



PLEDGE OF SUPPORT TO THE ACCELERATED RESPONSE TO MEET THE UN HIGH LEVEL COMMITMENT TO END TB IN THE PHILIPPINES

I. BACKGROUND

The 2016 Tuberculosis (TB) Prevalence Survey found that the prevalence rate of TB in the Philippines is 2.5 times higher than previously estimated at 1,159 cases per 100,000. Results of the survey suggest that the Philippines has the highest recorded prevalence estimate among all countries that have undertaken a TB prevalence survey since 2007.

In 2016, the Philippines enacted the Republic Act no.10767, also known as "The Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Plan Act." The law mandates the Department of Health (DOH) adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development and expand efforts to eliminate TB by increasing investments and adopting a multisectoral approach. It also includes creating a National Coordinating Committee that provides oversight to the TB response.

As a high-burden TB and multidrug resistant (MDR)-TB country, TB remains a priority infectious disease for the Philippines' DOH, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (the Global Fund), and other partners.

In September 2018 at the United Nations High Level Meeting (UNHLM) on TB, the DOH committed to find and treat 2.5 million Filipinos with TB by 2022 using a "business not as usual" approach to address this epidemic. This was reiterated on April 23, 2019, during the International Union Against TB and Lung Diseases Asia Pacific Regional Conference, as the DOH, jointly with WHO, USAID, the Global Fund and other partners called for an intensive campaign against TB, which kills 60 people a day in the Philippines. Dubbed the "Race to End TB", the initiative was launched by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, signaling the highest level commitment in the country.

II. PURPOSE

The DOH, USAID, WHO, and the Global Fund collectively known as "the partners," share the common goal of a TB Free Philippines.

This Pledge of Support establishes a stronger collaboration and cooperation to support the DOH in achieving this shared goal, and specifically to outline the different partners' roles and responsibilities in response to the UNHLM commitment and the Philippine Strategic Plan to Eliminate TB (PhilSTEP).

[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials: Pr]
[Handwritten signature]

III. SHARED OBJECTIVES OF THE PARTNERS

In order to meet this challenge, DOH, USAID, WHO, and the Global Fund are committed to working together to achieve the following objectives:

1. Sustained strong political commitment to eradicate TB in the Philippines
2. Achieved the UN High Level targets for TB in the Philippines by the end of 2022:
 - a. Detected and enrolled 2.5 million Filipinos into TB treatment
 - b. Appropriately treated 110,083 patients with drug-resistant tuberculosis
 - c. Provided TB treatment to 323,548 children and adolescents with TB
 - d. Provided TB prophylaxis to 1,257,555 Filipinos diagnosed with latent TB infection
3. Empowered National Coordinating Committee as the steward, coordinating, and advisory body of the National TB Program (NTP) for strengthening and supporting nationwide capacity for the program operations and bridging collective efforts between the public and private sectors
4. Strengthened TB detection, treatment and prevention under the Universal Health Care (UHC) framework and alignment with the UHC rollout to integration sites
5. Empowered and capacitated health system to effectively and efficiently procure, distribute and utilize an uninterrupted supply of TB medications, and other commodities and supplies
6. Engaged private sector and civil society organizations for TB prevention, detection and treatment as well as development of new partnerships and collaborations in line with the Sustainable Development Goals
7. Improved the availability of and access to quality and effective TB laboratory diagnostic services
8. Improved data collection, analysis, reporting and use of data for decision-making, including a commitment by all partners to develop shared targets
9. Enhanced results monitoring, evaluation, and operations research

To carry out this pledge, the partners intend to intensify joint efforts in the following key technical areas that are critical to ending TB in the Philippines:

- a. Leadership and technical capacity of the TB program at national and sub-national levels, via increased staffing at the central, regional and provincial TB offices.
- b. Innovative, proven and effective strategies and tools for improving TB case finding and treatment outcomes to meet PHILSTEP1 and UNHLM targets, with an emphasis on "screening all" approach, targeted screening of high-risk populations, and extending these policies to all private providers.

PW

- c. Access to and coverage of GeneXpert testing, expanding drug sensitivity testing to all TB suspects, expanding the number of treatment initiation sites, enrolling MDR-TB patients in social protection schemes, and moving to more effective treatment regimen/s in programmatic management of the Drug Resistant TB (DR-TB)
- d. Commodities that have acceptable international quality assurance, with a transition to 100 percent domestic procurement of second-line drugs by 2022.
- e. Availability of and access to quality and effective TB laboratory diagnostic services, with particular emphasis on strengthening the National Reference Laboratory and expanding the GeneXpert network.
- f. Private sector engagement and community systems for TB control, including the engagement of all private hospitals and the establishment of a nationally supported cadre of community workers in TB priority areas.
- g. Quality data collection, analysis, reporting and use of data for decision making, including the integration of the electronic TB register with the national health management information system.
- h. Develop joint annual action plans among TB partners that will lead to closer collaboration and resource sharing.

IV. SUPPORT COMMITTED BY EACH PARTNER

DOH

To achieve the objectives, the DOH will:

- a. Convene a high-level group that will establish and monitor a Multisectoral Accountability Framework for TB involving all key stakeholders
- b. Ensure uninterrupted supply of quality assured TB medications, and other commodities and supplies
- c. Build the capacity of health workers for effective use and increase access to data and performance monitoring and evaluation at all levels
- d. Convene, participate in and document a joint annual action planning process between DOH and partners, to assess results and to agree to implement interventions by government and donor-funded activities on an annual basis
- e. Ensure sufficient work space and logistics at DOH to seconded/assigned staffs from donors/partners
- f. Share routine TB data with all partners in a timely manner in order to further these joint objectives
- g. Ensure that human resources are sufficient to effectively deliver TB services at all levels
- h. Provide adequate health financing to address commodity and service delivery gaps
- i. Convene quarterly meetings to jointly review performance data, technical reports and accountability records



PW

Handwritten signature

USAID

In support of achieving the goals and objectives outlined above, USAID intends to accomplish the following:

- a. Participate in joint annual action planning processes between the DOH and other relevant partners, to assess results and to agree on interventions on an annual basis
- b. Provide technical assistance as required to strengthen the capacity of the DOH and partners and achieve results
- c. Provide support to the DOH and other partners, to conduct specified activities as agreed in the joint annual action plan
- d. Second technical experts to key roles within the DOH and as TB Advisors for the National TB Program (NTP)
- e. Assist with the improvement of DOH's monitoring and evaluation systems and quality of data collection and analysis
- f. Provide support related to procurement and supply chain, financing, health systems, local capacity development, human resource development, communication, and behavior change strategies as needed by the national TB program
- g. Share USAID implementing partners report on project progress, challenges, and results as appropriate

All of the above activities are in line with the USAID/Philippines Health Project (2019-2024) which supports the Philippines by improving the health of underserved Filipinos.

WHO

In support of achieving the goals and objectives outlined above, WHO intends to carry out the following activities to support the Race to End TB Initiative of the DOH:

- a. Provide technical assistance and leadership and engage in partnerships where joint action is needed, with special focus on ensuring (1) accessibility to patient-centered care and (2) availability of adequate resources and uninterrupted supply of commodities
- b. Stimulate the generation, translation and dissemination of locally useful knowledge, with special focus on (1) grounds up monitoring, mentoring, reviews and feedback (2) collecting, collating and sharing of best global and local practices and innovations
- c. Promote and monitor the implementation of global and local norms and standards, with special focus on quality of care across the patient pathway
- d. Articulate ethical and evidence-based policy options, with special focus on "back casting", universal health care and multisectoral response
- e. Provide technical support, catalyze change, and build sustainable institutional capacity, using strategic communication and advocacy
- f. Monitor the TB situation and assess TB trends, with special focus on creating and enhancing user-friendly mobile apps and dashboards linked to the routine electronic reporting systems

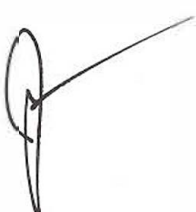
PW

These above-mentioned activities are in line with the Country Cooperation Strategy (2017-2022) of the WHO Philippines, and its biennial work plans.

THE GLOBAL FUND

To achieve these objectives, The Global Fund has committed up to US \$ 118 million from 2018 to 2020 to TB program in the Philippines. The Global Fund TB grant implemented by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) in collaboration with DOH and other partners will:

- a. Mainstream service delivery systems for DR-TB cases through:
 - i. Purchase additional GeneXpert machines to improve both coverage and quality of diagnostic capacity
 - ii. Purchase Second Line Drugs (including for rolling out new all-oral regimens)
 - iii. Expansion of iDOTS with community-based care and patient-support
 - iv. QA for laboratory services
 - v. Supporting mobilisation of technical assistance that may be needed by NTP to ensure inclusion of all SLDs in the National Drug Formulary
 - vi. Capacity building of health workers including on active drug safety monitoring and management and drug-susceptibility testing.
- b. Find missing people with TB through strategic engagement of non-RHU health care facilities, including private facilities
 - i. Systematic screening among high-risk groups (inmates, close contacts and urban poor) included using mobile clinics
 - ii. engagement of community-based organizations, patients and patient organizations in case finding and support during treatment, and expanding private sector engagement in the NTP
 - iii. Capacity building of provincial and city health offices on private sector compliance monitoring of the mandatory case notification
- c. Expand TB-HIV collaboration
 - i. improving TB-HIV collaboration in four high burden TB and HIV regions (improving TB-HIV collaboration will be concentrated in the National Capital Region, Region 3 and Region 4A)
 - ii. HIV testing among notified TB cases
 - iii. TB screening for all PLHIV
 - iv. Provision of TB preventive therapy for eligible PLHIV
 - v. Ensuring provision of ART and anti-TB treatment for people with TB/HIV co-infection



The Global Fund also works closely with the DOH leadership and other technical partners, donor countries and communities to support the STEP-UP campaign in the Philippines.



V. GENERAL INTENTIONS OF THE PARTNERS

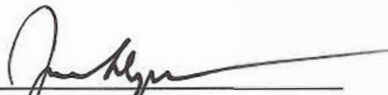
Through this Pledge, the Partners intend to carry out their respective activities under this:

- in conformity with their respective legal and policy authorities
- to join efforts and to maintain a close working relationship in order to achieve the objectives of this collaboration
- to coordinate with each other on all press releases or public statements regarding partnership activities

The Partners acknowledge that this Pledge of Support does not constitute a legally binding commitment by any Partner, create any rights in any third party, constitute any commitment of funds or obligations among the Partners, and does not supersede or interfere in any way with any existing or subsequent agreements or contracts entered into by the Partners .

This Pledge of Support shall take effect upon signature and shall remain in force until terminated in writing by the Partners. It shall be reviewed by the Partners six months after the commencement of implementation.


Signed this 16th day of August 2019.




Hon. Francisco T. Duque III
Secretary of Health
Chairperson, National Coordinating
Committee (TB- NCC)
Department of Health



Patrick Wesner
Acting Mission Director
United States Agency for
International Development



Rajendra Prasad Yadav
Acting Country Representative
World Health Organization



Urban Webber
Head, High Impact Asia Department
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria