



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 24, 2015

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL ORDER

No. 2015- 4070

SUBJECT : Creation of the Steering Committee and Technical Working Group for the 2015 National TB Prevalence Survey

Rationale

The first National TB Prevalence Survey (NTPS) was conducted in 1981, followed by a second NTPS in 1997 and more currently the third NTPS in 2007. The country adopted the DOTS strategy in 1997 which was rapidly expanded and has achieved full coverage within the public health sector in 2003. In 2004 Public-Private Mix DOTS (PPMD) was adopted and in 2008, the Programmatic Management of Multi-Drug Resistant TB (PMDT) was mainstreamed into the program and scaled-up to increase access nationwide. Through these efforts, the National TB Control Program (NTP) has been broadly and firmly established in the public sector, gained strong participation from the private sector and garnered the support of multi-sectoral stakeholders. With the various initiatives undertaken over the years, the overall impact of the NTP needs to be surveyed again. Operationally, WHO recommends the conduct of NTPS every 10 years in low resource setting. This kind of study will also enable the NTP to revisit its directions and tailor the strategies based on a more accurate scenario of the country's TB situation. Likewise, with the ending of the Millenium Development Goal (MDG) era and the beginning of the post 2015 TB strategy, this study will allow the NTP to develop its strategic plan for the said period.

In order to facilitate the effective and efficient conduct of the fourth NTPS, it is necessary to organize a Steering Committee (SC) and Technical Working Group (TWG) that will take the overall responsibility of the said survey. This multi-sectoral representation shall ensure the appropriate conduct of operations, as agreed upon from the protocols and terms of reference, that are in accordance to international standards and cognizant with experts' opinion.

Objective

To ensure quality implementation of the 2015 National TB Prevalence Survey (4th NTPS)

The following are the committees with their respective functions.

A. Steering Committee

1. Serve as the oversight for the conduct of NTPS.
2. Review final proposal and recommend for approval to the Secretary of Health and Governing Body of the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD).

3. Approve criteria for the selection of implementing institution / agencies based on TWG recommendations.
4. Approve the technical/progress reports submitted by the implementing institution / agency.
5. Conduct joint-monitoring with TWG and provide recommendations based on evaluation by TWG and on-site findings.
6. Recommend final NTPS report for approval by the Secretary of Health and Governing Body of PCHRD prior to dissemination.
7. Provide recommendations to the Secretary of Health based on NTPS findings.

B. Technical Working Group

1. Serve as the technical expert panel for the conduct of NTPS.
2. Review submitted proposals and recommend final proposal for approval by the Steering Committee (SC).
3. Develop criteria for the selection of the implementing institution / agency and recommend final implementing institution / agency to the SC for approval.
4. Monitor the technical/progress reports submitted by the implementing institution / agency.
5. Conduct joint-monitoring with the SC based on issues and compliance to ethical standards and good clinical practice as identified through technical / progress reports and on-site findings.
6. Recommend the final NTPS report to the SC prior to dissemination.
7. Provide recommendations to the SC based on the final NTPS report.

C. Secretariat

1. Coordinate all pertinent activities of SC and TWG (ie meetings, monitoring visits)
2. Prepare the minutes and incorporate the corrections made.
3. Provide a follow-through of the recommendations made by the steering committee.

Frequency of Meeting

The Steering Committee shall meet at least twice a year or as deemed necessary by the body. The Technical Working Group shall meet once per quarter or as deemed necessary by the body.

I. Composition of Steering Committee

This committee is composed of managers and technical experts from DOH, partners in the public and private sectors and international experts.

Chairperson: Undersecretary of Health for Office for Technical Services (OTS)

Co-chairperson: Director of Disease Prevention and Control Bureau (DPCB)

Members:

A. Department of Health (DOH)

Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Division (IDPCD)

1. Director III / Division Chief

Epidemiology Bureau (EB)

2. Director IV

Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) / National TB Reference Laboratory (NTRL)

3. Director IV

Health Policy Development and Planning Bureau (HPDPB)

4. Director IV / Division Chief of Research and Policy Development

B. World Health Organization

5. WHO Headquarters / Western Pacific Regional Office - Representative

C. Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD)

6. Executive Director

D. Philippine Coalition Against TB (PhilCAT)

7. Chairman of the Board

E. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

8. USAID Project Management Specialist for Public Health – Infectious Diseases

F. Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)

9. Director

Secretariat

10. National TB Control Program (NTP) Manager

11. Project Coordinator for Laboratory, NTP-MO

12. Head of Research Management and Development Division, PCHRD

13. NTPS Coordinator / Point-person for NTPS, PCHRD

II. Composition of Technical Working Group

This committee is composed of technical experts from DOH, partners in the public and private sectors and international experts.

Chairperson: NTP Manager

Co-chairperson: Head of Research Management and Development Division, PCHRD

Members:

A. Department of Health (DOH)

Epidemiology Bureau (EB)

1. Division Chief of Public Health Surveillance Division

National TB Reference Laboratory (NTRL)

2. Head of Laboratory

B. World Health Organization

3. WHO Country Office TB and Leprosy Medical Officer

C. Philippine Coalition Against TB (PhilCAT)

4. Executive Director

D. United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

5. Technical Assistance to Country (TASC)

6. Health Policy Development Project (HPDP)

E. Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)

7. PBSP-GF Program Manager

Secretariat

8. NTPS Coordinator / Point-person for NTPS, PCHR

9. Science Research Specialist, PCHR

10. DOTS Specialist, NTP Management Office (NTP-MO)

11. Project Coordinator for Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, NTP-MO

12. Project Coordinator for Laboratory, NTP-MO


Operational Support

The cost incurred by the Steering Committee to perform its functions shall be charged from the Government of the Philippines - National TB Control Program (GOP-NTP), through the Philippine Council for Health Research and Development (PCHRD), and Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GF-ATM).

Effectivity:

The creation of the fourth NTPS Steering Committee shall take effect immediately and shall be duly functional until such time that the final report for the 4th NTPS is officially approved for dissemination.

Proposed timeline is attached (Annex A) for reference.


JANETTE P. LORETO - GARIN, MD, MBA-H
Secretary of Health