

June 2019 meeting highlights

TB Procurement and Market–Shaping Action Team (TPMAT)

Background

The TB Procurement and Market–Shaping Action Team (TPMAT) convenes major buyers, donors, implementers, international organizations and civil society to address common procurement and market-shaping challenges inherent to fragile TB commodity markets. TPMAT acts by streamlining product selection to address market fragmentation, providing guidance to suppliers on products and formulations in need of development and support, setting common goals on access conditions and supply terms, and ensuring access regardless of procurement modalities or funding source. The Stop TB Partnership’s Global Drug Facility (GDF) serves as the TPMAT chair, and Treatment Action Group (TAG) serves as the vice-chair. TPMAT meets in-person biannually, and TPMAT’s Planning Group has regular teleconferences and meetings to move its agenda forward.

TPMAT convened its fifth meeting on 25-26 June 2019 in Washington D.C., with attendance of 43 participants from 22 organizations.

Medicines

- **TPMAT updates and achievements:**

- TPMAT provided inputs into the GDF, World Health Organization (WHO) and Global Fund (GF) TB Medicines Dashboard, launched in 2018 to serve as a beacon to understand where stakeholders are aligned, identify where harmonization efforts are required, and inform the steps actors need to take to give consistent messages to suppliers and stakeholders.
 - In 2019 the Dashboard was split between adult and paediatric products and updated to include the 2019 Essential Medicines List (EML) and Essential Medicines List for Children (EMLc); the 2019 WHO Prequalification (PQ) Expression of Interest (EOI); the 2019 WHO guidance on DR-TB; and the Global Fund Expert Review Panel (ERP) EOI Round 20.
 - Analysis of the Dashboard resulted in multiple recommendations to improve harmonization across the different lists including:
 - TPMAT coordinated many applications and letters of support to the EML Expert Committee to update to the TB section of the EML and EMLc, resulting in 35 additions, modifications, deletions and/or rejections.
 - TPMAT provided recommendations to the WHO Global TB Programme to support updating the WHO Prequalification Programme’s Expression of Interest for TB Medicines. The updated EOI had 20 changes included.
 - TPMAT coordinated recommendations for the GF ERP for rounds 20 and 21 with all recommendations being accepted by GF.

- Since the last TPMAT meeting, pediatric-friendly formulations for drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) have been delivered under the GDF Launchpad to 14 countries and were being used in 9 countries as of April 2019, with clinical support from the Sentinel Project. Additional funding from Japan was received to continue and expand the initiative to more countries in 2019.
- The 2019 GDF medicines tender resulted in a reduction in prices and increased supply security. For 2019, clofazimine had 2 additional suppliers, increasing supply security, and with increased market competition a 45% price reduction was attained. Linezolid also had additional suppliers, bringing the total to 6 prequalified suppliers in 2019 with a 49% reduction in prices. GDF has seen large reductions in DR-TB regimen prices since 2012. GDF has also seen a dramatic increase in quality-assured suppliers of second-line medicines since 2007, with the numbers of suppliers increasing by more than 5-fold and the number of products increasing by 11-fold. Very few products have only one eligible supplier in 2019, and GDF is signaling the need for additional suppliers and working with partners to incentivize market entry, particularly around new medicines for DR-TB and for short-course regimens for latent TB infection.
- Despite global supply constraints, no GDF client had a stockout of first-line medicines in 2018 or 2019.
- **Continuing areas of work:**
 - GDF continues to prioritize orders for first-line medicines to prevent stockouts.
 - TPMAT will routinely coordinate recommendations for GF ERP EoIs.

Diagnostics:

- ***TPMAT updates and achievements:***
 - The model Service Level Agreement for Xpert cartridge surcharges, developed by GDF with TPMAT and wider cross-disease stakeholder inputs, has been used as a foundation in two countries for their contracts with Cepheid, allowing for comprehensive service and maintenance and monthly reporting of KPIs against targets.
 - TPMAT has worked with manufacturers of new drugs to ensure widest access of pure substances to allow country laboratories to perform susceptibility testing of all drugs under newly recommended regimens. Collective feedback to manufacturers has resulted in removal of delivery costs and other barriers.
- ***Continuing areas of work:***
 - The TPMAT Planning Group is finalizing a draft Diagnostics Dashboard, which provides insights into the quality-assured diagnostics landscape and identifies discrepancies for further action. The Diagnostics Dashboard will be complementary to the GDF, WHO, GF Medicines Dashboard.
 - TPMAT continues to align on asks to diagnostics manufacturers and on approaches for seeking price reductions and better access conditions of key products. Ongoing efforts are being made to attain global comprehensive service and maintenance for GeneXpert and price reductions.
 - Negotiations are underway in multiple countries for surcharge-based comprehensive service and maintenance, using the model Service Level Agreement as a foundation. GDF will continue to provide

guidance to countries on these arrangements and will work with other procurers in developing a system of monitoring Cepheid's performance at global level.

- GF was invited to present at the meeting on a planned first Expert Review Panel for TB diagnostics (ERPD). The membership of the ERPD has not yet been determined, nor have its processes or its link to the WHO Global TB Programme and WHO PQ processes. The GF will keep TPMAT updated on the development of the ERPD.

Cross-cutting:

- ***Continuing areas of work:***

- Given increasing country financing of procurement of TB commodities, TPMAT and Global Fund continue to engage in discussions on how to capture data needed to assist in monitoring programmes that are using domestic financing and/or domestic procurement mechanisms and facing challenges.
- TPMAT has identified a number of potential ways to mitigate risks around domestic procurement, including funding of organizations at country and global level to play watchdog roles, developing process donor polices, carrying out country readiness assessments and acting accordingly when there is a lack of readiness for procurement.
- TPMAT will collaborate with the Vatican Initiative on pediatric HIV, to develop asks to key stakeholders, including manufacturers, donors and regulatory bodies for the next annual Vatican meeting in April 2020, as it will include pediatric TB in its scope.

