

Book Review

Implementing the WHO stop TB strategy: A handbook for national tuberculosis control programmes (World Health Organization, Geneva) 2007. 184 pages. Price: CHF/US \$ 40.00; in developing countries: CHF/US \$ 28.00
ISBN 978 92 4 154667 6.

This is a handbook for National TB Control Programmes for implementing the WHO Stop TB Strategy. The first tuberculosis handbook was published by the WHO in 1998. Since then important changes have taken place in the global context in the field of TB control. The DOTS strategy has been adopted world wide with varying quality. However, the full-scale DOTS implementation has not yet been achieved in a global scale. The approaches to the control of TB have become increasingly patient-centered with a goal of universal access to care of all. New major challenges have also emerged like HIV co-infection, MDR-TB and XDR-TB. Building up of health system and primary services that provide access to health care for all brings further new challenges. The involvement of private sector has also emerged as a new approach to the TB care that brings additional challenges to ensure adequate standards of care. It has also been realized that civil society and communities are key elements in the fight against TB and their involvement needs to be further promoted and facilitated. Similarly, the patients' charter for TB care, although is very important has not yet been widely adopted by many national TB control programmes. Social mobilization is another important innovative component of Stop TB Strategy. Research on TB is a neglected area for decades and there is an urgent need for new drugs, diagnostic test and vaccines. Taking into account these new and changing situations, the Stop TB Strategy has defined specific objective and components directed towards the overall target of Millennium Development Goal (MDG) - 6 *i.e.*, to have halted and begin to reverse the incidence of TB by 2015.

Although DOTS is a major strategy for TB control, statistics indicated that this alone would not be sufficient to achieve Global TB Control even if major progress in Global TB Control has been achieved. The WHO in 2005 recognized the need for a new strategy that would enhance the achievements of DOTS, known as - The Stop TB Strategy - launched on World TB Day in 2006. This was designed to meet the TB- related MDG as well as the Stop TB Partnership target set for 2015. Further, the Stop TB Strategy is the main tool for the Global Plan to Stop TB 2006-2015.

This handbook provides an overview of the broad range of approaches required for the implementation of all the 6 components of the Strategy and to achieve its goals. The structure organization of the handbook follows and reflects the components of the Stop TB Strategy. Parts I and II are concerned mainly with components 1 and 2 of the strategy; Part III covers its new elements, *i.e.*, components 3, 4, 5 and 6. Because the strategy is integrated within the activities of NTPs, many issues are cross-cutting and relevant across all parts of this publication.

The book provides a concise account of the essential element of a component of TB control programme and an overview of the activities that need to be implemented to achieve TB control target set up for 2015. The focus is on the recommended approaches and measures to be taken in accordance with reference and other documents that provide more detailed information on implementation. The information provided included WHO guidelines, systematic, reviews and information documents published before September 2007, which are the best available evidences for NTPs worldwide reporting about 90 million TB cases between 1980-2005.

An adequate strategy for the control of tuberculosis globally calls for a comprehensive approach to address all of the main constraints facing TB control, including

emerging challenges, as well as the main risk factors influencing the incidence of TB, including socio-economic and environmental aspects. Consequently, the scope of activities undertaken by national TB control programmes has greatly increased. The purpose of this handbook is to bring together in summarized form the issues, recommended strategies and practical measures involved in addressing each of the components of the WHO Stop TB Strategy.

The handbook has been prepared principally for national TB control programme managers and staff, as well as partner organizations and professionals

involved in implementing TB control activities. Readers are provided with a concise account of the essential elements of a comprehensive TB control programme and an overview of the activities that need to be implemented to achieve the TB control targets set for 2015.

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