

## Statement of Partnership between the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic and the United States Agency for International Development in the Kyrgyz Republic

This Statement of Partnership (“SP”) reflects the intended cooperation between the Ministry of Health (MOH) of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic and the United States Agency for International Development in the Kyrgyz Republic (USAID/Kyrgyz Republic); collectively these entities will be referred to as the “Participants.”

This SP provides an implementation framework within which USAID intends to provide, primarily through USAID/Kyrgyz Republic’s Tuberculosis (TB) program but also through other national-level systems strengthening and regional-based U.S. Government partners, technical support to the Ministry of Health’s National TB Program (NTP) for improved TB prevention and care.

### **I. Background**

#### TB situation analysis in the Kyrgyz Republic

Multi and extensively drug-resistant (M/XDR) TB remains one of the greatest challenges for the healthcare system of Kyrgyz Republic. The Kyrgyz Republic is among the 30 highest-burden countries for multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) in the world with a TB incidence rate of 144 per 100,000 population and TB mortality rate of 6.7 per 100,000 population (WHO, 2017).

There are 2,300 cases per year, but of those, only 1,400 cases initiate M/XDR-TB treatment. The treatment success rate in the Kyrgyz Republic for drug-susceptible TB is 83%, but is only 56% for MDR-TB (2016 cohort).

The National TB V strategy for 2017-2021 is developed according to the WHO End TB Strategy and the TB Action Plan for the WHO European Region 2016–2020. The Strategy aims to reduce the incidence and mortality rates down to 87.5

and 5 per 100,000 population, respectively, and to increase the treatment success rate for MDR-TB to 73%.

Beginning from 2018, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic began to allocate funds for the procurement of second-line drugs. It is anticipated to increase the government funding's share to 30% by 2021.

USAID has been a global leader in the fight against TB for over two decades and provides technical assistance in more than 50 countries, helping to provide TB treatment to more than 13 million people, including over 300,000 suffering from MDR-TB. Since 2000, the USAID TB program has contributed to a 50 percent reduction in TB-related deaths and, with our partners, USAID efforts have saved more than 54 million lives.

To accelerate action, USAID has developed a new innovative model, "The Global Accelerator to End Tuberculosis" that will catalyze additional commitments from countries, private sector partners, and other local organizations in order to meet the UN target of treating 40 million people by 2022. It will focus on the countries with high burdens of TB in which USAID already has existing partnerships. This is a change in approach to ensure USAID is fighting to end TB effectively and efficiently. USAID support is most successful when it is coupled and aligned with strong commitments from other governments and partners.

USAID has been providing technical support to fighting TB in the Kyrgyz Republic starting from 1997 to date, and successfully implemented a number of projects. Since 2010 USAID has invested more than \$28 million in the Kyrgyz Republic through the following activities: Quality Health Care Project, TB CARE I, Defeat TB, Challenge TB, and other initiatives. These programs focused on improving the TB health system; new financing mechanisms; improving the coordination and the management of TB, particularly for DR-TB; laboratory services; and promoting patient-centered outpatient care and expanding outpatient treatment.

Through the USAID-Janssen donation program from 2015-2019, free access to the new, life-saving drug Bedaquiline was provided to ensure the best available treatment for M/XDR-TB.

## **II. Purpose**

The purpose of this SP is to promote further collaboration between the MOH of the Kyrgyz Republic and USAID, in the fight against TB in the Kyrgyz Republic.

This SP describes intended activities of each Participant toward the achievement of this purpose, subject to the availability of funds and each Participant's applicable laws and regulations. In particular, the Participants recognize that the targets and objectives towards combating TB in the Kyrgyz Republic will be achieved only by accelerating implementation of the Kyrgyz Republic's national strategy and by speeding up the current pace of implementation. Therefore, the Participants intend to scale up the implementation of highly effective, strategic interventions, including in the areas of service delivery, policy development and implementation, leadership, supervision, supply chain logistics, operational research, improved data for decision making and robust monitoring and evaluation systems that contribute to detecting and diagnosing TB, reducing the TB burden, and ending the spread of MDR-TB.

This SP further describes the approaches that USAID intends to support, subject to availability of funds, via technical and operational assistance to the MOH's National TB Program, including the secondment of highly skilled TB technical experts to NTP.

This SP defines the process, objectives, and approaches for MOH and USAID's joint commitment to combating TB in the Kyrgyz Republic.

## **III. Expected results**

MOH and USAID are committed to working together in a joint approach to achieve the following objectives:

- Reduce TB incidence to 87.5 per 100,000 population by 2021;
- Reduce TB mortality to 5 per 100,000 population by 2021;
- Reach the 73% treatment success rate for M/XDR-TB by 2021;
- Support access to diagnosis and treatment of M/XDR-TB for 12,000 patients in 2018-2022;

- Support an uninterrupted supply of quality-assured first and second line drugs;
- Support access to diagnosis and treatment of childhood TB for 3,400 patients between 2018-2022; and
- Support preventive treatment for 23,500 patients in 2018-2022.

#### **IV. Areas for collaboration**

To achieve the goals and objectives stated in this SP, the Participants intend to cooperate in multiple technical areas. The Participants understand that the specific approaches outlined below may be altered based on new evidence. The Participants intend to jointly address the following key technical areas that are critical to ending TB in the Kyrgyz Republic:

- 1) Enhance the leadership and technical capacity of the NTP program at national and sub-national levels to effectively coordinate, guide, and manage the implementation of TB control activities.
- 2) Implement innovative, and effective strategies and approaches for improving TB case finding and treatment outcomes to reduce TB incidence and mortality
- 3) Improve the programmatic management of drug-resistant TB (DR-TB).
- 4) Ensure an uninterrupted supply of quality-assured first and second line drugs and laboratory commodities.
- 5) Improve the availability of and access to quality TB laboratory diagnostic services.
- 6) Improve data collection, analysis, reporting, and the use of data for decision making.
- 7) Promote the TB research agenda by supporting the implementation of appropriate clinical and operational research.
- 8) Optimize TB services through the implementation of the TB Optimization Action Plan.
- 9) Expand preventive treatment for TB contacts, including children and people living with HIV.

#### **V. Planned Activities**

Jointly, the Participants intend to:

- Monitor progress, share information, review learnings, evaluate, and report on progress;
- Meet on a quarterly basis, or as needed to define the specific activities to be undertaken and provide the required guidance to the implementing partners;
- Jointly plan and organize any launch or dissemination events related to activities mentioned in Section III; and
- Participate in a regular (e.g., semi-annual and annual) performance review process.

The following section describes the individual activities of each Participant:

#### A. MOH/NTP

In support of the objectives outlined above, the MOH intends to:

- Ensure that the commitments and targets decided at the High-Level Meeting on TB at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018 are realized;
- Convene a High-Level Working Group on TB to discuss progress and challenges involving all key stakeholders;
- Support an uninterrupted supply of quality-assured TB drugs;
- Build capacity and access for effective use of data to improve performance monitoring and evaluation;
- Adopt and implement relevant national guidelines and policies;
- Convene and participate in a joint annual action planning process between the MOH, all other relevant partners, and USAID, to assess results and come to consensus on interventions by the MOH and by USAID-funded activities;
- Share routine TB data in order to further the joint objectives outlined in this SP;
- Convene a quarterly meeting to jointly review performance data, technical reports and accountability records with USAID for activities that involve USAID commodities or technical assistance; and
- Ensure sufficient workspace and logistics to host USAID-seconded TB Advisors.

## B. USAID

In support of the objectives outlined above, USAID intends to:

- Support the MOH in the development of plans and activities in order to realize the commitments and targets decided at the High-Level Meeting on TB at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2018;
- Participate in a joint annual action planning process between the MOH and other relevant partners to assess results and come to consensus on interventions by government and USAID-funded activities;
- Provide technical assistance to the MOH to:
  - Conduct high-level discussions on progress and challenges in TB control;
  - Ensure an uninterrupted supply of quality-assured TB drugs;
  - Develop programs and national guidelines on TB;
  - Strengthen the capacity of the NTP in decision-making based on progress achieved
  - Improve monitoring and evaluation systems and quality of data collection and analysis; and
- Instruct its implementing partners to report on project progress, challenges, and results.

## VI M&E Plan

The activities outlined in this SP will be monitored on a quarterly basis. Within six months of adoption of this SP, the Participants intend to complete an M&E plan describing approaches for ensuring effective implementation and achievement of results. The M&E plan should identify appropriate indicators for each key area, show data sources and describe how data is to be collected and collated. The proposed plan should provide preliminary performance indicator targets which may be reviewed and possibly revised during implementation discussions. This M&E plan is not intended to be a standalone plan but rather to build on the existing MOH M&E plan.

## VII. Cooperation between the Participants

Public communications should recognize the Participants through branding in accordance with their respective legal, policy, and procedural requirements. Each Participant intends to communicate the contributions of the other in mass media, and publications as well as hand-outs and signage at events. The Participants should respect one another's confidentiality policies, without disclosing any non-public or proprietary information, except where required by applicable law. The Participants will endeavor to share information on their individual policies, procedures, and requirements relating to branding, and other communications-related requirements, so that potential obstacles can be addressed in a timely manner.

The primary points of contact and liaison for each Participant are Madamin Karataev, Deputy Minister of Health, MOH and Nora Madrigal, Director, Health and Education Office, USAID/Kyrgyz Republic. The Participants may substitute the points of contacts at their discretion and upon notice to the other Participant.

All official communications should be sent to the Participants at the following addresses:

For USAID/Kyrgyz Republic:

U.S. Agency for International Development  
Embassy of the United States of America  
171 Prospect Mira,  
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic – 720016

Attn: Gary Linden, Mission Director, USAID/Kyrgyz Republic

For MOH:

Ministry of Health  
148 Moskovskaya Street,  
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic, 720040

Attn: Madamin Karataev, Deputy Minister of Health [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## VII. General Provisions:

1. **No obligation of funds:** This Statement of Partnership does not effectuate an obligation of funds by either Participant. Any obligation of funds by USAID to support its activities under this Statement of Partnership are intended to be made in accordance with USAID procurement and other related policies, procedures, and guidelines.
2. **No international status:** The Participants expressly acknowledge that this Statement of Partnership is not an international treaty or international agreement and is not subject to either the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic or United States Government's treaty ratification or other domestic and internal legal procedures for ratification of treaties or international agreements.
3. **Non-binding Statement of Partnership which does not supersede existing agreements:** While the SP is non-binding and not legally enforceable on any Participants, the Participants intend to pursue in good faith the goals and objectives identified above for the benefit of the people of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Participants maintain their own separate and unique missions and mandates and their own accountabilities. This Statement of Partnership does not supersede or interfere in any way with agreements or contracts entered into by either Participant, either prior to or subsequent to the signing of the Statement of Partnership.
4. **Duration:** This Statement of Partnership is intended to be operative on the date of signature of both Participants, and to remain operative for five years unless otherwise notified by either Participant. This Statement of Partnership may be discontinued by mutual consent of the Participants or by either Participant individually at any time, but a Participant should endeavor to provide thirty (30) days written notice to the other Participant prior to such discontinuation.
5. **Resolution of Disputes:** The Participants intend to use the utmost good faith to resolve any issues and disputes that may arise relating to this Statement of



Partnership, bearing in mind that the Statement of Partnership is not intended for the benefit of the Participants themselves, but instead for the people of the Kyrgyz Republic.

6. **Modification:** This Statement of Partnership may be modified in writing by mutual consent of the Participants, as may be necessary from time to time.

Signed in Bishkek, in duplicate, this 24 day of June, 2019, in the English and Russian languages.

Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic

USAID/Kyrgyz Republic



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Kosmosbek Cholponbaev, Minister of Health  
Director

Gary Linden, Mission