

MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT TB (MDR-TB)

GDF is the mandated procurement arm of the Green Light Committee (GLC) Initiative, which helps countries gain access to high-quality second-line anti-TB medicines. GLC reviews applications by MDR-TB programmes that, if approved, have access to the GDF's concessionary prices as well as GLC's expert technical assistance.

GDF and GLC work together to engage countries, suppliers, researchers, public health experts and other stakeholders with the goal of improving all aspects of MDR-TB treatment – from the availability, price and quality of medicines to treatment, diagnosis and drug management – in DOTS programmes around the world. GLC is an internationally recognized benchmark for quality in MDR-TB treatment, housed by the WHO and supported by a host of renowned technical partners including the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease (IUATLD).

ELIGIBILITY

Countries implementing the Stop TB Strategy, including the policy package of DOTS, in 90% or more of the population and NGOs supporting DOTS in these countries are eligible to use GDF's Direct Procurement Service, as are countries and NGOs approved for TB grants by GDF or the Global Fund. For information on how to become eligible, please contact the GDF at gdf@who.int.

PRODUCTS

GDF provides a comprehensive range of the WHO-approved anti-TB medicines and supplies needed to diagnose and treat both adult and paediatric patients infected with drug-sensitive and drug-resistant TB.

CONTACT

For more information, please visit our website at www.stoptb.org/gdf or email us at gdf@who.int.



THE GLOBAL DRUG FACILITY

DIRECT PROCUREMENT SERVICE:
ONE-STOP ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE
TB CONTROL



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GDF is ISO
9001:2000 certified

Stop TB Partnership



The Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility (GDF), housed and administered by the World Health Organization (WHO), is an innovative body created to provide eligible countries with one-stop access to sustainable tuberculosis (TB) control services ranging from grants to procurement to technical assistance and capacity building.

Since its inception in 2001, GDF has been at the forefront of the global fight against TB, providing more than 13 million patient treatments to over 100 countries implementing DOTS treatment programmes around the world.

ONE-STOP ACCESS

GDF offers much more than the procurement of affordable, high-quality first- and second-line anti-TB medicines and diagnostics equipment. While the services of many procurement organizations are limited to the provision of medicines alone, GDF builds lasting relationships with countries by providing ongoing technical assistance to help address systemic problems and establish sustainable long-term health strategies and capacities.

SUPPORT

GDF is uniquely positioned to provide expert technical assistance and ongoing support to countries. Drawing on the expertise and experience of dedicated GDF Regional Support Officers in WHO's regional offices in Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean and South East Asia, as well as a worldwide network of public health partners, GDF aids countries in developing their forecasting, monitoring and evaluation, drug management and capacity-building practices through annual monitoring missions and a range of training workshops.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

GDF is committed to providing WHO-approved anti-TB medicines and diagnostics supplies of the highest possible quality. An exacting quality assurance policy ensures that all contracted suppliers have passed a rigorous quality assessment either through the WHO Prequalification Programme, through a stringent national regulatory authority (such as the US FDA) or through an Interim Review Process conducted by the WHO Prequalification Programme on behalf of GDF, the Global Fund and other partners financing or supplying essential medicines for TB, HIV and Malaria. GDF is a strong supporter of the WHO Prequalification Programme, encouraging and facilitating supplier's participation in the programme as well as giving preference to prequalified products in its tendering processes.

QUALITY CONTROL

Shipments of GDF medicines are subject to quality control checks and laboratory testing by internationally accredited inspection agents and laboratories before they are dispatched, ensuring that the anti-TB commodities countries receive conform to GDF's internationally recognized quality standards.

QUALITY MANAGEMENT

GDF is ISO 9001:2000 certified and has implemented a quality management system designed to constantly improve the efficiency and quality of the services it provides. Customer satisfaction is at the core of GDF's quality policy – countries are systematically asked for feedback on every order so that GDF can take action and respond to their needs. GDF also demands quality from its contracted partners, such as procurement and inspection agents, who are stringently selected through transparent competitive processes and whose performance is evaluated on a regular basis.

PRICE

GDF's prices for first- and second-line anti-TB commodities are internationally competitive – contracted suppliers guarantee that they will not sell the same products elsewhere for less – but where GDF really stands out is in terms of added value and services. GDF supplies, exclusively, products that are stringently quality-assured and also provides expert technical assistance – at no extra cost to the customer. GDF's pooled procurement model and regular competitive processes for suppliers of anti-TB products allow GDF to negotiate low prices and then sustainably offer them to all its customers. GDF also directly engages industry to stimulate market competition and improve production capacity of medicines in order to meet global demand – while keeping prices down.

LEAD TIMES

GDF is responsive to the needs of its customers and, as part of a continuing commitment to reducing the lead times for orders, has implemented a range of initiatives including strategic stockpiles of key medicines and a Strategic Revolving Fund that provides provisional, reimbursable lines of credit to eligible countries for the purchase of second-line medicines to treat MDR-TB.

GDF also regularly meets with its supply partners – procurement agents, suppliers, freight forwarders and inspection agents – to address supply issues and streamline processes with a view to reducing lead times and consistently improving the quality of the products and services provided to customers.

INNOVATION

GDF, in conjunction with suppliers, has developed innovative products and packaging to promote and facilitate safe, rational drug use in TB treatment. These include:

- Stop TB Patient Kits – covering a range of WHO-approved TB treatment regimens, GDF's patient kits contain a full course of treatment for one patient and can be easily adapted to different weight categories, making it much easier for health workers to ensure adherence to treatment guidelines;
- special blister packs – GDF's special blister packs facilitate adherence to treatment guidelines while maintaining the integrity of the medicines they contain in a wide range of climatic conditions;

- diagnostics kits – specially formulated in line with WHO-approved smear microscopy guidelines, GDF's diagnostics equipment kits contain everything a programme needs to diagnose drug-sensitive TB;
- auto-disabling syringes – these syringes have been specially developed for the GDF to auto-disable after delivering a standard dose of streptomycin solution, preventing the re-use or sharing of needles.

NETWORK

GDF, an initiative of the worldwide Stop TB Partnership and the mandated TB procurement mechanism for WHO, has close ties to many international organizations. Access to a network of experts, researchers and policy-makers ensures that GDF remains at the forefront of best practices in TB treatment and procurement, making GDF a trusted partner for such major funding bodies as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. GDF is a prequalified source of first-line anti-TB commodities for orders financed by the Global Fund, and is also the mandated procurement mechanism for Green Light Committee-approved second-line orders financed by the Global Fund.

"GDF provided us the drugs we needed to treat TB patients during very hard times. Thanks to GDF support we have saved many lives, and are now in a position to continue improving our programme – rather than having to start from scratch."

Programme Manager, National TB Control Programme – Rwanda