

# Health Bulletin: National Tuberculosis Control Programme

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Tuberculosis (TB) continues to be a global public health problem, particularly in the developing countries where it causes ill health among millions of people each year and is a leading cause of death according to the Global TB Report 2023.

## Bangladesh Scenario:

Bangladesh has made significant progress in health indicators, especially in TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment, adopting the End TB Strategy in 2016. However, Bangladesh is one of the 30 high-burden countries with 379000 total TB incidence. Bangladesh has made significant success in reducing TB mortality, with a 42% drop in deaths between 2014 and 2022.

## Quarterly Updates of TB Control Program:

Quarterly programmatic updates of the TB Control program are a way to get visible updates of the all sectors of TB control program quarterly.

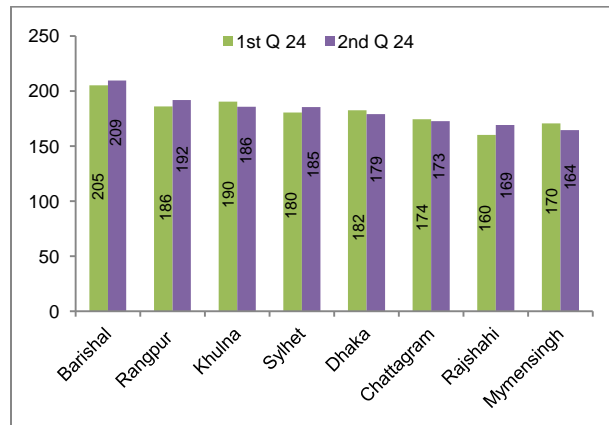


Fig: Comparison of division wise Case Notification Rate (All Form) in Bangladesh during 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter

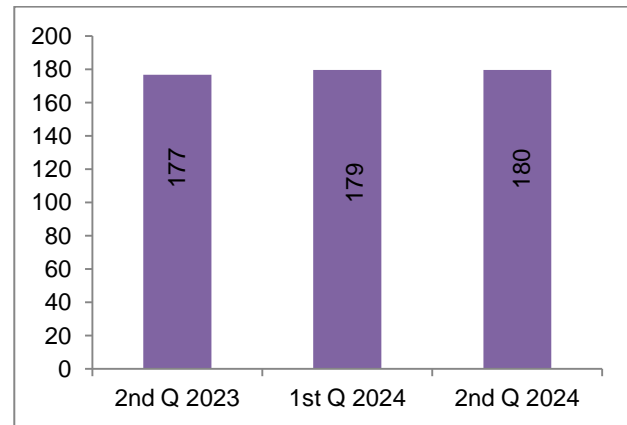


Fig: Comparison of nationwide all form of CNR during 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2023, 1<sup>st</sup> Q 2024 and 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2024

NTP works with a diversified number of stakeholders including govt. and non-govt. entities. They contribute to identify the patients with presumptive TB, and ensure referral of the patients for diagnostic investigations and further management.



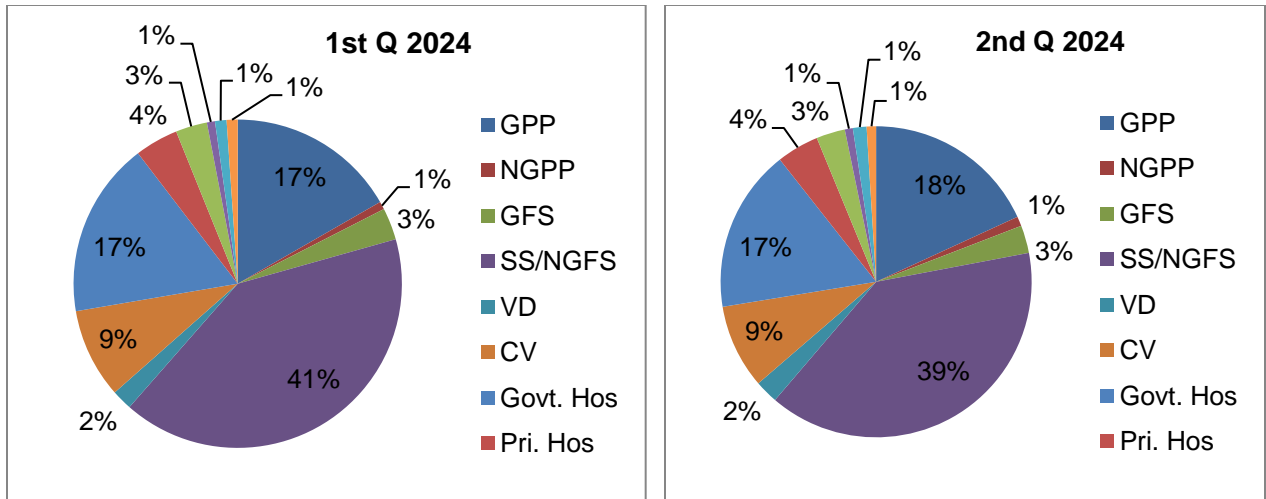


Fig: Referral Source of notified TB patients during 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2024

NTP started programmatic management of drug-resistant TB with 20 months longer regimen in August 2008 at NIDCH. Research on shorter treatment regimen for MDR TB conducted in Bangladesh, popularly known as “Bangladesh Regimen” has significantly reduced the MDR TB treatment duration from 20 months to 9 months, with a better treatment success.

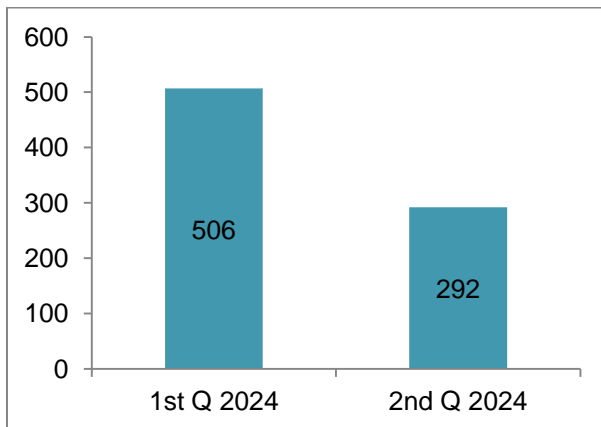


Fig: Enrollment of Drug-Resistant TB

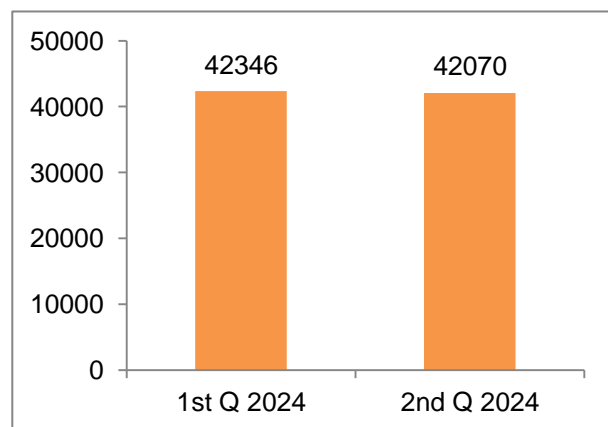


Fig: TPT enrollment status during Q1 and Q2 2024

### TB Preventive Therapy (TPT)

In 2021 NTP initiated TPT for all age groups with 3HR and 3HP. Subsequently, district level training on TPT completed by 2023. At present TPT implementation is ongoing all over the country. From January to June 2024 total 84,416 individual of different age group received TB Preventive therapy.



## **TB Laboratory Network Strengthening**

The NTP has a well-established network of TB laboratories that is organized in a hierarchical manner from peripheral laboratories to regional TB reference laboratories (RTRLs) to the national TB reference laboratory (NTRL). Coverage of testing of presumptive cases of TB with WHO recommended molecular diagnostic test with drug susceptibility testing has expanded significantly in recent years. Till December 2023, total 622 GeneXpert machines were functional at 508 sites, whereas TrueNat machines were 38. In 2024, additional 113 GeneXpert and 112 TrueNat machines were installed. Currently, NTP has 735 Xpert machines at 627 sites and 150 TrueNat machines.

## **Global Fund visits to Bangladesh**

For the first-time, Executive Director of the Global Fund, Peter Sands along with Country Team and Executive Director of Stop TB Partnership, Lucica Ditiu visited TB control programme activities in Bangladesh in last week of June 2024.



## Public Private Mix (PPM)

The multi-sectoral response, including public-private mix (PPM), is one of the strengths of NTP to combat TB in Bangladesh. PPM is a cross-cutting strategy within the National Strategic Plan that contributes to the national TB control goals and objectives. In June 2024, WHO organized a high-level Program on **Global MAF TB Forum and WHO PPM Meeting** at Dhaka, Bangladesh.



Bi-annual Partners Coordination Meeting at NTP



Bi-annual Monitoring Meeting of Dhaka district

## Conclusion

National TB Control Programme will continue its commitment and engagement with the global community and country strategy and will undertake all necessary measures in line with Global Strategy and Policy Directions in the upcoming years.

