

# WHO Latent Tuberculosis Infection (LTBI) Task Force Meeting Minutes 2

**Date:** November 25th, 2015

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

**Agenda of meeting:** (1) Introduction of attendees, (2) Introduction of agenda items, (3) re-organisation of the TORs for the Taskforce, (4) M&E indicators for LTBI and outline next steps, (5) Discuss and map current research developments in LTBI, (6) Meeting summary and follow up actions.

**Chair/ Vice-Chair:** Ibrahim Abubakar/Gerard de Vries

**Secretariat:** Haileyesus Getahun, Fatema Kazi

**Attendees Present:** Ibrahim Abubakar (UK), Gerard de Vries (Netherlands), Mohammed Rheda Al Lawati (Oman), Peter Henrik Andersen (Denmark), Judith Bruchfeld (Sweden), Rolando Cedillos (El Salvador), Dick Chaisson (USA), Thierry Comolet (France), Claudia Denking (Geneva), Mina Gaga (Greece), Un-Yeong Go (republic of Korea), Walter Haas (Germany), Einar Heldal (Norway), Alberto Matteelli (Italy), Giovanni Battista Migliori (Italy), Ivan Solovic (Slovakia), Tim Sterling (USA), Wim Vandeveld (South Africa), Tuula Vasankari (Finland), Constantia Voniatis (Cyprus), Maryse Wanlin (Belgium), Marieke van der Werf (Sweden), Takashi Yoshiyama (Japan), Colleen Acosta (Denmark), Knut Lonnroth (HQ), Yohhei Hamada (HQ), Sarah Mengesha (HQ).

Apologies: Steve Graham (Australia)

The teleconference started with H. Getahun welcoming the task force members and checking attendance. Ibrahim Abubakar, The Chair gave a brief introduction of the agenda items, highlighting the main focus will be on the proposed revision of the TOR and the M&E indicators for LTBI.

## 1. Proposed revision of TOR

H. Getahun presented the rationale behind revising the TOR of the Taskforce so that it will be aligned with the implementation of the End TB Strategy which has now prioritized preventive treatment for PLHIV and child contacts to all countries. The taskforce should also reflect the new two-pronged approach of WHO to advance the LTBI management agenda in both high and low TB burden countries. This entails expanding the composition of the taskforce membership so that high burden countries are also represented. It was also proposed to remove the LTBI re-estimation as one of the functions of the Taskforce. During the discussion, the removal of the LTBI re-estimation and the use empiric data was raised. H. Getahun confirmed that the Taskforce members will continue to provide input into the process of the re-estimation which now will be run by a separate group due to the nature and complexity of the task. The TOR was unanimously endorsed by the Taskforce.

### **Action points:**

- *Secretariat to include members from high burden countries.*
- *Secretariat to use subgroups to facilitate the functions of the Taskforce.*

## 2. Monitoring and evaluating indicators for LTBI

H. Getahun introduced the background and objectives of the selected LTBI indicators to the Taskforce, explaining that the core global LTBI indicators have

been selected based on the End TB Strategy which now focuses on initiation of preventive TB treatment for PLHIV and child contacts to be monitored globally. The national core indicators for LTBI will cover screening, initiation and completion of treatment for low burden countries, which need to be monitored by national stakeholders. He further mentioned that the next steps in the finalisation of indicators include publishing in a peer reviewed journal.

During the discussion, issues were raised about description of the indicators, the need for clear definition of household contacts of active TB cases and the capacity to monitor these indicators between different countries in order to capture comparable data on a global scale. This includes risk populations in which preventive treatment is recommended conditionally. It was agreed to start with a simple and feasible approach which is in line with the End TB Strategy. The next step will be to develop the monitoring and evaluation framework for each indicator incorporating the comments of the Taskforce.

***Action points:***

- *Secretariat to revise the monitoring and evaluation framework and share it with the Taskforce*
- *Secretariat to publish the indicators and the framework in a peer reviewed journal for dissemination to the public*

**3. Mapping of current LTBI research**

The meeting discussed advocating LTBI research which will be covered in detail during the next teleconference. In the meantime it was agreed that before the next meeting, the Taskforce members will share any ongoing research they are aware of. This will eventually help to develop a database of LTBI research to promote information exchange and synergy.

***Action point:***

- *Secretariat to include research mapping as an agenda in the next teleconference*

**4. Other points of discussion**

The Taskforce notes the importance of having regular teleconferences.

***Action point:***

- *Secretariat to send doodle to schedule the Taskforce teleconference for the next 6 months*