GUDDE TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON PUBLIC-PRIVATE MIX FOR TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION AND CARE







Guide to develop a national action plan on public-private mix for tuberculosis prevention and care

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Introduction and context

The importance of engaging all providers in tuberculosis (TB) care and prevention has been recognized for well over a decade. Over 4 million people with TB are missed each year by health systems and therefore do not get the care they need and deserve. A large proportion of these patients, especially in Asia, are diagnosed and managed in the private sector or unengaged public sector, but not notified to national health systems. Multiple studies have shown extensive use of the private sector, with an average of 50% (in Sub-Saharan Africa) to 80% (in South Asia) of initial visits being in the private sector¹. Failure to engage with these providers can result in long delays in diagnosis and treatment, resulting in further TB transmission, and poor quality diagnosis and treatment, leading to the development of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB).

The programmatic response to this need has been public-private mix (PPM) for TB prevention and care^{2,3}. Engaging all relevant health care providers in TB prevention and care through PPM approaches is an essential component of WHO's End TB Strategy. PPM for TB prevention and care represents a comprehensive approach for systematic involvement of all relevant health care providers in TB control to promote the use of International Standards for TB Care and achieve national and global targets to end TB. PPM encompasses diverse collaborative strategies such as public-private (between NTP and the private sector), public-public (between NTP and other public sector care providers such as general hospitals, prison or military health services and social security organizations), and private-private (between an NGO or a private hospital and the neighborhood private providers) collaboration. The aims of this work are to identify people with TB symptoms as soon as possible, no matter where in the health system they first present, and to establish mechanisms that allow for efficient and high quality diagnosis and treatment.

In 2007, WHO and stakeholders developed a guide for PPM national situation assessments (NSA)⁴, which allows a review of engagement of both private providers (public-private contributions) and of public providers who are not under the direct purview of the NTP (public-public contributions). The subsequent PPM toolkit outlines the various domains in which

¹ Private Sector for Health. Private healthcare in developing countries.

http://www.ps4h.org/globalhealthdata.html.

² Wells WA, Uplekar M, Pai M (2015) Achieving Systemic and Scalable Private Sector Engagement in Tuberculosis Care and Prevention in Asia. PLoS Med. 12(6):e1001842.

³ Uplekar M (2016) Public-private mix for TB care and prevention: what progress? what prospects? Int J Tuberc Lung Dis. 2016 Nov;20(11):1424-1429.

⁴ WHO (2007) PPM for TB care and control: a tool for national situation assessment.

http://www.who.int/tb/publications/2007/who_htm_tb_2007_391/en/

engagement is needed⁵. By now, almost all high burden countries have developed a number of PPM models, adapted to local contextual needs, that allow engagement of certain types of healthcare facilities or providers.

The new document outlined here – the guide to develop a national TB PPM action plan – builds on these earlier documents. To be successful, necessary inputs include the extensive background information collected during a PPM NSA (or NSA-like process as outlined below), including a detailed understanding of the current PPM models in the country, and consideration of all the facility and provider categories outlined in the PPM tool kit.

The difference with the current action plan concept, however, is the greater emphasis on planning the overall PPM response. The resulting plan should have national scope, a pathway to achieve national coverage using existing models and/or newly proposed models of care, and details about targets, costing, and assigned manpower and funding, broken down by PPM areas (e.g., hospitals, general practitioners (GPs), pharmacists, regulation, etc).

The action plan document is not intended to be a standalone plan for PPM in a country. It is a planning document designed to facilitate the integration of strong PPM components into national TB strategic plans that are supposed to be the basis for Global Fund proposals and national budgeting processes, and will help drive a more comprehensive approach to provider engagement in TB care and prevention.

The process highlighted in this document has already been adopted and used in over ten countries, including Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. PPM action plans were developed in these countries by the national TB programme and key partners on the ground, with the support of a PPM consultant. Some of these plans have been incorporated into national strategic plans and Global Fund proposals already.

⁵ WHO, Stop TB Partnership (2010) Public-private mix for TB care and control: a toolkit. http://www.who.int/tb/careproviders/ppm/PPMToolkit.pdf

Goal and objectives of this document

This document has one simple goal: to guide national programmes in developing an action plan for PPM that will close the gap in reaching the missed cases using PPM approaches. Such plans should, in turn, fulfill four objectives:

- 1. Provide an easy reference to keep track of need versus coverage in all the distinct elements of PPM (e.g., hospitals, GPs, pharmacies, etc), as outlined in the NSA guide.
- 2. Review the regulatory environment for PPM, while defining the implementation arrangements
- **3.** Provide a clear roadmap for national level planning of PPM, reflecting more ambitious PPM plans with broad coverage and allocated resources.
- 4. Build high-level commitment at the national level to build or strengthen linkages with the private sector.

Target Audience

This document is targeted for use by national TB programmes, partners and consultants supporting countries in developing proposals or providing technical assistance in scaling up PPM approaches in the country.





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