TB DIAH: Data-to-Action Continuum

Background

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) leads the U.S. Government's global efforts to end tuberculosis (TB). USAID's Global Accelerator to End TB is the Agency's programmatic approach to fight TB. The Accelerator increases commitment from, and builds the capacity of, governments, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate national progress to reach global TB targets. The Accelerator focuses on countries with high burdens of TB where the Agency can unite with local communities and partners to deliver performance-based results. To ensure the Accelerator's effectiveness and increased transparency, USAID utilizes standardized data collection and performance-based indicators that align with the targets.

Under the Accelerator, USAID funds the TB Data, Impact Assessment and Communications Hub (TB DIAH). TB DIAH aims to ensure optimal demand for and analysis of TB data, appropriate use of that information to measure performance, and to inform National TB Programs (NTPs) and USAID interventions and policies.

The Data-to-Action Continuum

TB DIAH has developed a TB Data-to-Action Continuum (D2AC) Toolkit to measure countries' progress and guide efforts to improve their TB monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and surveillance systems. The D2AC defines five possible levels of system development, ranging from "nascent" to "optimized."

The D2AC builds on the work of the Performance-based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (PBMEF), the Assessment of Reporting Capacity (ARC), and other existing documentation (i.e., joint program reviews, epidemiological assessments, etc.). It allows NTPs to precisely gauge the barriers to data use and assess the decision-making capabilities of different actors across their health systems. It also helps NTPs select appropriate interventions within the context of their health systems and develop implementation plans to apply them.
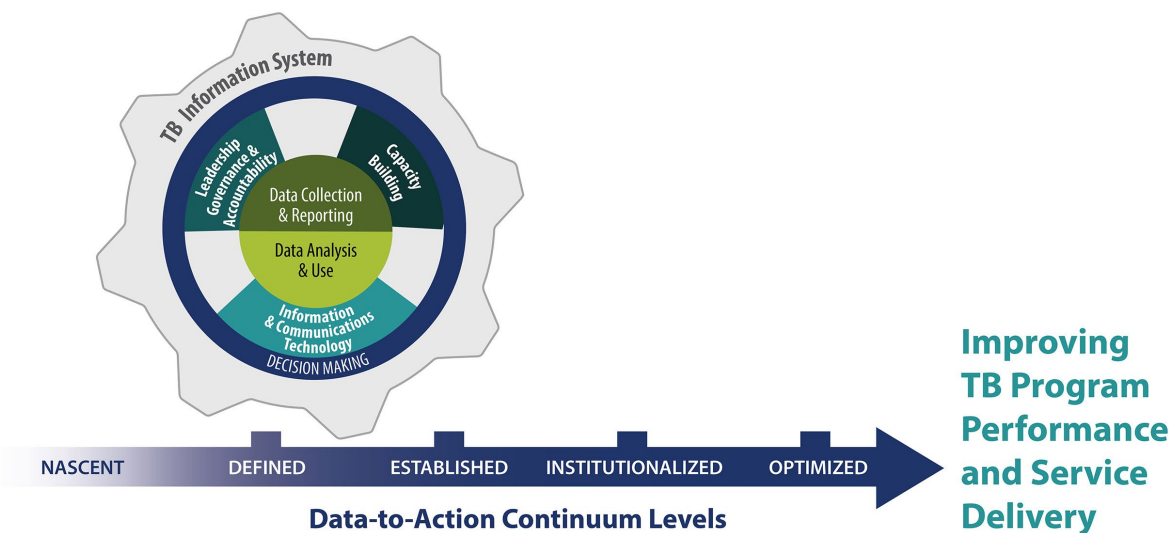
D2AC begins as a facilitator-guided workshop with stakeholders from different focal areas of the NTP (e.g., screening, diagnosis, and treatment) and levels of the health system. Participants discuss and achieve consensus on the relative maturity of elements of the NTP's capacity. The Toolkit then yields suggested interventions—called priority actions—tailored to stakeholders' assessments of NTP capacities. These priority actions help the NTP improve capacity to translate data into action, targeted to the stage of maturity at different levels of the health system.

The D2AC can be used on its own, or as a complement to other TB DIAH tools and products as part of an assessment of a country's systematic TB M&E and surveillance. When used alongside other TB DIAH tools and assessments such as the PBMEF, ARC, or Quality of TB Services Assessment (QTSA), D2AC contributes to a holistic view of a country's TB M&E system and its capacity to collect, analyze, and use key indicators for TB service delivery, performance improvements, and data-based decision making.

Elements of the D2AC

The expert-validated D2AC Toolkit, available as a web-based tool at https://d2ac.tbdiah.org, includes:

- An introduction to the Toolkit
- Five defined continuum levels
- A country profile template to collect socio-economic, demographic, and epidemiological indicators
- The D2AC scale, with capability statements organized into five domains and 18 sub-domains for each of the five continuum levels
- A glossary defining all the key technical terms found in the tool
- A data collection instrument for collecting individual and group responses
- An analysis dashboard that automatically aggregates responses from all completed data collection instruments and generates data tables and visualizations, and recommended priority actions
- The customized priority actions, generated based on scores obtained and accessible through the analysis dashboard, enable decision-makers to develop an implementation plan

The D2AC Toolkit is also available in Excel as separate Data Collection and Data Analysis Tools (where the data collection instruments from the former are manually imported into the latter and automatically aggregated) for workshops that cannot support the use of the digital tool. The Excel Toolkit is available at www.tbdiah.org/d2ac

TB DIAH has developed an animated video to introduce the method and process of the D2AC, a user guide to provide step-by-step instructions for facilitating a D2AC workshop, and guidance for the use of the digital tool. All these resources are available at www.tbdiah.org/d2ac

TB DIAH field tested the D2AC Toolkit in Ghana and Nigeria and subsequently led implementations in the Kyrgyz Republic and Bangladesh in 2022. The digital D2AC Toolkit is now publicly available for use.

Questions?

For questions or more information about TB DIAH's D2AC work, please contact:

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