

**Celebration of the 2002 World TB Day**  
**“Stop TB, fight poverty”**

**Plan of Action for Bangladesh**

**Background**

DOTS is part of the Essential Service Package (ESP) of the Health and Population Sector Programme (HPSP), which goal is to improve the health and family welfare status among the women, children and poor of Bangladesh. DOTS services are provided by the National Tuberculosis Control Programme (NTP) in all upazilas of Bangladesh and the metropolitan cities of Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna, covering about 95% of the country population. More than 45% of the population is served through NGOs. Despite of its high rate of success in treating patients (more than 80% in the last analysis), the NTP still detects only about 30% of the estimated cases in the community. Improved access to NTP services, increased awareness among decision makers and mobilization of TB sufferers will further expand DOTS, towards the national target of 70% case detection rate and 85% cure rate.

**Objectives**

1. To promote DOTS in the areas of the country where NTP is implemented.
2. To launch new initiatives for the NTP expansion.
3. To raise awareness among political leaders, decision makers and opinion leaders about DOTS and NTP.

**Activities**

Upazila level

The best and the worst DOTS performing upazilas during the past year (considering TB case detection and treatment outcomes) will be selected with the help of the Civil Surgeon in each district. A rally and discussion meeting will be organized in two upazilas as acknowledgement or incentive of quality NTP services.

District and divisional level

A rally will be organised through the main road of each district town with placards, banner and messages by microphone. It will be attended by health staff, NGOs, volunteers, others.

First establishment of a “DOTS Corner” in a medical college hospital

In Rajshahi, the establishment of a “DOTS Corner” in collaboration between NTP, DF and the Medical College Hospital will be officially launched on 24 March. A rally will be organized ending at the Medical College Hospital. A meeting will followed at the Medical College. National health authorities, NTP, NGOs, members of other organizations and volunteers will be invited to attend both rally and meeting.

### Expansion of DOTS in Dhaka city

In Dhaka, the last area of the country not covered by DOTS, the NTP expansion will be launched through an official ceremony where NTP drugs will be firstly supplied to the 29 Primary Health Centers of the NGOs named PSKS, Shimantik, PSTC, Marie Stopes and BWHC serving 23 wards of the 90 of this city corporation. National health authorities, NTP, NGOs, members of other organizations and volunteers will attend the ceremony.

### Partnership of NTP with the academic institutions

A rally will be organized from the Press Club to the Dhaka Medical College. Paper caps and T-shirts will be distributed to the participants of the rally. A vehicle with musical arrangements will drive along streets, providing promotional messages. The rally will be followed by a conference organized at the Dhaka Medical College. National health authorities will provide key messages to the medical community attending the conference (invited from the main medical colleges and hospitals of the country). The conference will continue with scientific presentations on DOTS and NTP. An experts panel will release recommendations.

### Mass media

Messages by the President, Prime Minister, Minister of Health, State Minister, Secretary and DGHS on TV/radio and published in the main national newspapers (in Bengali and English).