

# KEY TUBERCULOSIS ASKS

for the UN  
High-Level Meeting on  
Non-Communicable Diseases  
(NCDs)

## SEPTEMBER 2025

Stop TB Partnership

hosted by  
UNOPS

### Top Three Key Asks

- Recognize the growing intersection between non-communicable diseases (NCDs)<sup>1</sup> and tuberculosis (TB)—the world's leading infectious killer. This intersection heightens susceptibility to both TB and NCDs, complicates diagnosis, treatment, and prevention efforts, and increases the risk of worse health outcomes for those affected by either or both conditions.
- Ensure universal access to integrated NCD, TB and other communicable disease services at primary healthcare levels, enabling early detection, co-treatment, and better patient outcomes, leveraging existing infrastructure and achievements that have the potential to deliver gains for people affected by diseases, such as AI-enabled chest X-rays for screening TB and other lung conditions including cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease to implement a person-centered approach, and optimize resource allocation to address the growing burden of co-morbidities.
- Call on donors, governments, the private sector, and other funding sources to increase investments in NCDs, TB, and other communicable diseases, including through national health insurance schemes and workplace programmes, and procurement and supply chain management, to ensure that all affected individuals have access to prevention, diagnosis, and treatment services.



### Financing for NCDs TB and other Communicable Diseases

- Strengthen innovative financing mechanisms, including blended financing models, public-private partnerships, and catalytic funding approaches, to mobilize sustainable resources for integrated care.
- Commit to strengthening social and financial protection schemes, and service coverage for NCDs and TB to achieve UHC and minimize out-of-pocket expenditures for people living with NCDs and people affected by TB, including those with comorbidities.
- Optimally implement regulations or fiscal measures for health including excise taxes on unhealthy commodities such as tobacco, alcohol, and unhealthy food in line with best practices, reducing dust in mining activities, as well as phasing out subsidies for unhealthy commodities as part of a comprehensive approach for increasing potential revenue for the prevention and care of NCDs, TB and post-TB lung disease, silicosis and health systems strengthening.



### Diagnosis, Treatment, and Prevention

- Leverage the Stop TB Partnership's Global Drug Facility to improve access to affordable medicines and diagnostics beyond TB, supporting efforts to combat NCD-related comorbidities.
- Promote equitable access to early diagnosis, medicines and health products, and psychosocial support for NCDs, TB and other health conditions, and reduce the risk of development and spread of drug-resistance, by including them in UHC health benefit packages based on evidence-based clinical practice guidelines, updated essential medicine and diagnostic lists, and rational selection and procurement of products, aligned with national health burdens.
- Harness the potential of integrating innovative diagnosis platforms (including digital technologies and AI) and approaches to ensure simultaneous testing and screening for TB and different NCDs.
- Recognize that tobacco use contributes to nearly 700,000 TB cases annually and is also a major risk factor for NCDs, and accelerate the implementation of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and its Protocol by its parties without any tobacco industry interference and encourage remaining non-signatory countries to become parties to the Framework Convention.
- Ensure the policies that shape food systems promote health and prevent NCDs, TB, and other health conditions, in addition to increasing food security and reducing malnutrition in all its forms with a comprehensive and coherent package of measures and a cross-government approach including the health, agriculture, consumer affairs, trade, and fiscal authorities.



### Health Systems and Accountability

- Fully integrate NCDs, TB and other health challenges into global and national health strategies, health planning instruments and related Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) accountability processes, including National UHC Plans, National Development Plans, and UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).



### Community Engagement and Access to Services

- Create and maintain a safe, open, stigma-free and enabling environment in which civil society and people affected by disease, including key and vulnerable populations, can meaningfully contribute to the formulation and implementation of the NCD and TB response, can identify and overcome barriers to accessing care, and can realize inclusive governance through social participation.
- Promote and institutionalize the meaningful engagement of civil society and people affected by disease, in the development, implementation and monitoring of policies for stronger health governance and accountability.
- Engage and support civil society and people affected by disease, to lead and scale up the implementation of the NCD and TB response, ensuring sufficient structural, technical, financial and other social support services.

1. NCDs refer to the five major non-communicable diseases – cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, chronic lung diseases, and mental health, as well as the hundreds of other conditions that fall under this category

### References:

Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on the Fight Against Tuberculosis  
World Health Organization Global Tuberculosis Report 2024  
WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) Website, accessed 25 April 2025  
NCD Alliance Advocacy Priorities for the 4th High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the prevention and control of NCDs in 2025