Task Force Progress Update

September 2008 to March 2010

Ana Bierrenbach

Geneva, March 2010
Task Force mandate

- To produce a robust, rigorous and widely-endorsed assessment of whether the 2015 targets for reductions in TB incidence, prevalence and mortality are achieved at global level, for each WHO Region and in individual countries.

- To regularly report on progress towards these targets in the years leading up to 2015.

- To strengthen national capacity in monitoring and evaluation of TB control.
3 strategic areas of work

- Use of routine surveillance data to measure incidence, prevalence and mortality (all countries)

- Prevalence of TB disease surveys in at least 21 global focus countries

- Periodic review and revision of methods used to translate data from surveillance systems and surveys into estimates of disease burden
Major achievements (general)

- TB impact measurement **policy paper**
- Joint **WHO/Global Fund TB impact measurement team** – since May 2009
  - Recognizes common agenda of the Task Force and Global Fund
  - Focus on surveillance strengthening and prevalence surveys
  - Has helped resolve funding bottlenecks for surveys specially in Africa
  - Has brought additional funding to Task Force secretariat (activities)

- **Promotion and communication** of Task Force activities, e.g.
  - UK parliament presentation to APPG (All Party Parliamentary Group on TB)
  - DOTS Expansion Working Group meeting
  - Coordinating Board of Stop TB Partnership (twice) and WHO STAG-TB

- Establishment of close collaboration with UK **Health Protection Agency**
- Continued strong financial support from **USAID** and **Japanese government**
- New funding for Task Force work from **Dutch government** (DGIS)
- **Task Force website** including biannual progress updates
- Strong support from donors + member states for TF work, **WHO Executive Board meeting - Jan 2010**
Surveillance: Task Force framework

DATA QUALITY
- Completeness
- No duplications, no misclassifications
- Internal and external consistency
- IMPROVE surveillance system

TRENDS
- Do surveillance data reflect trends in TB incidence and mortality?
- Analyse time-changes in notifications and recorded deaths alongside changes in case-finding, case definitions, HIV prevalence and other determinants of changes in TB incidence and TB mortality
- EVALUATE trends and impact of TB control

ARE ALL TB CASES AND DEATHS CAPTURED IN SURVEILLANCE DATA?
- "Onion" model
- Inventory studies
- Capture re-capture studies
- Prevalence surveys
- Innovative operational research
- UPDATE estimates of TB incidence and mortality

TB notifications ≈ TB incidence
TB deaths in VR system ≈ TB mortality

If appropriate, CERTIFY TB surveillance data as direct measure of TB incidence and mortality
Major achievements
Routine surveillance strengthening

- Assessment of surveillance data in 4 regional workshops (EUR, SEAR, EMR, AMR) and 3 country missions (Philippines, Vietnam and Tanzania)

- Conceptual and practical improvements to the TF framework

- Full day meeting with Global Fund regarding common tools and approaches for the assessment of surveillance data
  - Leading to development of a harmonized approach

- Main contributors: WHO (HQ + regional), ECDC, HPA, The Union, GF
Major achievements
Prevalence surveys

- 2 meetings of the subgroup on TB prevalence surveys
  - Geneva - January 2009 (review survey protocols + key methodological issues)
  - Cancun - December 2009 (review survey protocols + discuss lessons learned)

- Workshop with survey coordinators from African countries
  - Geneva - October 2009 (addressed bottlenecks to implementation)

- Several protocols reviewed by TF members

- Viet Nam workshop
  - Reviewed results of 2007 prevalence survey along with routine surveillance data
  - Resulted in significant revisions to estimates

- Missions to 17 out of 21 countries + Ethiopia to support survey work

- Workshop on screening methods in prevalence surveys as part of IUATLD Asia-Pacific conference in Beijing – September 2009

- Collaboration with Global Fund and other partners resulting in closing of funding gaps

- Main contributors: WHO, RIT, KNCV, CDC, GF, AMP, The Union, Dr. Narayan, Italian Cooperation

Asia on track
Africa ready to go
Major achievements
Review of methods for producing TB estimates

18 months review process → 2nd meeting of TB estimates sub-group

- Commissioned literature reviews
- Major updates on methods for estimating incidence, prevalence and mortality
- New methods already used in update to 2009 Global TB report (published December 2009)
- Proposed to be used in forthcoming GBD study
- To be presented to full Task Force for discussion and endorsement in this meeting
- Main contributors: WHO, KNCV, RIT, Global Fund, Nico Nagelkerke, Brian Williams, Andrew Thompson, John Stover…
General challenges

- Funding for TF secretariat
  - Some donors reluctant to fund staff costs
  - STB receiving limited amounts of centrally allocated WHO funding

- Limited supply of experts to support the work of the TF
Major next steps

- **Routine surveillance**
  - Additional regional surveillance workshops: WPR - June 2010, AFR - September 2010)
  - Improvements to TF framework: standards/benchmarks
  - Workshop to train pool of consultants in methods available to implement the Task Force framework (last quarter 2010)

- **Prevalence surveys**
  - 2\textsuperscript{nd} edition of prevalence survey guidelines - target date November 2010
  - Technical assistance to countries implementing prevalence surveys
    - Myanmar about to complete → assistance in summarizing findings
    - TA to other priority countries: Cambodia, China, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda and Tanzania
  - Build capacity to support prevalence surveys

- **Endorsement of new methods used to produce estimates**

- **Sustain / increase funding**
Questions to the TF

- What are your general comments on progress to date of the work of the Task Force?
- How can we overcome the challenges?