLP was advised to work closely with all stakeholders involved in procurement to improve efficiency and monitoring of the procurement process to avoid exposing the country to stock out in future. NTP was also requested to strengthen supportive supervision in order to improve inventory management practices at the periphery.
Legend: Pharmacist at Kibong’oto Infectious Diseases Hospital explains to NTLP pharmacist and one of the GDF consultants how aDSM is done at her facility

Legend: Evidence of physical stock count at MSD central warehouse; the green sticker indicates stock that has been verified through physical count
WHO: GDF RTA Salama Mwatawala
GDF consultant Ekpeno Akpanowo

WHAT: GDF mission to Zimbabwe conducted jointly with the WHO/Green Light Committee

WHERE: Zimbabwe

WHEN: 8 to 17 October, 2018

WHY is this meeting/mission taking place? i.e. what is the objective?

This joint mission provided a good opportunity for technical assistance to the country in the clinical management of drug-resistant TB and supply chain management.

A key discussion arising from the mission objective was the introduction of the new MDR-TB regimen recommended by WHO which includes the injection-free regimen for about 20 months and a regimen with Amikacin injection for 9-11 months.

GDF supported the country in developing phase-in phase-out scenarios and assessing the implications in terms of medicines availability and cost to guide their choice of regimen selection and the period when these new regimens could be phased-in bearing in mind the supply lead time.

The country opted to commence about 90% of its DR-TB new cases on the injection-free regimen by the first quarter of 2019. Based on the planned changes the second-line TB medicine quantification was revised to reflect the transition plan to the new WHO DR TB treatment guidelines and a new supply plan was also developed.

In Zimbabwe, over 40% of the patients on injection-based regimen develop some form of ototoxicity/hearing challenges. It is hoped that with the introduction of the new WHO recommended injection-free regimen; these patients would breathe a sigh of relief not only from the unwanted adverse effects of ototoxicity but would also be totally free from the uncomfortable pains at the injection site they experience daily for 4-6 month.
WHO: GDF CSO Alessio Mola
GDF consultant Rita Seicas

WHAT: GDF TA mission to DPR Korea

WHERE: DPR Korea

WHEN: 2 to 12 October, 2018

WHY is this meeting/mission taking place? i.e. what is the objective?
The TA mission aimed at assisting with quantification, forecasting and early warning of TB medicines.

Paed formulation