



Framework for conducting reviews of tuberculosis programmes



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Abbreviations

AFB	acid-fast bacilli
AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ART	antiretroviral treatment
BMU	Basic Medical Unit
CPT	co-trimoxazole preventive therapy
DOT	directly observed treatment
DST	drug-susceptibility testing
FDC	fixed-dose combination
FEFO	first expiry, first out
GDP	gross domestic product
HEPA	high-efficiency particulate air
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
IPT	isoniazid preventive therapy
MDR-TB	multidrug-resistant tuberculosis
NGO	nongovernmental organization
PAL	practical approach to lung health
TB	Tuberculosis
WHO	World Health Organization
XDR-TB	extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis

Foreword

The review of a formal national tuberculosis (TB) programme (or the efforts that countries make to control the disease regardless of the existence of a formal “programme”) is an important exercise to evaluate the implementation and impact of TB prevention, care and control. It should be jointly undertaken by the government together with the relevant national and international partners that are involved in TB efforts.

A TB programme review assesses the performance of the strategy implemented to fight TB and identifies the strengths and weaknesses of interventions that have been put in place. An appropriate review must, then, describe specific recommendations on the strategic orientations that need to be adopted and developed to overcome the gaps identified in the way that TB prevention, care and control are being implemented. These recommendations provide the foundation for improving the strategy adopted to control TB and for revising or developing a national strategic plan. Moreover, the review of a TB programme provides an important opportunity to advocate for TB prevention, care and control among policy makers, to strengthen the engagement of national health authorities and key stakeholders, and to enhance the mobilization of resources from both domestic and international sources.

The first WHO guidelines on how to review a TB programme were published in 1998, and were designed to support the assessment of, and improvements to, the implementation of the DOTS strategy. Since then, there have been major evolutions in the WHO strategy for prevention, care and control of TB. Important new interventions have been defined, developed and implemented: for example, collaborative TB/HIV activities and the programmatic management of drug-resistant TB. Therefore, this new guidance takes into consideration all strategic approaches that are part of the current WHO strategy for TB control. In 2013, WHO began developing a post-2015 global tuberculosis strategy. Thus, this guidance will be further updated once the new strategy is fully translated into operational language.

The main purpose of this document is therefore to provide guidance on how to organize a review of a national TB programme. It identifies the keys steps needed to plan and prepare the review and specifies how to carry out field visits. It also describes the process of using the findings of the field visits, formulating recommendations and developing a review report. The document also includes, in annexes and in web-based format, checklists that can be adapted and used to assess key areas of TB prevention, care and control such as TB surveillance system, the management of the TB programme, and the process of TB case finding.

We strongly encourage national TB programmes, as well as agencies and organizations involved in TB control, to use the guidance included in this document to organize and implement the national programme reviews they are planning. The outcomes of the reviews should significantly contribute to improving the TB control situation in countries, revising or developing high-quality national strategic plans, and mobilizing the required resources.



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1. Introduction

Since 2000, significant progress has been made in reaching the World Health Organization's (WHO) global targets for tuberculosis (TB) prevention, care and control. In most countries, TB activities are organized within a national TB programme, which is usually housed within the Ministry of Health. To ensure and improve the performance of national TB programmes, regular external monitoring and evaluation are required. In 1998, WHO issued guidance on carrying out reviews of TB programmes in the context of DOTS implementation.^{1,2} Since 2000, however, there have been important changes in the global context of TB prevention, care and control.

- The strategy for controlling TB has evolved from the DOTS strategy, resulting in the development of the *Stop TB strategy* in 2006. In keeping with the Millennium Development Goal 6 and targets set by the Stop TB Partnership, this strategy aims at ensuring that TB incidence is falling by 2015 and that prevalence and mortality rates are halved by 2015 compared with a baseline of 1990. The *Stop TB strategy* has six major components:
 - » pursue high-quality DOTS expansion and enhancement;
 - » address TB/HIV, MDR-TB, and the needs of poor and vulnerable populations;
 - » contribute to health system strengthening based on primary healthcare;
 - » engage all care providers;
 - » empower people with TB, and communities through partnership;
 - » enable and promote research.
- WHO and an increasing number of technical partners have been supporting national TB programmes to implement national policies that are aligned with international recommendations and to implement innovative approaches.
- Funding for TB prevention, care and control has increased dramatically during the past 10 years, and many donors are engaged both at the global level and at the country level in supporting TB prevention, care and control. National nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have also made

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