

Module 2. Background of the National Tuberculosis Control Program (Chapter 1 of the NTP MOP)

Organizing Principle

This module provides the background on the problem of tuberculosis in the country; some historical perspective; the NTP's vision, goals, and strategies for the next few years; and its current initiatives. This corresponds to Chapter 1 of the NTP Manual of Procedures (MOP), 5th ed. The modules following this will focus on specific components and processes of the NTP.

Allot 1 hour for you to finish this module. If you have limited internet connection, you may wish to first download all the learning materials for this module, including the main reference, prior to actual study.

Learning Objectives

After studying this module, you should be able to:

1. describe the magnitude of the TB problem in the Philippines;
2. list the current key initiatives in the NTP;
3. discuss the vision, goals, and objectives of the NTP; and
4. explain the roles and functions of different offices, organizations, and health workers in the NTP.

Underlying Concepts

Familiarity with the history and overview of what is current in each field is essential before you can pursue more in-depth learning. This paves the way for better appreciation of the succeeding modules.

Learning Activities

For this module, you will (i) watch a video, (ii) read reference materials, (iii) go through some slides, (iv) do an exercise, and (v) participate in a live chat session. Everyone is also encouraged to check out and submit posts in the discussion forum.

- i. View a video

To give you a quick "feel" of the subject, you may wish to view a short (1 min, 46 sec) video clip from ABS-CBN's *Salamat Dok* episode on the problem of TB in the country. It was aired sometime in April 2014. In this clip, Dr. Celine Garfin, NTP Program Manager, talks about the Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course (DOTS) which is the overarching strategy of the NTP.

- ii. Read Chapter 1 of the NTP MOP, 5th edition

This chapter will give you a good overview of the TB problem in the country, a historical perspective of the NTP, its key initiatives, as well as its vision, goals, and strategies.

The outline of Chapter 1 is given below. You may want to copy it on a piece of paper or your notebook or a file in your PC. Jot down notes or answers to the guide questions under each heading to help you remember and integrate what you are learning.

- A. The Magnitude of Tuberculosis in the Philippines
- B. The Philippines and its Health Care Delivery System
- C. The National TB Control Program (NTP)
- D. Past Efforts to Control TB in the Country
- E. Current Key Initiatives
- F. NTP Performance
- G. Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies of the NTP
- H. Functions of Health Service Providers

Let us now go through each section one by one. Answer the guide question/s for each. There is no need to submit your answers.

A. The Magnitude of Tuberculosis in the Philippines

Describe the magnitude of the problem of TB in the country using prevalence, incidence, and mortality rates. What do the rates mean in terms of actual numbers? How would you translate these rates to numbers and concepts that lay people can understand? In which population groups is TB more prevalent? Comment on the prevalence of drug resistance in the Philippines.

Note that all the sources of information cited are listed under the *References* section of the NTP MOP, 5th ed. on page 151.

The *Global Tuberculosis Report 2015* has since been published. Get the latest rates for the Philippines on page 139 of the said report. You may download it through this link:

http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/

How do the figures compare with those for 2012?

B. The Philippines and Its Health Care Delivery System

Describe briefly our health care delivery system.

C. The National TB Control Program (NTP)

Reflect on how knowledge of the health care delivery system in the Philippines and the NTP is important for implementers AND supporters of the NTP.

D. Past Efforts to Control TB in the Country

Prepare a rough timeline indicating the past efforts to control TB in the country to the present. What are the milestones in TB control in the country that are included in your timeline?

E. Current Key Initiatives

What is the overarching strategy of the NTP? List the key initiatives of the NTP.

F. NTP Performance

How has our country performed vis-a-vis the Millennium Development Goal for TB? Currently, we are moving towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Get to know the SDGs by clicking on <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>. Under which goal does the fight against TB fall?

G. Vision, Goals, Objectives, and Strategies of the NTP

Discuss briefly the vision, goals, objectives, and strategies as defined in the Philippine Plan of Action to Control Tuberculosis (PhilPACT) 2010–2016.

H. Functions of Health Service Providers

1. Explain the differences in roles and functions of those who are involved in NTP work.
2. What are the differences in the roles and functions of health workers involved in NTP implementation at the service delivery points?
3. Identify which group you belong to and verify your particular role and function in relation to NTP.
4. Try to identify someone you know from each group (DOH-IDO/DOH-RO/LGUs/hospitals/various partners, or physician/nurse/medical technologist/microscopist/BHW/CHV/midwife) and compare their roles and functions.

iii. Go through the Slides

Now that you have gone through the entire first chapter, review *Slide Set #2*. If anything is unclear, go back to our main reference, the NTP Manual of Procedures, 5th ed.

iv. Do Exercise No. 2

When ready, take the short quiz found in the course site. Just click on the icon for *Exercise No. 2* and proceed. Once you have answered all the items, check your score. As previously mentioned, you are required to get a perfect score. Make as many tries as you need. You may freely go back and review the MOP. When you get a perfect score, you are done with this module.

v. Participate in the Live Chat Session

The live chat session is your opportunity to raise questions and other concerns in Modules 1 and 2, and about the entire course thus far. Even if you do not have any questions, take time to join the session to “meet” your co-participants. Enter the chat room at least 5 minutes before the scheduled live chat session. Read the *Guide to Live Chat Session 1* before entering the chat room.

vi. Participate in the Discussion Forum

Those who are unable to participate in the live chat session are required to post their comments or questions in the discussion forum for this module. Refer to the *Guide to Discussion Forums* for detailed instructions. Those who participated in the live chat session may still participate in the discussion forum.

vii. Reflection

Review the learning objectives for this module and reflect on whether you have achieved them. If you think you have not, read the chapter again. If yes, then...

Congratulations for finishing Module 2!

References

ABS-CBN. (aired 2014). *Salamat, dok: Tapusin and laban sa TB*. [video clips]. Copy made available to the DOH NTP by ABS-CBN.

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United Nations. (2015). *Sustainable development goals*. Retrieved from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>

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