



# A GLOBAL ACTION FRAMEWORK FOR TB RESEARCH

IN SUPPORT OF THE THIRD PILLAR  
OF WHO'S END TB STRATEGY

THE  
**END TB**  
STRATEGY



World Health  
Organization



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# PREFACE

## **BREAKING THE TRAJECTORY OF THE TB EPIDEMIC THROUGH RESEARCH**

Over the last 15 years, there was remarkable progress in the fight against TB. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) target of halting and reversing TB incidence by 2015 has been achieved and 43 million lives have been saved. This progress has been possible thanks to a number of factors, including adoption and implementation of better strategies for TB care and control in most countries world-wide, associated with economic growth in many countries, as well as advances in research which allowed the roll out of new diagnostics and drugs for the first time in decades. However, TB is the top infectious disease killer alongside with HIV/AIDS, claiming 1.5 million lives every year and causing suffering to millions more.

As a result of the achievements in combating HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria within the context of the MDGs, the world is now turning its attention towards finishing the job and ending the three epidemics, as part of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), the era of which will start on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016. The new WHO End

TB Strategy, adopted by all WHO Member States at the World Health Assembly in May 2014, serves as a blueprint for countries to end the global TB epidemic. It sets targets to reduce TB incidence by 80% and TB deaths by 90% in 2030, and to eliminate catastrophic costs for TB-affected households by 2020.

To reach these ambitious targets, new revolutionary technology including rapid, simple, point-of-care diagnostics for infection and disease, shorter regimens for infection and disease, and eventually an effective vaccine, are needed. This requires much invigorated efforts in research, along a continuum that links upstream fundamental research to discovery and new tool development, and ultimately to operational and implementation research allowing innovative strategic approaches to be adapted to specific country needs. To facilitate this effort, the World Health Organization, under the leadership of Dr Christian Lienhardt, Dr Knut Lönnroth, Dr Richard Menzies and Ms Diana Weil, together with a wide range of experts and partner agencies, has developed this “Global Action Framework for TB Research” that sets the agenda for key stakeholders at global and national levels. The Framework describes how to strengthen TB research

in all countries, with special emphasis on middle-income countries carrying the largest burden of TB, and how to support and facilitate research at global level.

To achieve the vision of an invigorated and expanded TB research globally, every country needs to ensure that the principles contained in this Framework are adopted and put into practice. In practical terms, this means, first, the development of national strategic plans for TB research based on consensus on the top priorities including capacity-building. Second, it requires the establishment of mechanisms to ensure sufficient domestic funding for TB research, that can be complemented by international financing when necessary. Third, it also requires the mobilization of those public and private institutions that can contribute to research and its financing, the definitaion

of novel ways of mobilizing resources, and the expansion of national and global interactions through the establishment of networks of researchers and institutions at national and international levels.

If all the principles that underpin the Framework are transformed into policies and practice in most countries world-wide, then the chances of breaking the trajectory of the TB epidemic and wiping out this ancient killer will increase exponentially over the next several years.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Raviglione', with a long horizontal stroke extending from the bottom of the signature.

**Dr Mario Raviglione**

Director, Global TB Programme  
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