

Regional Framework for Action on Implementation of the **End TB Strategy** in the Western Pacific, 2016–2020



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ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
ART	antiretroviral treatment
BCG	bacille Calmette–Guérin (vaccine)
CPT	co-trimoxazole preventive therapy
DST	drug susceptibility testing
DOT	directly observed therapy
DOTS	directly observed treatment, short-course
GDF	Global Drug Facility
HIV	human immunodeficiency virus
HiAP	health in all policies
IPT	isoniazid preventive therapy
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISTC	International Standards for Tuberculosis Care
LED	light-emitting diode
LPA	line probe assay
LTBI	latent TB infection
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MDR-TB	multidrug-resistant tuberculosis
NCDs	noncommunicable diseases
NMRA	national medicine regulatory authority
NSP	national (TB) strategic plan
NTP	National Tuberculosis Programme
PAF	population attributable fraction
PATLAB	Pacific TB Laboratory Initiative
PMDT	programmatic management of drug-resistant tuberculosis
RFLP	restriction fragment length polymorphism
rGLC	regional Green Light Committee
SRL	supranational reference laboratory
TB	tuberculosis
UHC	universal health coverage
VNTR	variable number tandem repeats WHO World Health Organization
WRDs	WHO-recommended diagnostics
XDR-TB	extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis

FOREWORD

Progress in reducing the burden of tuberculosis (TB) in the Western Pacific Region has been remarkable. Since 1990, concerted efforts have reduced TB prevalence by over 55% and TB deaths by over 78%. An estimated 9.5 million lives have been saved since 2000. Today, 1.4 million patients are treated annually. With incidence continuously declining, the Western Pacific Region has achieved the TB-related targets associated with the Millennium Development Goals.

However, much work remains to be done to further reduce the burden of TB. Despite big reductions, TB continues to claim more than 100 000 lives every year in the Region. In 2014, 1.6 million people fell ill with TB, shattering lives and livelihoods. In May 2014, the World Health Assembly adopted a new global strategy for TB, the *End TB Strategy*. The strategy sets ambitious targets: a 90% reduction in incidence and a 95% reduction in mortality by 2035, with no families facing catastrophic costs due to TB by 2020.

Drug-resistant TB is a growing threat to global and regional health security. Health systems with weak drug regulations and substandard care continue to generate drug-resistance. Despite substantial investment, the majority of drug-resistant TB cases are undiagnosed or treated with a low rate of success.

TB concentrates in vulnerable populations, among those least able to cope with the financial burden of illness. Basic TB services are free in nearly all countries in the Region; nevertheless, patients often still suffer heavy financial burden. The *End TB Strategy*'s target of "no affected families facing catastrophic costs due to TB" must be achieved through ensuring financial risk protection for TB patients in line with national efforts towards universal health coverage.

Weak regulatory mechanisms diminish TB control by allowing inadequate TB treatment. Ministries of health are best positioned to coordinate and guide national responses. Under government stewardship, strong regulatory mechanisms should be in place to support TB control, including mandatory disease notification, harmonized drug regulatory policies and standards of care that include infection control.

To achieve the End TB Strategy, intensified research and development are also required. Globally and regionally, a critical need exists for continued advocacy, information-sharing platforms and enhanced TB research investment. Building national research capacity is essential, especially in low- and middle-income countries with substantial TB burden.

The Regional Framework for Action on Implementation of the *End TB Strategy* in the Western Pacific 2016–2020 aims to adapt the End TB Strategy to the particular circumstances of countries and areas in the Region. The endorsement of this framework by the sixty-sixth Regional Committee for the Western Pacific represents the strong commitment of Member States to build and maintain bold national efforts for TB control until the vision of zero deaths, disease and suffering due to tuberculosis is achieved.



Shin Young-soo, MD, Ph.D.
Regional Director

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