



Stop TB Partnership

SUMMARY SHEET

Agenda Nr. 2.07-6.0	Subject	Subgroup on Laboratory Capacity Strengthening (SLCS): Global Laboratory Initiative - Strategies and Needs	
For Information <input type="checkbox"/>	For Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	For Decision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<p>Rationale</p> <p>Lack of diagnostic capacity is a crucial barrier preventing an effective response to the challenges of TB-HIV and drug-resistant TB, with <i>less than 5% of the estimated burden of MDR-TB patients currently being detected</i>. STP Working Groups, technical expert bodies, and international research and donor agencies all agree that the critical lack of laboratory capacity constitutes a problem in urgent need of a solution to reach the MDG for TB and Partnership targets.</p>			
<p>Summary</p> <p>Laboratory constraints centre on infrastructure development, technical issues and human resource development. Novel technologies resulting in rapid detection, identification, and DST of <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> are set to revolutionize TB control, but programmatic implementation will depend on rapid policy translation and adequate laboratory infrastructure. The SLCS is finalizing a strategic initiative, plan and roadmap for the massive scale-up required. This aims at universal access to quality-assured TB diagnostic services by 2015, addressing MDR-TB and TB-HIV diagnostic challenges within the MDG framework. Components of this include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global policy guidance, • Advocacy and resource mobilization, • Laboratory capacity development and coordination, • Quality assurance, • Coordination of technical assistance; and • Effective knowledge sharing - <p>all within the context of integrated laboratory and quality systems and cross-cutting disease control mechanisms. The associated business model rests on a flexible and responsive approach involving comprehensive resource mapping and multi-sectoral partnerships. The core funding is to secure the operations of the Initiative and future payment through a fee-for-service system (e.g. similar to the Green Light Committee financing mechanism) by users. Current gap analyses indicate a global capacity shortfall of 117 million microscopy tests per annum, immediate capacity needs for 15 million culture- and four million DST investigations per year, and a four-fold increase by 2015 to meet the forecast demands of the Global Plan. Estimated associated financial and strategic needs for the period 2008-2015 will require, at the country level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least USD 2.7 billion in laboratory infrastructure and equipment investment; • At least USD 1.8 billion in annual variable/running cost; • Training of at least 26 000 new laboratory technicians skilled in culture and DST; • In-service training of at least 150 000 laboratory technicians on smear microscopy; • Standardization, coordination and quality assurance of at least 100 000 microscopy and 10 000 culture and DST laboratories. 			



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Decisions requested (from the Stop TB Coordinating Board)

1. To endorse and support the strategic direction of the Global Laboratory Initiative;
2. To support and advocate for increased resources at the global and country level.

Implications (political/financial/staffing etc):

Increased recognition of the essential role of laboratory services in TB control; massive financial investment to meet the needs; increased staffing at WHO and partner organizations.

Next Steps

Action Required: SLCS business and resource mobilization plan.

Focal Point: Karin Weyer

Timeframe: 31 July 2008