

**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY**

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Task Force on Tuberculosis

**By
Country Coordinating Mechanism
2014**

I. Background

In response to high TB burden in Lao PDR (WHO estimated prevalence 523/100,000 in 2012, WHO Global TB report 2012), the Government of Lao PDR has been providing continuous political commitment and supporting the National TB program in implementing TB control activities. The Strategy of the National TB program is in line with the WHO Global TB Strategy for universal access to quality TB diagnosis and treatment for all. The Damien Foundation Belgium is supporting the program since 1995 and the Global Fund to Fight Aids Tuberculosis and Malaria through the CCM under several successive grants since 2003. National TB program (as GF sub-recipient) ensured the coordination between several sub-sub recipients including NIOPH, CICML laboratory and local unions and NGOs involved in TB control at community level. A formal TB Task Force including all TB control stakeholders met first in 2011 under the guide of the CCM oversight committee when preparing the request for renewal of funding for second phase of Lao-T-GFMoH in February 2013. The organizations involved in the meeting included WHO, UNAIDS, IFMT, NTC, DFB, LAOPHA, MAAP, PEDDA, SFE, Lao Youth Union.

The Lao Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) is being supported by global fund to fight the 3 diseases (AIDS, TB, Malaria) reinforcing the government ongoing efforts. One of the requirements is to establish a Task Force that will provide program oversight from a multidisciplinary task force that can influence partnerships to provide the necessary technical support to program implementation to guide effective control and elimination of Tuberculosis for Lao PDR.

The official establishment of the Task Force on TB is now needed to involve all stake holders and partners in a country dialogue for updating the National TB Strategy, ensuring successful GF new funding model applications, and sustainable contribution from government side and other donors joining forces against tuberculosis in the country.

II. Objective

The main objective of the Task Force on TB (TFTB), is to assist the Ministry of Health to achieve the goal set in the Global TB Strategy and the National TB Strategy for universal access to TB services for reduction of suffering and death due to tuberculosis for all the population.

III. Mission

1. Promotion of multi-sectoral integration/collaboration for optimizing the national response to fight tuberculosis, TB-HIV co-infection and drug resistant tuberculosis in all segments of the general population and all high risk groups;
2. Involvement in TB strategy design, implementation and monitoring by all partners and stakeholders including the people affected by TB and TB-HIV;
3. Strengthening of national and international partnerships and alliances against TB and TB-HIV; and
4. Fostering of policy dialogue and facilitation of the formulation of up to date common positions in line with the existing WHO Global Stop TB Strategy and the principles of the Post-2015 Global Tuberculosis Strategy Framework.

IV. Strategies:

1. Strengthen and further intensify cooperation in national response to TB and TB-HIV to ensure that main concerns and gaps are mainstreamed in the national efforts.
2. Promote advocacy and enhance the status of TB and TB-HIV awareness and related issues at national level.
3. Improve accessibility to TB and TB-HIV related information.
4. Strengthen the national and collective capacity on the TB and TB-HIV related issues and on health implication from regional economic integration, globalization, trade liberalization, new technologies, and innovations.

V. Scope of Work:

In line with the above objectives and strategies, the work of the Task Force on TB (TF TB) will be guided by the following Terms of Reference:

1. To formulate and recommend to the National TB and TB/HIV program on policies, strategies, guidelines, manuals and programs for national response to TB and TB-HIV;
2. To update the National TB Strategic Plan and to align it with WHO Global TB Strategy and the Post-2015 Global Tuberculosis Strategy Framework;
3. To verify the progress, achievement of the National TB Strategic Plan by providing comments, inputs in the development of planning, recommendations by bodies, organizations and institutions working in TB;
4. To formulate national positions on TB and TB-HIV related issues, especially in the development of national TB and TB-HIV reports/documents and for the preparation for international conferences;
5. To promote active intra-sectoral links with related line-ministries, national and international partners through the National TB Centre, Ministry of Health;
6. To intensify the TB and TB-HIV networking of health institutions, health professionals, in teaching and research in TB and TB-HIV;
7. To play active roles in raising awareness of and commitments to implementation of NSTP, targeting high ranking health officials, health professionals, partners and political leaders through multiple channels such national health conferences, scientific seminars, media and personal networks; and
8. To give comments and feedback on any documents proposal information to be submitted to OC/CCM for consideration.

VI. Procedures/Mechanisms

1. The members of the TFTB are representatives of selected departments and Institutions of Ministry of Health namely Department of Communicable Diseases Control, Healthcare, Food and Drugs, Hygiene and Health Promotion, Planning and International Relations, and Inspection, Centre for HIV/AIDS and STI, National Centre for Laboratory and Epidemiology, National Tuberculosis Centre, MCH Centre, Health Information and Education Centre, and Principal Recipient of the Global Fund project. The following UN Agencies, international organizations, NGOs, Civil society organizations will also be invited to attend the meetings as necessary: UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNODC, WHO, DFB, IOM, LaoPHA, NCA, PEDA, PSI, PLHIV representatives.

2. The TFTB shall meet on quarterly basis. Ad hoc and other urgent meetings could be conducted as deemed necessary.
3. The Chairman will be elected once a year by all the TF members (minimum 2/3 should be present) and preside over the task force meeting and report to the CCM and to the Department of Communicable Diseases Control, Ministry of Health.
4. The National TB Centre (NTC), Ministry of Health shall be Secretariat of the TFTB. CHAS shall send invitation, prepare meeting documents, meeting programs, take note of the meetings and prepare meeting reports and do all necessary logistical arrangements for the task force.

Abbreviations

CICML	Centre of Infectiology Christophe Merieux of Laos
IFMT	Institut de la Francophonie pour la Medecine Tropicale
IOM	International Organization for Migration
DFB	Damien Foundation Belgium
LAOPHA	Lao Positive Health Association
LYU	Lao Youth Union
MAAP	Mutual Assistance for Attapeu People
NCLE	National Centre of Laboratory and Epidemiology
NTC	National TB Centre (NTC), Ministry of Health
PEDA	Promotion Education Development Association
PSI	Population Services International
SFE	Service Fraternel D'Entraide