

Task force on Retooling

Revised 10 July 2006

Rationale:

For many years, there has been limited innovation in the field of TB drugs, vaccines or diagnostics. However, according to the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-2015, within the next 10 years and beginning as early as 2008, there will be a continuous pipeline of new and improved products for TB prevention and control. Adoption and timely introduction of these tools, as they become available, will require coordinated action by various members of the Stop TB partnership. This process of preparing for adoption and introduction of new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines, has been termed "retooling".

Aim:

The purpose of this task force is to develop a road map for adoption and timely introduction of new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines, as they become available.

Composition and terms of reference of the Task Force on Retooling

The STOP TB Partnership established a Task Force on Retooling (TFR) in response to a request from members of the Coordinating Board. The initial core group of the task force includes experts, not necessarily working group members, designated by the Chairman of the working groups, as well as members from key subgroups (laboratory, GDF, poverty). The membership also include representatives from high burden country National TB Programs (NTP) as well as from the WHO stop TB department.

As different issues are addressed, the TFR will draw on external expertise that can be brought into the task force in a time-limited manner. The make-up of the core group may change as retooling experts external to the TB community are identified and engaged. Initially, the TFR will be co-chaired technical experts from the working groups.

The terms of reference of the TFR are the following:

- To develop a road map for introduction and adoption of new tools, as they become available.
- To track information on the development and introduction of new tools, particularly obstacles to adoption and roll out
- To cut across the working groups of the Stop TB Partnership to ensure efficient progress in moving new tools from successful trials to standard practice in the field;

- To liaise with the implementation and research working groups to ensure that key partners such as NTP managers and consumer groups are informed and their needs inform the development of upcoming tools
- To identify opportunities for input from key stakeholders on the development and uptake of new tools.
- To inform stakeholders on the resource considerations necessary for the adoption and introduction of new tools.
- To proactively identify activities and progress towards retooling currently underway by other disease control communities (e.g. malaria, immunizations), to learn lessons and maximize efficiency;

Issues to be considered will include, but are not limited to, policy change to support the adoption of new tools (e.g. WHO as normative UN specialized public health agency), the role of the GDF and other pooled procurement mechanisms, regulatory issues at global and country levels, supply, distribution and training at country levels, demand generation, etc.

Time frame:

As innovation will be continuous for years to come, the task force will be a long term working committee of the Partnership. However, membership and scope of task will change depending on actual products and timeframes for introduction.