



Message from the Chair and the Secretariat of the TB/HIV Working Group of the Stop TB Partnership, May 2012

Dear members of the TB/HIV Working Group and friends of TB/HIV,

We have pleasure in sharing a brief overview of recent activities carried out by members of the Working Group and the Secretariat since our last message in February, as well as opportunities for funding, new resources and upcoming events to note in the diary.

1. Revised WHO TB/HIV Policy Launched, 02 March 2012

The beginning of March saw the launch of the revised [WHO policy on collaborative TB/HIV activities](#). The new policy consolidates the most recent WHO policies and guidelines on TB/HIV as well as the latest scientific evidence generated from randomized controlled trials and observational studies in the field of TB and HIV and country experiences implementing the Interim Policy. It emphasises the importance of establishing mechanisms for the delivery of integrated TB and HIV services at the same place and time, as well as promoting integration within other health programmes such as maternal and child health and harm reduction services. The previous Interim policy, published in 2004, provided a highly effective framework for implementing partners and donors to focus their resources. More than 100 countries fully adopted the Interim Policy, measured by HIV testing of at least half of TB patients identified and it is estimated that 910,000 lives have been saved globally. TB screening among people living with HIV increased 12-fold from 200 000 in 2005 to 2.3 million in 2010. The number of people living with HIV without active TB receiving isoniazid preventive therapy increased from 26 000 in 2005 to 180 000 in 2010. Armed with this updated policy we should now be able to achieve even better advances in our efforts to overcome the HIV and TB epidemics as set out in the Global Plan to Stop TB and the Global health sector strategy on HIV/AIDS, 2011-2015.

2. HIV/TB Research Meeting and Coverage at CROI 2012, Seattle, USA, 5-8 March 2012

The World Health Organization and Consortium to Respond Effectively to the AIDS/TB Epidemic (CREATE) organized their 6th CROI affiliated HIV/TB research meeting on behalf of the TB/HIV Working Group of the Stop TB Partnership in Seattle, USA on 5 March, 2012. Attended by some 70 participants, including HIV researchers, implementers and public health policy makers, the meeting discussed critical knowledge and research gaps on TB impact and measurement of TB transmission in high HIV burden settings. Convened by Richard Chaisson of John Hopkins University and Haileyesus Getahun of WHO's Stop TB Department, the meeting was chaired by Diane Havlir, Chair of the TB/HIV Working Group and Gottfried Hirnschall, Director of the HIV Department of WHO. For more details please download the meeting [report](#). CROI 2012 was attended by over 4 200 researchers, policy makers, implementers, community leaders and advocates from 83 countries. TB/HIV received considerable focus with most of the Thursday set aside for it. The morning started with a plenary given by [Eric Nuermberger](#) "From the Cage to the Clinic: Developing TB Regimens for the Next 40 Years" followed by an oral abstract session on "[TB and Vaccine Preventable Diseases](#)". In the afternoon there was a themed discussion on "[TB diagnostics](#)" and the day concluded with a symposium on the "[Scientific Advances in TB Pathogenesis and Treatment](#)". For abstracts on TB/HIV please visit the CROI 2012 [abstract webpage](#) and webcasts of the sessions can be found at the following [link](#).

3. **Prevention, Diagnosis, and Treatment of Tuberculosis in Children and Mothers**

The theme of this year's World TB Day 2012 was "Stop TB in my lifetime" with a special focus on childhood TB. The Stop TB Department supported the special World TB Day edition of HATiP targeted specifically at nurses and community health workers which also highlights the need for greater integration of collaborative TB/HIV activities in maternal and child healthcare. This is the first in a series of monthly editions of HATiP designed specifically for the nurse and community health worker target audience. For this and other editions, as well as the HATiP blog, please visit the [HATiP website](#). Prior to World TB Day the Journal of Infectious Diseases published a [scientific review](#) authored by Haileyesus Getahun and colleagues, on the magnitude and challenges of maternal and childhood TB in high TB and HIV burden settings together with related recommendations for policy, programming and research. The review provides further in-depth evidence on the scope of the problem and recommends that all stakeholders include TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment services as key interventions in the integrated management of pregnancy and child health, whilst addressing also the basic and operational tuberculosis research needs of children, pregnant, and breastfeeding women.

4. **2nd International Conference on HIV Treatment as Prevention, 22-25 April 2012, Canada**

The second International Conference on HIV Treatment as Prevention was convened in Vancouver, Canada between 22nd and 25th April 2012. The aim of the conference was to review the data on HIV treatment as prevention and identify priority research questions and policy actions. Our Chair, Diane Havlir, presented on "When to Start: Investigator perspective" and Reuben Granich gave a presentation on the global guidelines. Haileyesus Getahun provided commentary on Stephen Lawn's presentation on the Impact of antiretroviral therapy on TB control, expanding on the role of ART for TB prevention among people living with HIV and summarising the relevant WHO experience. Conference participants appeared divided on the level of evidence and on the rationale behind HIV treatment as prevention to stop the HIV epidemic. However, the evidence surrounding the significant role of ART to prevent TB among people living with HIV when given with CD4 cell count of more than 350 (which is approximately 60%) was recognised, as was the fact that not all TB patients are currently receiving ART and there is an urgent need to address this gap.

5. **Subcommittee established to revise Terms of Reference for the TB/HIV Working Group**

In response to one of the recommendations made at the Core Group meeting in Beijing in November 2011, a subcommittee of the Core Group has now been established to oversee the revision of the Terms of reference of the Working Group, bearing in mind the different internal and external factors. The Core Group members who have kindly volunteered to be part of this subcommittee are Amy Bloom, Bill Coggin, Gracia Violeta Ross Quiroga, Joseph Sitienei and Jeroen Van Gorkom. The subcommittee will meet in due course to discuss the revision of the TORs, the composition of the Core Group and the appointment of the next Chair.

6. **UNITAID Open Call for Letters of Intent**

On 4th April 2012, UNITAID announced an open call for Letters of Intent on improving access to key preventive, diagnostic and treatment commodities for HIV, TB and malaria through market-based approaches. **The close date for applications is the 22nd May.** For more information please visit the following [website](#)

7. **Upcoming events**

Transforming the HIV/TB Response: Defining the next 10 years, 21 July, 2012, Washington, USA

The World Health Organization, in collaboration with the Global TB/HIV Working Group, will be convening an international consultation in conjunction with AIDS 2012, in Washington DC on 21 July 2012 from 09:00 until 16:00. The meeting will be co-hosted by Mark Dybul of the O'Neil Institute for National and Global Health Law at Georgetown University (formerly the US Global AIDS Coordinator). The aim of the meeting will be to generate innovative ideas and ways to define the next decade of the Global TB/HIV response and its strategic direction. The meeting will also review global and regional progress, harvest experiences and identify key challenges and barriers in the scale-up of collaborative TB/HIV activities, including research gaps. The meeting will be conducted at the Georgetown Law campus, room 202, McDonough Hall, 600 New Jersey Avenue, NW. Directions for the meeting location

can be found at the following [link](#). An agenda and other details will follow in due course and will be posted on the TB/HIV Working Group [website](#).

TB/HIV at AIDS 2012, XIX International AIDS Conference, Washington DC, USA, 22-27 July 2012

This year's conference theme is "Turning the Tide Together" and is expected to host some 20 000 delegates from 200 countries. The Chair of the Working Group has the privilege of being the co-chair of the Conference. The Working Group Secretariat and Working Group members have been working hard to mainstream HIV/TB and the programme is full of HIV/TB sessions including a plenary presentation on Friday 27th July from 09:00 – 10:30 by Anthony Harries of the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease on "Science and Implementation to Turn the Tide on TB". There will also be a high level HIV/TB symposium on the Friday from 11:00 – 12:30 entitled "Looking to the Future in HIV and TB" at which members of the Core Group, Richard Chaisson, Haileyesus Getahun, and Mark Harrington will be speaking as well as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, Whoopi Goldberg. In addition, there will be many other sessions ranging from HIV/TB abstract driven sessions, posters and workshops within the conference area, as well as a rich array of TB/HIV events in the Global Village. The Secretariat will be sending out a Roadmap of HIV/TB conference sessions closer to the actual event. In the meantime, for further details please visit the conference [website](#). We would like to remind you that there is still time to submit abstracts for late breakers – submissions close on 22nd May. Exhibition applications close on 25th May.

Programme Managers Skills Building Workshop at AIDS 2012, XIX International AIDS Conference, Washington DC, USA, 24 July 2012

We are delighted to announce that the IAS conference committee has accepted our application to hold a skills building workshop for National TB and HIV programme managers. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, 24 July 2012 from 14:30 until 18:00 in Mini Room 7 of the Walter E. Washington Convention Center and aims to accelerate the global scale-up of collaborative TB/HIV activities through peer to peer knowledge exchange, cross-fertilization of experiences across the regions whilst providing a regional analysis of weaknesses and successes. National HIV and TB programme managers are invited to discuss the latest evidence around the TB/HIV response, share experiences in overcoming challenges in implementation and discuss key measures needed for scale-up. The workshop will largely be interactive to allow participants to probe and test out the experience and lessons learnt by other attendees. Meeting participants will not need to register to attend this workshop but are advised to be at the door of the workshop 20 minutes in advance as the seating will be limited to a first-come, first-seated arrangement. A meeting agenda will be ready for sharing in due course.

43rd Union World Conference on Lung Health, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 13-17 November 2012

"Driving sustainability through mutual responsibility" is the theme of this year's Union conference, reflecting the need for innovative finance and quality assurance mechanisms to ensure a sustainable health response. It emphasises the mutual responsibility of donors, government, civil society organisations and affected communities, policy-makers, researchers, and implementers for achieving common goals. For more information please visit the following [link](#).

Please note that you can keep up-to-date with TB/HIV news on a more regular basis by monitoring the [TB/HIV Working Group homepage](#), by following us on Twitter [@HIVTB](#) or by liking our [Facebook](#) page. We also encourage members to provide us with news items that you would like to be included in future letters.

Regards,

Diane Havlir, MD
Chair

Haileyesus Getahun, MD, PhD
Secretariat