

# **THEMATIC GROUPS**

To provide a way for partners with similar interests to collaborate, communicate and share ideas.

## **WHAT IS A THEMATIC GROUP?**

A Thematic Group is a group of partners - who work together on priority areas to meet the specific needs, conditions and circumstances of the particular interest. The Thematic Group - is a framework for action to discuss, plan and implement collaborative activities in areas of TB care and control and enhance the efforts of national programme.

## **WHO JOINS A THEMATIC GROUP?**

The membership of a Thematic Group is formal/informal, voluntary and open to all partners with an interest in the theme.

## **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF FORMING A THEMATIC GROUP?**

A Thematic Group has a broad-based membership and so provides an innovative framework in which to plan and implement collaborative activities; identify and mobilize resources; promote new policies and projects; share information, knowledge and expertise; and ensure concerted and coordinated technical support to PTCC and the National Programme in policy formulation and implementation.

## **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A THEMATIC GROUP?**

Many civil society organizations working in the area of TB care and Control possess a unique knowledge of what does and does not work. As a member of a Thematic Group, the partners can share knowledge and expertise with national authorities; engage in advocacy and raise public awareness; mobilize resources; build the capacity of civil society organizations at the local level; disseminate lessons learnt and best practices.

## **WHAT TYPE OF THEMES DO THEMATIC GROUPS CHOOSE FOR FOCUS?**

Thematic Groups themes for actions are selected based on needs and identified priorities for TB care and Control.

## **HOW CAN THEMATIC GROUPS OPERATE?**

Once Thematic Groups agree to form, most draw up agendas and prepare terms of reference for activities. These workplans can vary according to the specific development challenges, opportunities and constraints of a particular issue. In some cases, Thematic Groups may establish smaller ad hoc groups or task forces to focus on a specific theme or area of interest.

## **HOW ARE ACTIVITIES FUNDED?**

An essential part of the Thematic Group's work is to identify opportunities for financial resources to support collaborative activities.

## **WHAT SORT OF SUPPORT THE THEMATIC GROUPS CAN RECEIVE FROM THE SECRETARIAT?**

The Secretariat – can provide direct and practical assistance to Thematic Groups, in collaboration with other partners, in the design and implementation of agendas, facilitating links among Thematic Groups within the same and other regions, and promoting information sharing on relevant issues.

## **THE AIMS OF THEMATIC GROUPS:**

- facilitate communication and collaboration between members working in similar areas
- provide a basis for streams within Partnership activities
- be recognised for one year (groups can then be reformed, or restructured where appropriate)
- have a designated convener
- have a designated time slot at the NCM (thematic group sessions scheduled concurrently at the NCM)
- have a presence on PTCC website

## **THE ROLE OF THEMATIC GROUP CONVENERS**

The role of thematic group coordinators is to facilitate communications within the group and between the group and the PTCC Executive. Coordinators also arrange for group members to take up relevant issues and organise session schedules for the NCM.

### **Coordinators can facilitate group communications by:**

- using a group email list to keep members informed of activities, events, conferences, workshops, publications and calls for papers;
- organising group meetings at the NCM;
- taking over an issue of interest/relevance;
- providing *PTCC* with a report/feedback about the activities of the thematic group

## **ESTABLISHING GROUPS**

Members are invited to submit proposals for the Thematic Groups. Proposals must:

1. specify a thematic group's title;
2. have a short description of the group's aims and objectives;
3. list the names of a Convener and any Co-Conveners;
4. identify a minimum of 7 PTCC members (including the convenors) who are members of the groups;
5. be endorsed by all members of the proposed thematic group.

## **THEMATIC GROUPS**

**Highly active**  
**Well connected**  
**Knowledge-rich**  
**Innovative**  
**Operationally-relevant**

purpose of beginning these groups and how to volunteer into the group.

The roles and responsibilities of each group and plan of action

- 1) Partners to volunteer into the WG lists prepared on the registration table at the venue.
- 2) Groups to meet and decide a group lead and points to work on this year 2012-2013.
- 3) Decide for a meeting, physical if funds available, conference via Skype or Go to meeting, etc.
- 4) Secretariat will coordinate with group leads, between groups and externally.

## **THE 6 WORKING GROUPS ARE:**

### **ADVOCACY**

- with politicians (MPs, MLAs, Ward Counsellors, elected PRI members)
- with Media
- to ban serological tests of TB and over the counter selling of Anti-TB drugs and antibiotics at state/district level

### **PPM**

- Active participation and work towards developing programmatic linkages with the corporate hospitals.
- Pharmacies
- Traditional healers/ rural healthcare providers
- Allopathic doctors
- Nurses and paramedical personnel
- Inter departmental i.e. Social welfare, Education, NACO, etc
- Linking to NGO schemes and other schemes

### **RESEARCH**

#### **SERVICE DELIVERY**

- Diagnosis and Treatment
- MDR-TB
- Laboratory diagnosis
- Drugs & Vaccine

- Tb & Migration
- sputum collection, transport, DOT provider
- TB in slums, urban settings, street dwellers
- TB in hard to reach areas, vulnerable population

**WOMEN AND CHILDHOOD TB  
TB-HIV**

The PTCC encourages partners who share common interests to become part of thematic groups.