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templates we received between March–August 2011.

# National partnerships to stop tuberculosis



## Why national partnerships?

National partnerships bring varied partners together to develop and implement shared action plans to tackle tuberculosis (TB). The partnering approach builds on the skills and competences of all partners, increases efficiency by avoiding duplication of efforts and waste of resources and uses partners' reach to improve access to TB services.

“The fight against TB must be EVERYBODY's business: from the ministry of health to the smallest community-based organization; from the mega corporation to the smallest shop in the village; from the renowned academic to the small child in nursery school who is the future potential”.

Stop TB Kenya

## Why now?

The financial crisis, TB/HIV co-infection and the rise of drug-resistant TB are stretching the resources of national TB programmes around the world. This makes the case for forming national partnerships that optimize partners' resources all the more compelling.

“Thanks to the partnership, the national manager can focus on performing its core coordination role, while partners' activities are streamlined through identification of areas of comparative advantage. The coordination of activities with the national TB strategic plan has been implemented and quarterly monitoring and evaluation meetings have been under taken. Through the partnership's joint planning, additional resources have been secured, mainly from the Global Fund”.

Swaziland Stop TB Partnership

## Where to start?

The basic partnering process consists of three steps:

1. conduct a workshop to confirm a shared vision between all partners and map the resources that each partner can contribute;
2. develop a shared national TB plan which has clear roles and responsibilities for each partner based on their strengths;
3. mobilize resources and implement a shared national TB plan.

“The visit from the Stop TB Partnership Secretariat in 2010 gave a clear roadmap on how to implement the partnering process in Nigeria and now partners can concretely measure their contribution to the national TB plan”.

Nigeria Stop TB Partnership

## How do national partnerships help people with TB?

### 1. Improving service provision by involving civil society

In India, partners of the Partnership for TB Control and Care (PTCC) began Project Axshya (meaning TB-Free) which involves civil society organizations to improve the reach, visibility and effectiveness of the national TB programme. The project works with communities and community-based care providers to improve TB care, especially for marginalized and vulnerable populations including TB-HIV patients. The project will reach 750 million people in 374 districts across 23 states by 2015.

“Partners of PTCC have implemented activities in 23 states this year. Activities include training of rural healthcare providers in TB and basic DOTS for the project”.

PTCC

### 2. Giving a unified voice to non-state partners

The Philippines Coalition against Tuberculosis (PhilCAT) brought together civil society and private sector partners to discuss improvements to TB care with the national government.

“PhilCAT helped the Department of Health organize the first National Tuberculosis Summit which resulted in ratification of the Comprehensive and Unified Policy for TB Control by 22 leaders of major governmental and nongovernmental partners. This policy included guidelines for private physicians and streamlined inter-departmental public TB control activities”.

PhilCAT

### 3. Raising awareness through partners' networks

By working with unions, the Vietnam Stop TB Partnership is able to reach a network of 38 million people – almost half the population – with awareness-raising and advocacy campaigns.

“The Farmer's Union (10 million members) implemented Advocacy, Communication and Social Mobilization activities in remote communes of five mountainous provinces. The Women's Union (14 million members) trained 80 volunteers in nine provinces and issued advocacy manuals for TB control”.

Vietnam Stop TB Partnership



### 4. Advocacy and resource mobilization

In Ghana, India, Swaziland and Uganda, national partnerships provided a platform for partners to develop their Global Fund proposals and implement grants.

“Participation in the Global Fund application led to securing of over 1 million US\$ over five years for the partnership”.

Uganda Stop TB Partnership

In other countries, national partnerships have developed innovative advocacy and communications campaigns that tap into local knowledge and reach out to non-traditional partners.

“Every year, fund-raising campaigns are organized during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan by Stop TB Afghanistan. Individuals or organizations give cash and in-kind donations. One year \$11,000 in zakaat (mandatory charity in Islam) and sadaqa (donations) were raised”.

Stop TB Afghanistan

In Canada, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States, national partnerships are engaged in keeping TB on the political agenda, raising awareness and urging national governments to support the fight against TB in high-burden countries.