

WHO Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) Task Force

Meeting Minutes 5

Date: 1 June 2016

Time: 13.00-14:00 (Geneva local time)

Agenda of meeting: (1) Attendance, (2) Introduction of agenda items, (3) Korea Global Consultation meeting on LTBI: Follow up of recommendations, (4) UNITAID: call for proposals, (5) Meeting summary and follow up actions.

Chair: Meeting was chaired by Gerard de Vries

Secretariat: Haileyesus Getahun, Fatema Kazi, Yohhei Hamada, Andrei Dadu.

Attendees Present: Ibrahim Abubakar (UK), Peter Henrik Andersen (Denmark), Judith Bruchfeld (Sweden), Rolando Cedillos (El Salvador), Dr Ray Cho (Republic of Korea), Gerard de Vries (Netherlands), Alberto Matteelli (Italy), Giovanni Battista Migliori (Italy), Ivan Solovic (Slovakia), Timothy Sterling (USA), **Wim** Vandavelde (South Africa), Constantia Voniatis (Cyprus), Marieke van der Werf (Sweden), Maryse Wanlin (Belgium), Brita Askeland Winje (Norway), Lindiwe Mvusi (South Africa), Tuula Vasankari (Finland)

Apologies:

Mohammed Rheda Al Lawati (Oman), Martin Castellanos (Mexico), Dick Chaisson (USA), Thierry Comolet (France), Elizabeth Corbett (Malawi), Claudia Denking (Geneva), Raquel Duarte (Portugal), Mike Frick (New York), Mina Gaga (Greece), Anna Garfin (Philippines), Un-Yeong Go (Republic of Korea), Steve Graham (Australia), Walter Haas (Germany), Armen Hayrapetyan (Armenia), Einar Heldal (Norway), Philippe LoBue (USA), Richard Menzies (Canada), Alistair Story (UK), Tamara Talal Tayeb (Saudi Arabia), Takashi Yoshiyama (Japan)

The meeting started with H. Getahun welcoming the task force members, confirmed attendance and announced the agreement of the Secretariat to accept Gerard de Vries as the Chair and Ibrahim Abubakar to become the vice-chair of the LTBI Taskforce.

G. de Vries introduced the agenda items, to provide feedback on the recommendations from the Korea consultation meeting for the programmatic management of LTBI and an announcement of the UNITAID call for proposal, as an opportunity to discuss issues and identify next steps following on from these activities.

1. Korea Global Consultation meeting on LTBI: Follow up of recommendations

Y. Hamada presented the key challenges and opportunities that were discussed at the Korea consultation meeting which lead to the development of the recommendations for national TB programmes to address in both high burden and low burden countries. In addition, recommendations were raised specifically for technical partners such as WHO and UNITAID to provide guidance and assistance to overcome barriers and bottlenecks hindering the scale-up of programmatic activities for the management of LTBI by countries.

The Taskforce members raised specific issues regarding the follow up of the recommendations for which H. Getahun provided feedback and acknowledged the expert input from the Taskforce in guiding the process of implementation:

- *The impact of the new Quantiferon plus test on the definition of LTBI:* H. Getahun explained that the definition of LTBI was adopted from the European Consortium during the process of developing the LTBI guidelines which does not specify any diagnostic test. LTBI is a state of persistent immune response to mycobacterial antigens, in this context the diagnostic test being used would not alter the definition of LTBI. As the new Quantiferon plus test is known to contain a different set of antigens to Quantiferon gold, this highlights the need to obtain data to validate its performance. To address this it was suggested by G.B to create a repository consisting of studies comparing the performance of the new diagnostic test that are in the pipeline which can be used to monitor the progress and provide a better understanding of interpreting the different diagnostic tools available for LTBI.
- *Availability of rifapentine and registration issues:* At the Korea meeting, Sanofi indicated the need for further paediatric data in order to proceed with the EMA registration, while in the meantime Sanofi is arranging for national registration in Brazil and South Africa. Strategies were proposed at the Korea meeting such as countries should facilitate this registration with

their national authorities, to encourage production by generic manufacturers and utilise the support of UNITAID in order to facilitate the process.

- *How will countries conduct cost-effective analysis on the management of LTBI:* H.Getahun reiterated that based on discussions at the Korea meeting, further studies are required to assess the overall cost-effectiveness concerning the implementation of the management of LTBI depending upon the local context. He welcomed the initiative by ECDC in developing web based tools to assist countries to conduct their own cost-effectiveness analysis.

2. UNITAID:call for proposals

H.Getahun stated that this was an opportunity to share information regarding the call for proposals announced by UNITAID. UNITAID have three main areas of intervention, (1) childhood TB, (2) preventive treatment and LTBI management (3) MDR/TB.

As UNITAID will be placing 40-80million USD for preventive treatment, H. Getahun encouraged the Taskforce to take this opportunity to apply for this proposal and propose innovative models of scale-up or TB preventive treatment for PLHIV, childhood contacts, as well as additional risk groups. Furthermore, WHO will readily collaborate with applicants and provide support in the application process.

3. Meeting Summary and Follow-up actions

Secretariat gave feedback on the M&E framework which is due to be discussed at STAG in preparation for its endorsement. The M&E document will include the childhood estimation, and once finalised will be ready for peer reviewed publication and posting on the WHO website. Regarding the LTBI research database, this will be on the next agenda to discuss with the Taskforce the gaps and priorities which will encourage future research ideas and activities.

Action points:

- *To include LTBI research priorities (e.g. new treatment regimens and policy gaps) and update on on-going trials on the agenda for the next LTBI Taskforce meeting*
- *Taskforce members to provide information on current studies involving LTBI treatment of specific risk groups for inclusion in the database*
- *Repository consisting of literature regarding the new Quantiferon plus test as well as other current LTBI related information to be organised by the ERS as a service to the taskforce*