

Report of the TB REACH Program Steering Group (PSG) Meeting

Stop TB Partnership – June 7 & 8 2016, Geneva

The Stop TB Partnership hosted a meeting of the TB REACH Program Steering Group (PSG) to discuss and provide guidance on a new TB REACH funding cycle and how to structure future applicants and grants.

Function of TB REACH PSG

The TB REACH PSG provides general oversight and advice to the Stop TB Partnership Coordinating Board, the Stop TB Partnership Executive Director and Office, and the TB REACH team regarding program and organizational development in order to help to improve the relevance, impact and sustainability of the TB REACH initiative. The TB REACH PSG has the following functions:

1. Discuss and make high-level recommendations on the objectives, funding priorities, and evaluation of the TB REACH initiative in order to promote innovation in TB service delivery and to accelerate progress in the fight against TB in line with the Global Plan to End TB 2016-2020;
2. Discuss and make recommendations on any matter involving the governance and accountability processes of the TB REACH initiative;
3. Review external evaluation reports and when necessary, make recommendations to increase the effectiveness, efficiency, and impact of the TB REACH initiative;
4. Discuss and make recommendations on the sustainability of the TB REACH initiative, including the building of political support and diversification of its donor base; and
5. Discuss and make recommendations on the linkage of successful strategies and technologies piloted by TB REACH to scale-up funding from national government, the private sector and/or other international donors, particularly the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Attendees

- TB REACH PSG members who were able to attend the meeting:
 - Aaron Oxley, Results UK
 - Cheryl Boon, Global Affairs Canada
 - Daniel Chin, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
 - David Mametja, NTP South Africa
 - Eliud Wandwalo, The Global Fund
 - Joel Spicer, Micronutrient Initiative
 - Lynette Mabote, ARASA
 - Madhukar Pai, McGill Global Health Programs
 - Razia Fatima, NTP Pakistan
- TB REACH PSG members who were not able to attend the meeting:
 - Anita Asimwe, University Teaching Hospitals

- Cheri Vincent, USAID
- Mark Dybul, The Global Fund
- Swarup Sarkar, World Health Organization – South East Asia Regional Office

- Other meeting participants (observers)
 - Becky Bartlein, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
 - Oriol Ramis, Mott MacDonald (External monitoring and evaluation agency)

- Stop TB Partnership Secretariat
 - Sahu Suvanand
 - Jacob Creswell
 - Andrew Codlin
 - Zhi Zhen Qin

Agenda

June 7	Item
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch at TCS
14:00 – 14:20	Welcome, introductions, objectives
14:20 – 14:40	Review of TB REACH 2010 – 2015
14:40 – 15:25	Implementation plan for Waves 5-8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentation of timelines for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wave 5 ○ Wave 6-8 ● Discussion
15:25 – 16:00	Proposal review and selection
16:00 – 16:15	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:15 – 16:45	M&E and impact measurement
16:45 – 17:00	Closing remark
June 8	
08:30 – 08:50	Review of Day 1 discussion
08:50 – 09:50	Discussion: Diversify TB REACH donor base & resource mobilization
09:50 – 10:50	Discussion: Sustainability/scale-up of successful projects
10:50 – 11:05	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:05 – 12:30	Final decisions on Wave 5 funding cycle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thematic areas ● Application process ● Proposal review/selection process ● Grant structure ● Grant management
12:30 – 12:50	Other issues
12:50 – 13:10	Closing remarks

PSG Recommendations

1. TB REACH team should develop a long-term strategic vision for the TB REACH initiative and a resource mobilization / advocacy plan.
 - a. Present progress and articulate the needed resources to PSG members at the 2016 Union World Conference in Liverpool
 - b. Finalize the resource mobilization / advocacy plan by Q2 2017
2. TB REACH team should begin discussions with the Global Fund regarding opportunities to formalize an agreement to help scale-up successful TB REACH approaches.
 - a. Provide an update on these discussion at the 2016 Union World Conference in Liverpool
3. TB REACH team should develop a project implementation plan and modify the current performance management framework to capture coverage/impact, dollars leveraged and influence achieved.
 - a. Plan should be discussed and finalized with Global Affairs Canada and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
 - b. Documents and plan can be shared with the PSG for feedback by the 2016 Union World Conference in Liverpool
4. TB REACH team should, in coordination with Global Affairs Canada, streamline the application and proposal review processes in order to minimize the work created for the TB REACH secretariat and proposal review committee, as well as that of the applicants. An update of the plan will be circulated among PSG members via email. A non-objection will suffice as clearance. Such measures may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Shorter application forms for the letter of interest
 - b. Not discussing all full proposals if multiple members deem it a failed application
 - c. Possibly allowing for fewer funding waves (3 instead of 4)
5. TB REACH team should propose for a concept note for the Wave 5 application cycle for the PSG to review. The proposal should take into account:
 - a. Ensuring grants are available for interventions that will take longer to conduct (such as treatment outcome monitoring)
 - b. A three-tiered system of grants to allow for intervention/idea generation, local scale up and sustained expansion with other donors.
 - c. Ensuring that partners in tier two have closer coordination with NTPs
 - d. The proposal will be shared over email with the PSG and the funding call timeline (Aug 1 launch) should not be affected. A non-objection will suffice as clearance.