

National Anti-Tuberculosis Drugs Resistance Survey in Nepal

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Background on Save the Children

Save the Children is the leading global independent organisation for children. Save the Children believes every child deserves a future. Around the world, we work every day to give children a healthy start in life, the opportunity to learn and protection from harm. When crisis strikes, and children are most vulnerable, we are always among the first to respond and the last to leave. We ensure children's unique needs are met and their voices are heard. We deliver lasting results for millions of children, including those hardest to reach.

We do whatever it takes for children – every day and in times of crisis – transforming their lives and the future we share.

Our vision: A world in which every child attains the right to survival, protection, development and participation.

Our mission: To inspire breakthroughs in the way the world treats children, and to achieve immediate and lasting change in their lives.

Our values: Accountability, ambition, collaboration, creativity and integrity.

We are committed to ensuring our resources are used as efficiently as possible, in order to focus them on achieving maximum impact for children.

Background information/context

Tuberculosis (TB) remains a major public health problem in Nepal. Globally, an estimated 10.0 million people fell ill with TB in 2019. There were an estimated 1.2 million TB deaths.

In Nepal, the burden of drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) is also presenting as a key public health issue. Recently in 2019/20, the burden of DR TB has been revised from nearly 1400 prior estimate with now nearly 2200 incident cases per year and listed by WHO as one of the high burden countries for DR TB. However, only 517 DR TB cases diagnosed for the year with nearly 68% cases missed. Out of 517 case diagnosed only 384 (74.2%) were initiated on DR TB treatment (nearly 25% loss of follow up). The number of DR TB cases being notified each year has been between 350-450 for few years now and the lack of availability and access to an early screening of presumptive TB cases with Rapid DST may still be the main reasons for this stagnation of cases. The estimated proportion of new cases with rifampicin resistant TB was 2.2% among new cases and 15.4% among retreatment cases based on the 2011 DRS survey. Despite these difficulties, the treatment success rates of DR TB has slightly increased to 75% in 2019/20.

The number of TB cases has been declining since 2014 despite an estimated increase in TB incidence and estimation of increasing incidence and number of DR TB cases are in rising too. Despite achieving

treatment success rates of 90% in DSTB and nearly 70% of DR TB, the rise in cases of TB and DR TB shows that there is significant pool of TB cases and DR TB cases missed to be diagnosed and treated in the community. Many new cases and or retreatment cases that might be drug resistant may not be diagnosed early leading to continual spread of DR TB in the community. With increasing estimated vs notified DR TB cases, introduction of regimens with newer drugs and transitioning to all oral regimen, it's important for NTP to understand the current situation and drug resistance pattern for better management and better outcomes. Thus, the reason National Tuberculosis Program plan a DR TB survey in 2022. The survey will also contribute to strengthening in-country laboratory capacity, as well as specimen transport and referral systems, all of which should contribute to speeding up the transition towards a national system of continuous surveillance of DR-TB.

Objective

- Estimate the prevalence of pulmonary TB patients with MDR/RR-TB.
- Determine the proportion of pulmonary TB patients with resistance to other first- and second-line anti-TB drugs, including baseline estimates for new and repurposed drugs (bedaquiline, linezolid, clofazimine, delamanid)
- Describe sociodemographic and clinical characteristics of pulmonary TB patients in Nepal
- Investigate possible risk factors for MDR/RR-pulmonary TB
- Strengthen in-country laboratory capacity, specimen transport and patient referral systems in views to speed up transition towards a national system of continuous surveillance of DR-TB.

Scope of Work

The Agency will work closely with NTCC.

- i- Consultation meetings with NTCC and other relevant stakeholders for uniform understanding of the scope of the work and planning the activities. Develop cluster specific workplan as per the protocol
- ii- Review of existing database and protocols, SOPs, QA checklists and other relevant documents to have full understanding and necessary preparation for DRS.
- iii- Recruitment of HR for the survey as per the protocol.
- iv- Establish good coordination and supportive environment at cluster (HF) and respective Palikas
- v- Establish courier mechanism and its functioning for sputum collection and transport from cluster sites to central labs within 48 hrs. maintaining cold chain (2-8 °C).
- vi- Training to Field level staff- OSA staff/HF staff/Laboratory staff for survey
- vii- Logistic supply and management in 50 different cluster of Nepal maintaining continued supply in the sites.
- viii- Collection and transport of 2 sputum samples (one spot and another morning) from nearly 2000 participants from 50 different cluster in variable timeframe of 2 months to 8 months based on different strata of cluster.

- ix- Monitoring/supervision and internal quality assurance in process and procedures of field implementation, data collection, and methods of quality sputum collection and transportation of samples to identified central laboratories (NTCC or GENETUP).
- x- Collection, Review, and quality assurance of survey data in collaboration with NTCC.
- xi- Support to develop final survey reports in collaboration with NTCC/SCI and WHO.

Location and official travel involved

The logistic arrangements, including transportation cost will be managed by the agency as per own HR or Financial policy.

Services the Supplier will provide

Services the agency will provide as just as “Scope of work and deliverables” mentioned in the ToR.

The following attributes are required for the selection of the consultancy firm and its team:

This agency will be carried-out by an experienced and qualified team members. The agency will be selected through a competitive and transparent process. The agency can apply in JV for the quality delivery of the field implementation.

Relevant experience criteria will include:

Experience and skill set required

- At least 3 years working experience in health research in national level
- Previous experience in conduction of health-related surveys with experience in collection, packaging, handling, and transportation of biological hazardous samples
- Past record of completion of similar projects.
- Experience, qualification & expertise of team member

Deliverables of the Project

SCI expects the following deliverables to be provided:

Deliverable number	Deliverable title	Description	Format and style
1	Recruitment of HR for the survey.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Survey Manager- one position 2. Liaison and Quality Assurance Officer- five positions 3. Logistic Management Officer- one position 4. Sputum transporter- six positions 	
2	Training to Field level staff- staff of OSA/HF staff/Laboratory staff for survey	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training to Field staff of OSA 2. Training to laboratory staff at MC and DOTS Focal person 	

3	Logistic Supply Management to 50 sites of the survey	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collection of items (consumables/cartridges and lab chemicals) from NTCC and/or SCI and supply to respective sites of survey (TB Diagnostic Centres) 2. Maintain consumption record, collection of demand forms and provide to NTCC and/or SCI 	
4	Collection of sputum samples from 50 different sites	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish courier mechanism and its functioning for sputum collection and transport from cluster sites to central labs within 48 hrs. maintaining cold chain (2-8 degree Celsius). 2. Quality assurance of sputum samples, collection and storage in as per the guidance of protocol 3. Quality assurance of 3-layer packing of sputum (both samples) and transportation to identified sites at province and thereafter to identified c/dst laboratory 4. Assure quality and quantity of sputum sample, proper labelling, and packing. 	
5	Monitoring/supervision and quality assurance in procedures data collection (questionnaires) and methods of sputum collection/ transportation to identified central labs laboratory.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor the quality of sample collection/storage and transportation, recording/reporting as guided by the protocol including collection and of survey questionnaires at field sites. 2. Provide regular reports of the quality assurance activity of sputum collection, storage and transportation 3. Provide support to national team (survey team) in field visits for quality assurance of the survey by providing logistics and other support as requested 	
6	Collection, Review, and quality assurance of survey data in collaboration with NTCC.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure collection and reporting of complete and quality record of questionnaire 2. Provide regular feedback of quality information in questionnaire and ensure any issues identified are addressed and resent by the sites 	

		3. Validate the data quality visiting the sites as requested by NTCC/SCI and provide report to them.	
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Timeline

Estimated Commencement Date: April 2022

Estimated End Date: January 2023

Deliverable no.	Deliverable title	Submit to	Completion date
1	Field implementation plan development HR recruitment and training and its report submission Field level training implementation and report submission	DR survey working committee	
2	Survey field implementation - Evidence of field operation (collaboration with local health facility and sputum collection and transportation to designated laboratory) and submission of all sputum samples collected from the sites to c/dst laboratory	DR survey working committee	
3	Quality assurance report	DR survey working committee	
4	Availability and submission of all require documents (checklists, monitoring forms and formats, all filled questionnaires from participants, milestone completion reports etc.)	DR survey working committee	
5	Filed operation completion report	DR survey working committee	

Status updates/reporting

The agency shall provide the below status updates for the duration of the services to NTCC and SCI:

- Monthly progress update
- Final report on completion

Acceptance

All Deliverables are to be accepted by SCI and DR survey steering committee task force members within 5 working days of delivery date.

General assumptions and dependencies

NTCC will support in coordination and in other technical aspects of the survey as per need.

Intellectual Property Rights

The agency acknowledges and agree that the NTCC will hold all intellectual property rights but not limited to copyright and trademark rights. The agency agrees not to claim any such ownership in intellectual property at any time prior to or after the completion and delivery.

Confidentiality

The agency discloses to any third party the business of NTCC, details regarding the survey (the “Confidential Information”), (i) make copies of any Confidential Information or any content based on the concepts contained within the Confidential Information for personal use or for distribution unless requested to do so by NTCC, or (ii) use Confidential Information other than solely for the benefit of the NTCC.

Payment information

- I. Payment will be made on a milestone basis (in installment basis), either on specific dates or upon satisfactory completion of the milestone.
- II. Upon the report of a committee, formed to evaluate the successful completion of set milestones, SCI will release the payment as fixed in milestones set for the DR survey completion.

The Fees are inclusive of all costs, overheads, and expenses, including travel, subsistence, and accommodation.

How to apply for the services

Please refer to the Invitation to Tender Document for instructions on how and when to submit a bid.

Require Document List

- Signed and stamp cover letter
- A signed and stamped Detail Technical Proposal with timeline
- A signed and stamped Financial Proposal
- CVs of potential professionals/HR
- Company registration certificate
- Tax clearance certificate 2077/78
- VAT registration certificate
- Evidence of experience conducting health research