

UGANDA STOP TB PARTNERSHIP
DOTS Expansion Working Group
Terms of Reference

Purpose:

The **Uganda Stop TB Partnership DOTS Expansion Working Group (DEWG)** is among the 3 working groups¹ that USTP developed in 2005. DEWG is comprised of members selected from among USTP and non-USTP partners co-opted for their expertise

Its main purpose, , is to address issues of expanding the DOTS coverage (geographical, population and patient) and consolidating it (improving quality of services) in order to support NTLP in attaining and sustaining the global 70% and 85% targets, the TB/HIV related Millennium Development Goal by 2015 and TB elimination by 2050.

It is envisaged that the DEWG will in future form a core team and subgroups² to facilitate its operations.

Task oriented Terms of Reference:

1. To ensure that all districts in Uganda implement and sustain Community Based TB Care under DOTS strategy to achieve and sustain the targets of Case Detection Rate of at least 70% and Treatment Success Rate of at least 85% and the millennium Development Goals with the collaboration of partners.

- Tasks:
- Identify solutions for weaknesses and pitfalls
 - Re-engineer strategies complying with the real available resources and local absorption capacity
 - Continue monitoring Community Based/Facility Based approaches' appropriateness within the Uganda context.
 - Recommend alternative additional innovative policies.

2. To monitor the progress in districts, share experiences between districts and with other partners in order to stimulate action where necessary.

- Tasks:
- Monitor and ask (push) for information from districts.
 - Evaluation of data, reports and situational analysis from the districts. (SWOT).
 - Collect information on districts/HSDs strategic and annual work-plan concerning TB
 - Support and facilitate HSDs and Districts to fully incorporate TB activities in their plan/budget
 - Stimulate USTP members to coordinate their interventions and to steering resources and funds toward a common overall target.

¹ The 3 Working Groups are : DOTS Expansion, Advocacy Communication and Social Mobilization and TB/HIV

²anticipated sub-groups include one on TB in Children and on MDR-TB

3. Promote the documentation and dissemination of best practices and lessons learnt.

Tasks:

- Document best practices and lessons learnt.
- Disseminate and share at USTP level and NTLP level all relevant information.
- Identify and liaise with relevant for a in which better understanding of CB DOTS can be promoted (scientific institutions, academic bodies, conventions, congresses)

4. Assure the engagement of all care providers (private sector, the Community, Traditional Practitioners, pharmacies and other sectors) in the implementation of CB DOTS.

Tasks:

- Support the commitment/involvement of private sector in the TB control-care national policy
- Explore strategies to involve representatives of the non-public sector in advocating for or supporting good practices in TB protocol compliance.
- To assure the pharmacies' best practice when dealing with clients who are TB-HIV patients
- To promote the adoption of PPM DOTS policies and guidelines.

5. Liaise with other Stop TB Partnership Working Groups

Tasks:

- Systematically up-date the USTP assembly upon the working group activities
- Convey to other working groups matters arising from internal discussion considered of general-common interest
- Feed-back and disseminate all the relevant issues arising from the Working Group meetings/seminars to USTP assemblies
- Co-opt/invite members of other working groups to participate in discussions on targeted topics of common interest.

6. To assess and promote the roll out of the NTLP DOTS strategy in urban areas.

Tasks:

- Systematically monitor DOTS implementation in urban settings.
- Identify differences between the two settings (rural and urban) explaining the successes and/or failures.
- Recommend strategies to overcome barriers to CB DOTS implementation in urban settings.
- Promote relevant operational research

Adopted and endorsed by USTP General Meeting of **17 February 2007**.