

New Drugs and Shorter Regimen Implementation Planning Tool

An Excel based implementation planning tool for the introduction of new drugs and shorter regimen (ND&R) was developed by KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation within the framework of the Challenge TB project, financed by USAID.

Purpose of the tool is to guide countries through the step-wise process of programmatic introduction of ND&R. It defines key activities meant to lead to national scale-up: political engagement, adaptation of national strategy and policies, site preparation, patient enrollment, and programmatic monitoring and evaluation. This systematic approach will assist countries to assess their readiness status, identify and fill gaps and monitor the progress of the introduction of ND&R.

The screenshot displays the 'Implementation plan for ND&R' tool interface. At the top, a red header bar contains the title. Below it, there are input fields for 'Name site' and 'Province/district'. The main content area is divided into three sections: '3. Ensure conditions for introduction of ND&R at implementation sites (based on implementation protocol)', 'A. General', and 'B. M&E framework'. Each section contains a table with columns: 'Activity', 'Status', 'Description of current situation', 'Agreed next steps', 'By whom', 'Start date', and 'End date'. The 'A. General' section lists activities such as 'Adapt Challenge TB programmatic and clinical guide to reflect site-specific situation' and 'Develop relevant SOP for diagnosis, treatment and monitoring/evaluation'. The 'B. M&E framework' section lists activities like 'Define indicators on effectiveness, safety and implementation' and 'Develop a data collection plan'. The 'C. Diagnosis' section is partially visible at the bottom. At the very bottom, a navigation bar includes tabs for 'Title page', 'Intro', 'Instructions', 'Impl national', 'Impl site 1', 'Impl site 2', 'Impl site 3', 'Impl site 4', 'Scale up', 'Summary', 'Abbr.', and a plus icon.

Figure 1: Screenshot of implementation planning tool with separate sheets for implementation at national level, at implementation sites and for scale up of ND&R.

The implementation planning tool is aligned with the CTB Generic programmatic and clinical guide for the introduction of new drugs and shorter regimen for treatment of Multi/Extensively Drug-Resistant TB, which describes the organization of patient diagnosis and patient management, including the monitoring of treatment efficacy, safety and programmatic monitoring and evaluation.

The tool will be reviewed and updated periodically based on the latest guidelines and lessons learned. It is expected to be customized according to the specific needs of a country and their relative TB epidemiology.