

Topic – Regional workshop on accelerating the uptake of the latest WHO guidance on the management of DR-TB in the African region, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 2nd and 3rd Jul 2024.

Background

In December 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued updated guidelines for treating drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB), which provide significant improvements in treatment options for people with multidrug-resistant or rifampicin-resistant tuberculosis (MDR/RR-TB). Latest WHO guidance is game-changing shorter, safer, all-oral and more effective for DR-TB treatment. Certain countries started the programmatic introduction of these regimens and other are on the preparation and planning for the programmatic introduction of the shorter regimen. However, the uptake of these shorter regimens is still low especially in the African region.

Once these regimens are mainstreamed, only a minority of patients will still require 9- or 18-month treatment regimens e.g., children, pregnant women, and people with resistance to any of the BPaL-based regimen drugs. If well-managed, wide-spread access to these new regimens will positively impact DR-TB treatment outcomes; if not well-managed, interruptions of treatment may lead to unfavourable individual treatment outcomes and the rapid occurrence of TB strains resistant to these regimens. Therefore, important conditions for the eventual success of the shorter regimen should properly be implemented in programmatic condition including proper diagnosis of TB and adequate safety monitoring. To accomplish this, countries will need to assess the status of their preparation and planning for the programmatic introduction, shared experience and using this experience to prepare for future WHO recommendations. This meeting is organized jointly by the WHO-Africa Regional Office with USAID funding and KNCV TB Foundation with support from Unitaaid under the ASCENT-DR TB project.

Aim and objectives:

Goal:

The primary goal of this workshop is to strengthen and facilitate the rapid and effective implementation of the latest WHO guidance on the management of drug-resistant tuberculosis (DR-TB) in the African region. By bringing together key stakeholders, experts, and representatives from participating countries, we aim to accelerate the adoption of evidence-based practices and enhance programmatic approaches to DR-TB control.

Objectives:

- Define the status/uptake of the programmatic introduction of the shorter regimens in the African region.
- Common knowledge and understanding of the latest WHO Guidance on the management of DR TB and global support mechanisms for countries to access quality assured medicines, diagnostics, technical assistance, and funding.
- Self-assessment by country on the programmatic introduction status, identify implementation gaps and define the country priorities.

- Plans for actions required for full implementation of the latest WHO guidance on the management of DR TB in each country.
- Improve the capacity of countries representatives and regional consultants on the technical details of the WHO guidance.

- Expected Results

- By the end of the workshop, we anticipate the following outcomes:
- Increased awareness of the latest WHO guidance among participants.
- Clear identification of country-specific priorities and gaps.
- Agreed-upon action plans for accelerating the uptake of recommended treatment regimens and timelines.

Day 1

Time	Topic/Aim	Content	Method	Responsible
08:30 – 09:00	Registration			All
Chair: LYIMO Johnson John and Kristian van Kalmthout				
09:00 – 09:30	<p>Welcome remarks by MOH Tanzania & WCO and partners.</p> <p>Objectives and format of the meeting</p> <p>Prioritization of WHO guidelines implementation in the context of AFRO</p> <p>UNDSS Briefing</p>			<p>MoH Tanzania/WR</p> <p>Agnes Gebhard</p> <p>UNDSS Tanzania</p>
09:30 – 09:45	Group photo			All
09:45 – 10:00	Coffee break			
Session 1: Chair: Prof Norbert Ndjeka and Dr. Adesigbin Clement O.				
WHO policy updates				
10:00 – 10:15	Epidemiology of TB and DR-TB/ Status of the programmatic introduction of latest WHO	What is the current uptake of the shorter regimens, challenges, and achievements	Presentation WHO AFRO	Michel Gasana

	recommendation in the African region.			
10:15 – 10:30	Common knowledge on latest guidelines/New developments (prevention, diagnosis, treatment care)	WHO recommendations on DR-TB treatment and update on the guideline development group meeting 2024	Presentation by WHO	Linh Nguyen
10:30 – 10:45		Overview of WHO consolidated guidelines on TB diagnostics – focus on DR-TB diagnosis (what is new?)	Presentation WHO AFRO	Iragena Jean De Dieu
10:45 – 11:00		WHO guidelines/Updated roadmap for DR-TB in children and adolescents	Presentation by WHO	Kerri Viney
11:00 – 11:20	Q&A/discussion			All
11:20 – 11:40	Coffee break			All
Mansa Mbenga and Michel Gasana				
11:40 – 12:00	Common baseline understanding of knowledge among participants about DR TB diagnostic and treatment GLs and implementation	Survey on the knowledge WHO guidance on the management of DR TB	Quiz using laptops or smartphones (participants to bring laptops or smartphones)/use of QR code	Mansa Mbenga and Michel Gasana
Session 2: Chair: NTP manager TZ/NPO				
Self-assessment experienced – opportunities and barriers of introducing shorter regimens.				
12:00 – 12:10	Prepare countries for self-assessment, understand the questions and how	Introduction of the self-assessment	Presentation by KNCV	



	the assessment checklist and planning tool works	checklist and planning tool		Mansa Mbenga
12:10 – 12:20	Ethiopia			Ahmed Bedru
12:20 – 12:30	Mozambique			Gisela Sendela
12:30 – 12:40	Nigeria			Dr. Adesigbin Clement Olufemi
12:40 – 12:50	South Africa			Yulene Kock
12:50 – 13:00	Q&A/discussion			All
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break			All
Session 3: Chair: Alberto, ABENA FOE, Jean Louis, Michel Gasana, Kristian van Kalmthout, Paola Andrea Lopez Saavedra				
Group work to facilitate country self-assessment and implementation plan				
14:00 – 15:40	Group work	Facilitate country self-assessment using the self-assessment checklist and planning tool	Work in country groups, facilitators each group from the experienced countries (4 groups)	
15:40 – 16:00	Coffee break			All
16:00 – 16:40	Reports from group work (10 minutes for each group)	Countries share implementation status, gaps, and plans to address bottlenecks for implementation	Presentation of group work (template for reporting of group work)	Reporters of each group
16:40 – 16:50	Q&A and discussion			All
16:50 – 17:00	Wrap up of day 1			Iragena Jean De Dieu

Day 2

Time	Topic/Aim	Topic	Method	Responsible
08:30 – 09:00	All on the same page	Housekeeping (arrival of participants) Highlights from day 1		KNCV/WHO/NTP Tan
Continuation of session 3				
09:00 – 09:10	ASCENT DR-TB Available support	ASCENT DR-TB project technical support	Presentation	Mansa Mbenga
09:10 – 09:20		ASCENT DR-TB community demand generation	Pre-recorded presentation	Lindsay Mckenna
09:20 – 09:30		ASCENT DR-TB Market Access	Pre-recorded presentation	Aman Siwach
Session 4: Chair: ABENA FOE, Jean Louis and Prof. Gisele Badoum				
Country update on the implementation of the shorter regimen Selected countries that participated in Kigali meeting in Nov 2023				
09:30 – 09:40	Kenya			
09:40 – 09:50	Zimbabwe			
09:50 – 10:00	Namibia			
10:00 – 10:10	Eswatini			
10:10 – 10:25	South Africa's experience on implementation of shorter regimens (BPaLM/BPaLL)			Yulene Kock
10:25 – 10:40	Update on the introduction of shorter regimen in west/central Africa			Dr Arnaud Fiogbe
10:40 – 11:00	Coffee Break			
Procurement and supply management chain management (PSM) of new DR-TB regimens				
11:00 – 11:20		Procurement and supply chain management of new DR-TB regimens and registration status in AFRO	Presentation	Maya Kavtaradze and Elena Mochinova
11:20 – 13:00		Practical session on PSM considerations implementation of	Group work	Salama Mwatawala, Ekpeno

		latest WHO recommended shorter regimens (using QuanTB)		Akpanowo and Maria Ochigbo.
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break			
Session 5: Chair: TBD: Linh Nguyen and Agnes Gebhard Partner support on the introduction of the shorter DR-TB regimen; groupwork: carousel with poster presentations from technical agencies				
14:00 – 14:40		The Global Fund perspective on the accelerated implementation of the WHO recommended shorter regimens		Mohammed Yassin
		CDC support on implementation of the first sequencing-based surveillance model for DR TB		Brigette Gleason
		The Union supports on the scale up of shorter regimen		Prof. Gisèle Badoum
		KNCV/ Damien Foundation technical assistance to DR-TB response		Mansa Mbenga
Chair: Prof Michel Kaswa / Dr. Damião das Dores Victoriano Session 6: TB care and support				
14:40 – 14:50	Common knowledge on latest guidelines on TB care and support)	Overview of the WHO recommendations on TB care and support	Presentation	Linh Nguyen
14:50 – 15:00	Common knowledge on the guidance on social protection for people affected by tuberculosis	Guidance on implementing TB-specific social protection	Presentation	Agnes Gebhard
15:00 – 15:20	Coffee break			All
15:20 – 15:30	Deep dive into	Overview of adherence and approach to identify adherence challenges and potential support	Presentation	Inez de Kruijf

	adherence support	mechanisms for resolution of challenges		
15:30 – 16:30	Insight in individual country situation regarding treatment adherence practices and challenges	<p>Identifying challenges and gaps for adherence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Locally experienced challenges by people on treatment & healthcare providers Local and global gaps for the resolution of adherence challenges: discussions around gaps within the digital eco-system, but also other areas such as psychosocial (stigma), nutrition, etc. <p>Defining and identifying potential solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and global solutions (current and future) for adherence challenges <p>Outlining the way forward</p>	Breakout session (4 groups) (Case study)	Inez de Kruijf Anna Versfeld
16:30 – 16:40	Sharing of experiences, challenges regarding treatment adherence	<p>Feedback session from breakout groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For local consideration For global consideration 	Presentation	Reporters
16:40 – 16:50		Q&A/discussion		
16:50 – 17:00		Next steps and closing of the meeting		Agnes Gebhard
19:00: Dinner				All

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88425421672?pwd=miPoBvLUfFSHhPzX9uWHa2XrvaGQOJ.1>

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