

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR TUBERCULOSIS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION



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INNOVATION



**World Health
Organization**

Global strategy for tuberculosis research and innovation

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SUMMARY

1. Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading cause of death from a single infectious agent, and one of the leading causes of death from antimicrobial resistance. The Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target for TB, to end the epidemic by 2030, builds on the historic gains made under the Millennium Development Goals. More specific targets for 2030, set out in the WHO Global strategy and targets for tuberculosis prevention, care and control after 2015 (WHO End TB Strategy) (1), include ensuring that no family is burdened with catastrophic expenses as a result of TB, and achieving a 90% reduction in TB deaths and an 80% reduction in TB incidence compared with rates in 2015, with targets for further reductions in deaths and incidence (95% and 90%, respectively) by 2035. An enormous gap persists, however, between current reality and the SDG vision.
2. Robust efforts are needed to sustain and improve on the gains made to date, and to address persistent challenges that have led to uneven progress in the fight against TB (including the complex challenges created by the rise of drug-resistant forms of TB). The End TB Strategy stipulates that major technological breakthroughs are needed by 2025 to enable a rapid acceleration in the rate of TB incidence reduction. Delivering on these targets means prioritizing a multisectoral approach to developing and equitably disseminating the most appropriate medical and programmatic innovations. There are, however, numerous challenges and gaps to be overcome with regard to research in, innovation for, and access to TB vaccines, medicines, technologies and services.
3. The political declaration of the 2018 High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the fight against tuberculosis (2), which followed the WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB in the Sustainable Development Era, held in Moscow in 2017, was a renewed expression of Member States' commitment to strengthening national and global efforts in the fight against TB. This strategy aims to provide countries with a framework to facilitate implementation of the commitments on research and innovation articulated in those declarations.
4. The Global Strategy for Tuberculosis Research and Innovation will support the efforts of governments and other stakeholders to accelerate TB research and innovation, and improve equitable access to the benefits of research. It will do so through clear objectives and recommendations, as set out below:
 - (a) Create an enabling environment for high-quality TB research and innovation to increase capacity to conduct research and use its outcomes equitably, in a sustained and effective manner by: strengthening public-private partnerships; streamlining and harmonizing regulatory processes for the review of research protocols and products; and integrating the expectations, needs, interests and values of civil society into the research and development (R&D) process.
 - (b) Increase financial investments in TB research and innovation by: setting a target contribution for TB research funding; developing innovative and collaborative financing mechanisms to facilitate the



timely development and diffusion of appropriate and affordable biomedical tools and technologies; and setting a target contribution for the conduct of essential social, health system and operational/implementation research to support the effective scale-up of innovative strategies and tools.

- (c) Promote and improve approaches to data sharing to advance scientific discovery, reduce duplication of effort, and facilitate the translation of evidence into national and global policies on TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care.
- (d) Promote equitable access to the benefits of research and innovation by strengthening global and national access to TB vaccines, medicines and diagnostics, and through appropriate governance structures that foster research and innovation as a shared responsibility that is needs driven, evidence based and guided by the core principles of affordability, effectiveness, efficiency and equity, thereby ensuring access for all to essential quality TB health products and services without financial hardship.

- 5. This document is aimed primarily at Member States, particularly ministries of health, science and technology, finance and education. By aligning their national health research and innovation strategies and actions (and related investments) to the framework presented in this strategy, Member States will be able to accelerate progress towards the milestones and targets of the End TB Strategy. They may consider developing a comprehensive national strategy or roadmap for TB research and innovation to coordinate implementation of this global strategy at the national level.
- 6. In the spirit of fast-tracking efforts to end TB, all stakeholders must make concerted efforts and collaborate. This document therefore also makes the case for a unified and aligned response, in which key relevant national and international partners and affected communities support Member States by committing to the investments or partnerships (or both) needed to accelerate innovation.

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