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**TUBERCULOSIS  
PROGRAM  
SOUTH AFRICA**

# PUBLIC PRIVATE MIX (PPM) APPROACH FOR TB CARE AND CONTROL IN SOUTH AFRICA

## USAID South Africa TB Program Background

The USAID Tuberculosis (TB) Program South Africa is managed by University Research Co., LLC (URC). The TB Program supports the South African National Department of Health (NDOH) TB Directorate in implementing the National TB/HIV Strategic Plan on HIV, STIs, and TB for 2012–2016. The TB Program works in close partnership with the national and provincial health departments to expand and strengthen TB management in South Africa. The TB Program is applying the World Health Organization (WHO) STOP TB Partnership DOTS strategy in responding to TB. Public Private Mix (PPM) DOTS is one of the strategic initiatives used by the TB Program with the objective of engaging all private and public health care providers in the fight against TB, using international health care standards.



Leading a group discussion on TB/HIV collaborative Ms. Maria Mabena [in green] – National Director of Health, Department of Correctional Services (DCS)

### Key Activities

The TB Program provides technical assistance in the following areas:

- Building capacity through knowledge and skills enhancement of health care workers;
- Improving systems for case management at facility level;
- Strengthening linkages between health facilities and laboratory networks;
- Improving DOTS implementation strategies to reduce multi-drug resistant TB (MDR-TB) as well as improved management of MDR TB patients;
- Supporting infection control to reduce nosocomial MDR/XDR TB infections at healthcare facilities;
- Improving capacity of HIV testing sites to provide TB screening to all HIV-positive clients;
- National and local advocacy;
- Communications and social mobilization (ACSM) strategies that engages local communities in the management of TB patients; and
- Supporting private sector involvement (e.g. mines, industries, and medical schemes) in TB service delivery.

## Addressing TB within Private and Public Health Care Providers in South Africa

Although the public sector provides health services for the majority of the South African population, private for-profit providers serve a significant portion of the population.

Through the TB Program, we are collaborating with these private sector providers to deliver a comprehensive approach for their systematic involvement in TB control. The TB program is especially interested in promoting the use of International Standards for TB Care (ISTC) in order to achieve the national and global TB control targets. The PPM models are expected to range from referral only to a complete package of services (TB symptomatic screening, treatment, and follow-up of patients). WHO has documented that not all health care providers are actively involved in early TB detection, diagnosis, treatment and referral of TB patients.<sup>1</sup>

Generally, the National Tuberculosis Control Programs (NTPs) have an insufficient number of providers to address the serious health threat caused by TB. The participation of other health providers is essential in order to join forces and achieve more effective TB care and control. This can be accomplished through the use of best practices and guidelines that are clearly outlined in international documents and reiterated in official NTP tools.

## PPM DOTS Approach

PPM is one of the strategies to addressing the challenge of access to TB services, treatment and support. The TB Program is applying PPM to promote new approaches and partnerships for delivery of TB care by engaging a variety of health care providers that exist in South Africa.

### AUGUST 2013

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TB screening and other health tests are part of the workplace wellness services provided by the Durban Chamber Foundation.

Involvement of private providers and NGOs in the delivery of TB care not only expands the number of delivery points, making it convenient for TB clients, but most importantly expands the resources available to them.

### TB Program Support to the Mining Sector

The TB Program's support for improving TB services within the mining sector focuses on developing lasting multi-sectoral partnerships geared around the following activities:

- Advocacy and consensus building among mine operators, mine health services, mine laborer's representatives, and district department of health on practical steps to implement the objectives within the declaration
- Development of service linkages between TB and other health and social support agencies working with current and ex-miners and mining communities
- Assistance to develop and expand TB workplace programs in small and medium sized mines

The TB Program's approach has emphasized developing programs and TB service linkages within several small and medium size mines in Limpopo and Gauteng provinces and has facilitated coordination with local community based TB awareness and treatment services able to work with mining communities. Currently, staff from the TB Program serve as members of the TB in Mines Interest Group and have been requested to share their knowledge on providing technical support to the small and medium size mines.

### Strengthening Public-Public Partnership

In keeping with using PPM, the TB Program supports private and public health care providers to ensure that the TB services provided are in conformity with the NDOH guidelines and protocols. The TB Program is training peer educators from the government departments on basic TB management. To address the scourge of TB in prisons, the TB Program is building the capacity of Department of

Correctional Services (DCS), by providing training on TB/HIV collaborative to all Regional Health Services in the nine provinces.

In addition, the TB Program is building the capacity of clinical staff working in the mining sector. The USAID TB Program team provides information and training on the usage of NTP tools and registers. The TB Program is training and empowering nursing staff to provide quality assured testing and screening services, including TB diagnostics such as GeneXpert and strengthening active intensified TB case findings in the private sector.

### Engaging NGOs to Scale Up PPM for TB Care and Control

Small grants funding to local NGOs is one of many ways in which the TB Program is applying the PPM approach to engaging health care providers in the private sector to promote standardized TB care and control. For example the TB Program is providing a small grant to the Southern African Clothing & Textile Workers Union (SACTWU), to help workers promptly access TB services and adhere to treatment, promoting the long term health and viability of their workforce. Between June 2010 and March 2011, SACTWU supported 295 factories on implementing infection, prevention and control plans. They screened over 30 000 factory workers for TB (including those receiving HIV Counselling and Testing). The TB Program is supporting workplace settings to address a number of factors affecting TB diagnosis and treatment adherence among employees and these include:

- Fear of stigma and discrimination
- Limited or non-existent wellness programs in workplaces to support health seeking behaviour
- Inadequate TB/HIV workplace policies
- Weak linkages to public health service providers
- Poor implementation of infection control measures

### The Role of Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs)

The TB Program also works with Traditional Health Practitioners (THPs) to strengthen TB symptomatic screening and referral systems. The engagement of THPs for TB control came as a result of a mortality study conducted by the TB Program team in the rural area of Sekhukhune District of Limpopo Province. One of key findings from the study was the delay in TB diagnosis (i.e. patients presenting late to the health facility). THPs contribute to increased options for communities when seeking healthcare services. The majority of rural inhabitants such as those in Sekhukhune District seek health advice and treatment from traditional healers before visiting a public health facility. Therefore, the TB Program THPs who have undergone training on basic TB management are working with the TB Program to assist in contribution to the early detection of TB.

1 Public-Private Mix (PPM) for TB Care and Control <http://www.who.int/tb/careproviders/ppm/faqs/en/>