

Comparative Analysis of National TB Strategy in Selected Countries and Document Development for Taiwan National TB Strategy

Abstract:

Tuberculosis is considered as not only a severe infectious disease in Taiwan, but also a major threat to public health worldwide. Taiwan has been fighting tuberculosis for more than 50 years. Largely, the epidemic outbreak of TB in Taiwan is still more severe than most industrialized countries and continued efforts are still required. However, the efforts have proven to be fruitful as tuberculosis is no longer among the top ten leading causes of death in Taiwan.

In 1994, the first 5-year plan in TB control was initiated. This national program was followed by the second 5-year plan in 1999. With major investment and commitment, a national campaign “Tuberculosis Reduction by Half in 10 Years” was kicked off aiming to make Taiwan a country without tuberculosis in the future.

Because Taiwan is not a member of the World Health Organization (WHO), Taiwan has not been able to participate in TB control and prevention at the international level and to share information about the status and activities of tuberculosis control in Taiwan. With a grant from Center for Disease Control, this document is to introduce Taiwan’s current TB control strategy, supplemented by an overview of collaboration worldwide and review of milestones in Taiwan, to those who are interested in learning more about the subject matter. A document analysis study of national TB control strategies in other jurisdictions helps develop the framework for this document. We hope that readers of this document will gain a better understanding of tuberculosis and, even better, take an active role in the national campaign.

This document includes the following key elements:

- A. An overview of epidemiology worldwide and global partnership in tuberculosis control
- B. TB control in Taiwan: a historical overview
- C. Epidemiology and future challenges of TB in Taiwan
- D. “Reduction by Half in 10 Years National Campaign”

Chapter 6 depicts major challenges in three areas, i.e. (1) public health and associated public administration, (2) detection and diagnosis, and (3) intervention of TB. Chapter 7 provides respective strategies corresponding to these challenges.

The Government of Taiwan has invested 8,371,351 thousand New Taiwanese dollars as the budget for the first 5 years of the national campaign. This amount excludes the costs of required human resources.

Details on specific strategies are in the appendices. Readers are encouraged to further information by contacting Taiwan Center for Disease Control directly. Based on new technology and knowledge in TB control, Taiwan CDC will continue to improve or adjust its programs and services. This document provides only basic information on tuberculosis control and should not be used by healthcare professionals, as part of the protocol and guidelines.

Keyword: communicable disease, tuberculosis, tuberculosis control strategy, disease control assessment