

**Management response on the DGD  
final evaluation of the Damien  
Foundation Bangladesh Program  
2022-2026**

**Steering Committee DFCO Dhaka  
Damien Foundation Bangladesh February 2025**

<b>Management response Damien Foundation Bangladesh</b>		
<b>Title evaluation: Mid-term Evaluation of Directorate General for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid (DGD) funded program, 2022-2026 Damien Foundation Bangladesh</b>		
<b>A. TB</b>		
<b>Evaluation recommendation TB-1:</b> plan and procure two mobile CAD digital CXRs (approx. 200,000 euros total). The timeframe for this project depends on the funding stream and requires training on the use of the equipment.		
<b>Management response:</b> We acknowledge the suggestion of introducing mobile Xray which will enable to enhance active case finding in Damien Foundation area. Currently this activity is not budgeted under the current DGD. We look forward to the availability of grant to introduce the mobile Xray facilities.		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
At least 1 Mobile Xray will be procured for each district supported by DF. (total 5)	Second half of 2025 to 2026 (subject to funding availability)	DF and donors
Radio-technician and additional HR onboarded and trained	Second half of 2025 to 2026 (subject to funding availability)	
Staff trained on mobile Xray event	Second half of 2025 to 2026 (subject to funding availability)	
<b>Evaluation recommendation TB-2:</b> to consider boosting outreach activities ACF with at least two additional TLCA per district within the X-ray-outreach package (as a minimum). The timing, as above, depends on funding, although recruitment ‘per se’ can be done more rapidly.		
<b>Management response:</b> Additional 10 TLCA will be recruited per district considering the additional workload to enhance active case finding and support mobile Xray screening. However, this is subject to funding availability.		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
Additional 2 TLCA for 5 districts (10) for ACF and mobile Xray events	Second half of 2025 to 2026 (subject to funding availability)	Donors via DF

<b>Evaluation recommendation TB-3:</b> Where not done, ensure HIV testing of TB patients in the districts/sub-districts where this is recommended. The timing to implement the recommendation is rapid (1 month), depending mainly on test availability.		
Management response: Bangladesh is low prevalent country for HIV in general population, HIV testing for TB patients are followed according to National TB programme guideline, and the testing kits are supplied by Government. Sometimes we faced a delay in testing kit supply for a short period. HIV testing will be ensured by managing timely availability through Government.		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
Implement HIV testing in clinics following NTP guideline	December 2025 onwards	DF/NTP
<b>Evaluation recommendation TB-4:</b> Refreshing training on TB-IPC in the area of respirators for staff and ACH calculation in the health facilities. This recommendation can be implanted by the second quarter of 2025 following procurement of 1 vaneometer per health unit, and the ACH calculation in health units can follow a pre-established calendar following training. Ideally, given the limited equipment necessary (vaneometer, basically), 1 health staff per unit can be trained on this.		
<b>Management response:</b> Use of vaneometer is a new approach which has been recommended. We will adopt accordingly in DF hospitals. Staff will be trained on ACH calculation.		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
Introduce vaneometer in indoor of 3 DF hospitals	By 2025	DF
<b>Evaluation recommendation TB-5:</b> consider running a residential TB course, taking advantage of the existing facility (Jalchatra Hospital) with a common ‘basket funding’, and taking advantage of creating capacity for PTLD management and ACH measurements.		
Management response: One DF hospital has already facility for training venue with residential space. We will arrange the training in that premises. DF has been conducting training of own staff on that premises. DF will continue to use it for further training. Additional training from Government and other donor support could be leveraged although it is subject to availability of funding.		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
Utilization of training venue at Jalchatra hospital for PTLD and other training.	2025 onwards	DF/NTP/GF/Donors

**Evaluation recommendation TB-6:** Consider publishing relevant evidence on TPT completion, outreach activities, and their contribution to case-finding, as well as the effectiveness and safety of SOTR for MDR-TB.

Management response: DF has already developed a manuscript on outreach activities and that has been accepted for publication in reputed journal IJTLD. DF will also be intending to develop two new papers on TPT and MDR-SOTR experience

Key actions	Time frame	Responsible unit
Article on Out reach, MDR-SOTR and TPT	2025	DF

**Evaluation recommendation TB-7:** consider designing one or more pilot projects for VOT (Video Observed Therapy).

Management response: DF will introduce a pilot on VOT in selected 3 subdistricts and the experience will be scaled up based on the results.

Key actions	Time frame	Responsible unit
VoT to be implemented in 3 subdistricts	2025	DF

**Evaluation recommendation TB-8:** intensify training on children's TB diagnosis, focusing on nasogastric aspiration/gastric lavage and implementation of, e.g. 2, pilot projects whose data can be used both to advocate for the methodology and operational research. The 2 centres can be used as training centres for other staff.

**Management response:** DF will develop linkage with Medical doctors, GPs and paediatricians to enhance child TB diagnosis, focusing on gastric lavage. However, the operation research and training may require support from donor.

Key actions	Time frame	Responsible unit
Orient medical doctors on Child TB including the use of gastric lavage and implement gastric lavage in 2 centers	Mid-2025	DF and NTP

**Evaluation recommendation TB-9:** Consider boosting ACF in the industrial setting by providing 1 Xpert machine and using 1 of the 2 CXR mobile units at regular intervals.

<b>Management response:</b> DF will boost Active case finding in industrial setting. Although Xpert and CXR's access is subject to availability of funding, we will enhance sample transportation of sputum for Xpert testing along with Xray referral. We can also advocate to NTP for Xpert allocation.		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
Increase Xpert testing of samples from industrial settings	2025	DF and NTP
<b>Evaluation recommendation TB-10:</b> Monitor the proportion of bacteriologically confirmed cases vs. non-confirmed ones (sputum smear-negative and extrapulmonary), periodically validating a sample during supervision visits. It is useful to include comments on this in the annual DF report from 2025 (2024 Report) onwards.		
<b>Management response:</b> We monitor the proportion of bacteriologically confirmed cases vs. non-confirmed ones (sputum smear-negative and extrapulmonary), periodically and validate during the supervision including the validation by external expert of DF. We will continue along with including the result in annual report.		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
Monitor and validate different proportion of TB patients	Ongoing	DF and NTP
<b>Evaluation recommendation TB-11:</b> consider implementing at least 1 pilot project implementing TBI diagnosis (e.g., taking advantage of the new skin test like C-TB) and rule out of TB before TPT (e.g., taking advantage of mobile CXR units) in order to create capacity in Bangladesh in the context of operational research. As per existing guidelines, the TPT cascade does not include presently neither the diagnosis of TBI nor the systematic exclusion of TB through CXR. Although correct in the present national context of Bangladesh, and in agreement with WHO guidelines, the future upgrade of TB activities will benefit from the availability of similar models.		
<b>Management response:</b> We appreciate the recommendations on operations research for evidence generation for not only DF, but also for Bangladesh overall. However, these approaches are subject to funding availabilities.		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
Operations research on TBI to initiate TPT	2025-2026	DF, donor
<b>B.Leprosy</b>		
<b>Evaluation recommendation Leprosy-1:</b> Field-Based Electronic Data Capture for Contact Tracing and GIS Mapping.		
<b>Management response:</b> DF introduced electronic data capture under operations research. We will continue the implementation of electronic data and GIS mapping.		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>

Electronic data capture and GIS mapping for Leprosy	Mid 2025	DF
<b>Evaluation recommendation Leprosy-2:</b> Continued and Intensified Case-Finding Activities.		
Management response: We will continue the IECS activities		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
IECS continues for leprosy index patients	Mid 2025	DF
<b>Evaluation recommendation Leprosy-3:</b> Assessment with WHO Leprosy Elimination Framework Classification.		
<b>Management response:</b> Assessment with WHO Leprosy Elimination Framework Classification will require expert support and analysis of data including GIS mapping.		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
Assessment conducted with WHO Leprosy Elimination Framework Classification.	2026	DF, NLep
<b>Evaluation recommendation Leprosy-4:</b> M. leprae Resistance Testing Survey.		
<b>Management response:</b> The survey recommendation is subject to funding which is not available currently. We will initiate a discussion with national leprosy programme and stakeholders.		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
Discuss the survey agenda with NLep and other stakeholder, Leprosy TB coordination committee	2025	DF
<b>Evaluation recommendation Leprosy-5:</b> Leprosy Training Sessions for Health Workers.		
<b>Management response:</b> Training of DF staff and hGovernment ealth workers will be conducted on Leprosy		
<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
Training conducted on Leprosy for health workers	2025	DF, NLep
<b>Evaluation recommendation Leprosy-6:</b> Expansion of Leprosy Research Projects.		

**Management response: DF intends to expand Leprosy research including preventive therapy to expedite the fight against Leprosy which is also subject to fund availability**

<b>Key actions</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible unit</b>
Conduct leprosy research	2025-2026	DF