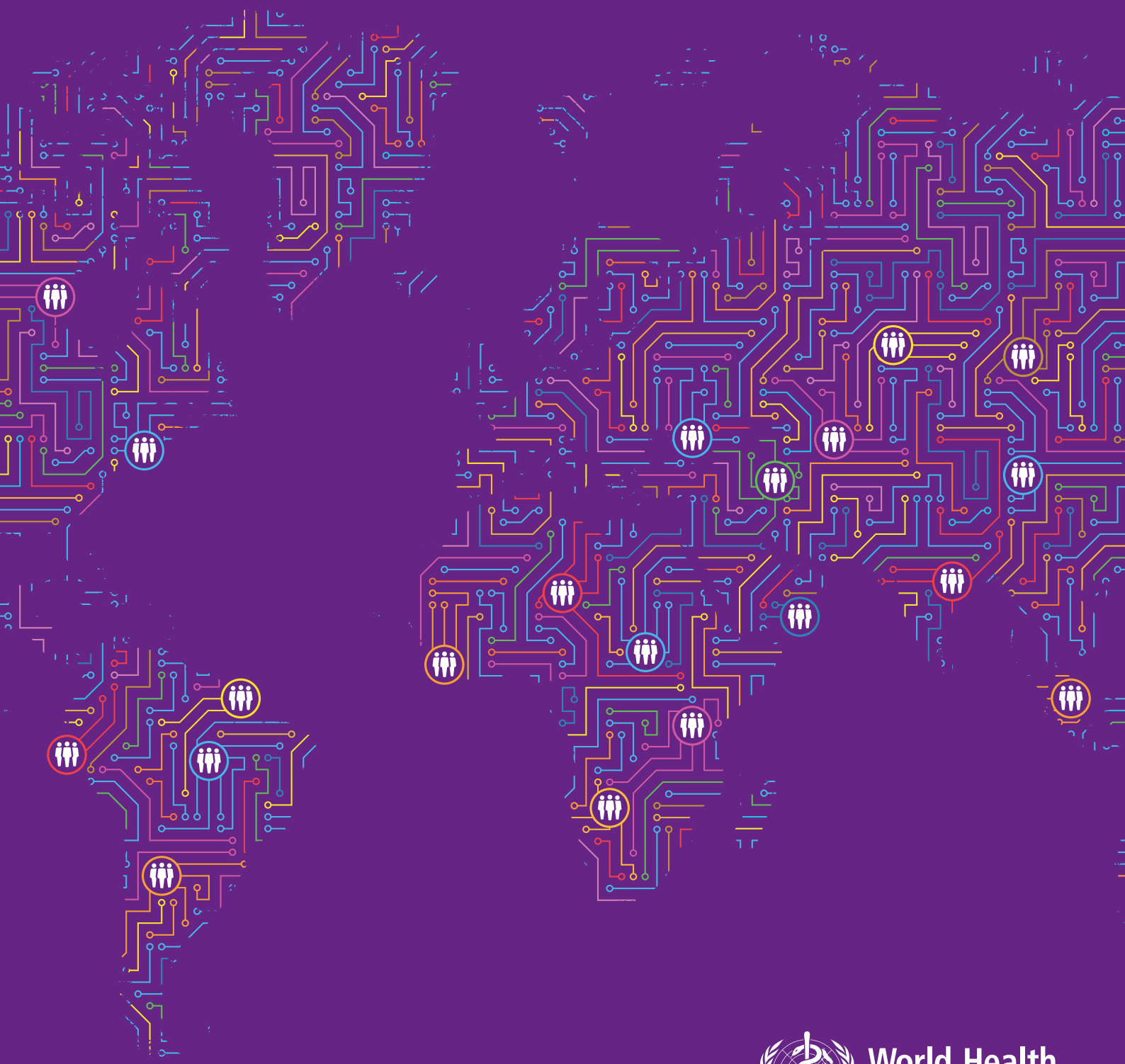


WHO CIVIL SOCIETY TASK FORCE ON TB



Engagement with civil society
as the driver for change



World Health
Organization

WHO Civil Society Task Force on TB: engagement with civil society as the driver for change

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FOREWORD

WHO has proactively strengthened our collaboration with civil society in TB – I believe in the transformative power of civil society to drive change. Change that will impact the lives of millions of people worldwide who are suffering or dying from TB.

Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
WHO Director-General



The revamped Civil Society Task Force on TB has been operational for around one year, although the collaboration has deepened so much in this short period that it seems much longer.

WHO leadership and civil society representatives capitalized on the momentum created at the First WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB in the Sustainable Development Era (Moscow, Russian Federation, 16–17 November 2017), as well as a dedicated meeting between the Director-General and civil society in Geneva in early 2018 and the United Nations High-level Meeting on the Fight Against Tuberculosis (TB) later that year, to build a powerful collaboration under the umbrella of the Task Force. This was launched in late December 2018.

Since then, the Secretariat and the Task Force have undertaken a succession of joint activities. The Task Force continues to bring civil society and affected-community perspectives to the fore in all key efforts and agendas of the WHO Global TB Programme as it works to implement the relevant United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes participation in high-level events such as the stakeholder hearing and the United Nations General Assembly High-level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage in September 2019. The openness of all stakeholders within this process has built trust, increased transparency and allowed us to focus more closely on our common goal to End TB.

While engagement in high-level events helped the Task Force to influence the dialogue, it also helped WHO to include civil society and affected-community voices in its internal processes. Our leadership emphasized the role of the Task Force, as a firm commitment of WHO, in an official communication to the regional directors, highlighting the opportunities of close collaboration with the country offices. The progress on this front is gaining momentum, and the Task Force is increasingly involved in regional and country efforts to accelerate the TB response.

As a natural progression of this process and a clear sign of meaningful collaboration, the Task Force was a prominent actor in World TB Day 2019, with widely disseminated advocacy video messages and a central place in the End TB

Accelerator Package launched on World TB Day, followed by a joint call for the acceleration of action launched by the Task Force and the WHO Director-General in July 2019.

Encouraging progress has been achieved in the development of policy and guidelines. In 2018, WHO's Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis (STAG-TB) recommended a strengthened process and transparency of selection of civil society and affected-community representatives in guideline development groups. In response, WHO established a new procedure to enhance the selection of relevant Guideline Development Group members. A call for expressions of interest was issued by the Secretariat, encouraging the Task Force to explore interest among its members and through their networks in order to include strong civil society and affected-community representatives in guideline development processes.

Looking ahead, WHO will continue to provide the Task Force with resources and a platform for dialogue, outreach, engagement and action. The focus in 2020 is on the production of tools to assess civil society engagement in the Multisectoral Accountability Framework to Accelerate Progress to End Tuberculosis by 2030. Opportunities for capacity-building will include new WHO training on the integration of community-based TB activities into the work of nongovernmental and other civil society organizations (ENGAGE-TB). We will continue to catalyse the engagement of the Task Force members and their partners and networks in national TB programmes and strategic plan reviews. Last but not least, concerted efforts will be made to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation of civil society engagement at all levels of TB response.

We at WHO will continue to increase our efforts in terms of resources and commitment to reach the common goal of Ending TB together, with civil society as a close partner.



Dr Tereza Kasaeva
Director, Global TB Programme
World Health Organization

ABOUT THE WHO CIVIL SOCIETY TASK FORCE ON TB

The WHO Civil Society Task Force on TB provides a platform for discussion and exchange with WHO, building on the commitment of the Director-General, with an emphasis on harnessing the untapped potential for engagement with civil society and affected communities at all levels.

Following commitments made by Heads of State at the first-ever United Nations High-level Meeting on the Fight Against Tuberculosis in September 2018, the role of civil society in driving action and accountability is more important than ever. The Political Declaration of the United Nations High-level Meeting on TB and the WHO End TB Strategy both call for prioritizing the strong and meaningful engagement of civil society and affected communities in all aspects of the TB response.

In this context, the Task Force aims to strengthen collaboration and accelerate progress towards ending TB. The renewed activity of the Task Force is a culmination of the commitment made by the WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to strengthen civil society engagement, as discussed at several consultations with civil society representatives, starting with the First WHO Global Ministerial Conference on Ending TB, which took place in Moscow in November 2017.

The Task Force, whose mandate runs from January 2019 to December 2020, seeks to emphasize key action to drive stronger civil society engagement in efforts to End TB, including:

- ▶ translating WHO TB policies, including the End TB Strategy, into practice by mainstreaming voices of communities affected by TB and their networks at global, regional and country levels;
- ▶ catalysing greater collaboration between civil society organizations, national TB programmes and WHO at all levels in all activities and projects in pursuit of improved TB outcomes, including meaningful engagement of civil society and affected communities in policy development;
- ▶ contributing to the implementation of WHO TB policies, with a particular focus on multisectoral action for social protection and universal health coverage and advocating their inclusion in national TB strategies and plans, national social programmes and political platforms (e.g. parliaments) and regional and global platforms for policy dialogue;
- ▶ promoting and nurturing strong and effective links between community-based actors and national TB programmes or their equivalents, as well as promoting demand for TB prevention, diagnosis, care and treatment services;



- ▶ developing a framework for monitoring and evaluating collaboration among civil society organizations, national TB programmes and WHO at all levels;
- ▶ promoting capacity-building for civil society members and representatives of communities affected by TB to intensify information-sharing, dialogue and consultation on the implementation of WHO TB policies and norms;
- ▶ advocating for increased domestic funding and donor commitments for TB response at all levels.

Fifteen¹ civil society members were selected, with input from an independent selection panel. Selection was based on assessments of individual competencies and experiences, and the process aimed to balance geography, gender and the diversity of communities and civil society representatives.

¹ One civil society member stepped down from the Task Force after its inception.

MEET THE TASK FORCE

SWITZERLAND



TEREZA KASAEVA

- Global health leader
- WHO Global TB Programme Director, leading the response to End TB and responsible for setting norms, policies and standards
- Strong believer in the power of civil society and community representatives, and the importance of engagement to reach the SDGs

WHO is working closely with the Task Force in implementing jointly identified priorities and actions for ending TB. The Task Force is a strong ally in driving forward the End TB response. We need the voice and power of those most affected by TB and civil society to make the ambitious commitments made by Heads of State at the United Nations High-level Meeting a reality.



LANA SYED

- Specialist in community health programming
- Civil society mainstreaming and partnerships
- Monitoring and evaluation and project management

The strength of the Task Force is its diversity: both geographical and in its members' areas of expertise. Its action is anchored in perspectives from high-burden TB countries. Its underlying principles of transparency, open dialogue and mutual trust are increasingly influencing TB policies, decision-making and response at all levels.



ELIZAVETA SAFRONOVA

- Coordination and support of Task Force activities
- Ensuring strong community engagement in national efforts
- Support for WHO country offices

The voices of civil society, communities and youth and their engagement in governmental activities are essential for Ending TB.



BRAZIL

EZIO TAVORA DOS SANTOS FILHO

- Research
- Advocacy
- Building partnerships

The Task Force has a privileged mission to connect WHO and communities in all regions. We know the challenges, fragilities and potential of our health systems. In these difficult days of emergency in a new pandemic, our increased responsibility is to make sure we keep our commitments to End TB. Universal health coverage is the only way.



CAMEROON

BERTRAND KAMPOER

- Dynamics of Francophone Africa's Response to TB (DRAF-TB)
- Community, Rights and Gender
- Health Systems Strengthening

We need fast scale-up of TB preventive treatment, capacity-building for health-care providers, sustained community involvement including TB survivors, reduction of gender and human rights barriers, and attention to ethical considerations. As a Task Force, our mandate is also to support national programmes in strengthening community-based active TB case-finding and human rights approaches to close the notification gap, because currently a lot of efforts are still to be made.



UGANDA

ROGER PAUL KAMUGASHA

- TB advocacy
- Investigative Journalism
- Mobilization of Regional Parliaments

The Task Force is focused on catalysing greater collaboration between governments, civil society, communities and national TB programmes in creating the Multisectoral Accountability Framework for TB and ensuring achievement of commitments on the United Nations High-level Meeting on the Fight Against TB.



SOUTH AFRICA

HARRY HAUSLER

- National network lead
- Strengthened service delivery and technical assistance for TB and HIV prevention

The Task Force is an excellent forum that allows civil society and affected communities to provide input on WHO policies and guidelines to increase access to and quality of patient-centred TB services. Collective action is required to strengthen the TB prevention and treatment cascades for all, including key populations for TB. It is only through united efforts by WHO, governments, civil society and affected communities that we will End TB.



KENYA

EVALINE KIBUCHI

- National partnership
- Parliamentary engagement (regional)
- Advocacy for increase domestic investments

Three ingredients for the End TB recipe with civil society: reduce stigma for improved access to TB services; create more awareness in the entire community; bring in other sectors to identify their role in ending TB. And ensure immediate rollout of research and development products and commodities. End product = well on the path to ending TB by 2030.



TB high-burden country

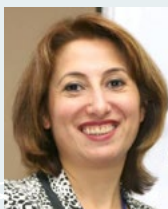


UKRAINE

YULIYA CHORNA

- Regional advocacy
- Boosting political and financial commitments
- Multisectoral engagement

To End TB we urgently need to unite all efforts and ensure that people everywhere have access to effective diagnostics, treatment and care. The Task Force gives us a platform for dialogue with WHO leadership. We share knowledge, needs and lessons to collectively impact policies on what people-centred care should look like.



TAJIKISTAN

JAMILYA ISMOILOVA

- Advocacy
- Boosting community engagement in the region

Do you consider TB as something not very worrying for our global family? If yes, then it is sad. Humanity has gone through tremendous challenges to make it less threatening for our lives. Therefore, we are here to End TB all around the globe.



PAKISTAN

AMIR KHAN

- Research and policy-setting
- Service delivery

The Task Force has the intention and ability to make a significant contribution by effectively engaging civil society and affected communities in achieving the End TB goals and targets.



VIET NAM

ANH TUAN NGUYEN

- Research
- Capacity-building
- TB epidemiology and diagnosis

Women and girls are primary caregivers who protect their families from TB. TB survivors can be TB champions to support their peers. Human resources to End TB are unlimited: it is the Task Force's mission to engage and empower them.



PHILIPPINES

JEFFRY P. ACABA

- TB survivors movement
- Regional advocacy platform
- Capacity-building

The role of the Task Force is critical to ensuring that the global TB response, as framed by the End TB Strategy, is reflective of the priorities of people with and affected by TB.



INDIA

NANDITA VENKATESAN

- TB survivor
- Person living with disability

It's a good step to include TB survivors in the Task Force, and this must be done in the future as well. The Task Force creates an opportunity to provide vital inputs to WHO TB policies and acts as a platform to raise community concerns and demands. We must strengthen engagement with national TB programmes going forward.



BLESSINA KUMAR

- Advocacy
- Regional technical assistance provider
- Boosting voices of TB survivors

The WHO Task Force is a great platform to bring the grass-roots reality home to decision-makers and technical partners. This is a real dream come true, bridging the gap between policy-makers and people affected by TB. We are able to work with WHO offices more closely, voice our concerns from ground level and benefit people who need the care most. To End TB, the affected community should have the space to work with stakeholders as a team.



THAILAND

NYAN WIN PHYO

- Service delivery and technical assistance
- Marginalized populations
- Broader health advocacy

We believe that having Task Force members involved in WHO efforts, with their knowledge and understanding of the real needs and obstacles of TB-affected communities, can defeat TB once and for all.



INDONESIA

ESTY FEBRIANI MKES

- Service delivery and capacity-building
- Advocacy
- Faith-based organization representative

To End TB, we must bring all the stakeholders together and act in synergy to take action. The power of community engagement has been proven by the Task Force. This effort needs to continue to ensure the enabling environment that can support persons with TB until they are cured.

THE TASK FORCE IN A SNAPSHOT

Overview of WHO engagement with civil society representatives through the Task Force

Guideline Development Group
meeting on LF-LAM assay
(diagnostic urine test for the
detection of LAM antigen)

14–16 May 2019
Geneva, Switzerland

Informal consultation meeting between
civil society participants in the First WHO
Global Ministerial Conference on Ending
TB and the WHO Director-General

16 November 2017
Moscow, Russian Federation

Launch of community
training modules for drug-
resistant TB in the WHO
South-East Asia Region

13 May 2019
Delhi, India

Meeting between TB civil society
and the WHO Director-General at
WHO headquarters

15–16 January 2018

Luncheon with TB civil
society representatives
and WHO leadership in
conjunction with civil
society hearing in the run-
up to the United Nations
High-level Meeting on the
Fight Against TB

5 June 2018

Multistakeholder hearing
in the run-up to the United
Nations High-level Meeting on
Universal Health Coverage

29 April 2019
New York

United Nations High-
level Meeting on the
Fight Against TB

26 September 2018
New York

Workshop on End TB
Strategy Pillar 2 in the
Western Pacific Region
2018

11–13 December 2018

World TB Day

24 March 2019

STAG-TB and Task
Force meeting

11–13 June 2019
Geneva, Switzerland
Joint Director-
General-Task Force
advocacy messages
published

Fifth meeting of the
BRICS TB Research
Network

2–3 July 2019
Beijing, China

Task Force movie produced
with advocacy messages;
new Task Force factsheet in
End TB Accelerator Package

Play video

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