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## **To End Tuberculosis by 2030, Do What Hasn't Been Done Yet: Invest in Stopping the World's Oldest Airborne Pandemic**

*Global Plan to End TB could help secure a world without TB for a total of cost of US\$250 billion between now and 2030*

**Geneva, Switzerland (6 July 2022)**—The Stop TB Partnership today unveiled a costed plan for the world to end tuberculosis (TB), the second leading infectious disease killer in the world, after COVID-19. The *Global Plan to End TB 2023-2030* ('Global Plan') outlines the priority actions and estimated financial resources needed to end TB as a global health threat by 2030. It also lays out how, from now up to 2030, a global investment of US\$250 billion could save millions of lives through early diagnosis and treatment of 50 million people with TB; the development, approval and distribution of a new TB vaccine; and the redoubling of efforts so that emerging crises like the COVID-19 pandemic or conflicts, like the ongoing war in Ukraine, do not derail TB programs.

The total amount of funding needed to support the Global Plan's ambitions is the equivalent of every person in the world donating US\$4 per year for the next seven years. The economic return on this investment would amount to US\$40 for every US\$1 invested—and as much as US\$59 for every US\$1 invested in low- and lower middle-income countries. If, instead, the status quo is maintained, TB is expected to continue to kill between 4,000-5,000 people every day, an additional 43 million people will develop TB and the cost in human life and disability would translate to a global economic loss of US\$ 1 trillion.

"The COVID-19 pandemic delivered a crystal-clear wake-up call: that we cannot ignore a disease just because it has been relegated only to the poorest parts of the world," said Dr. Paula Fujiwara, who led the task force in charge of the development of the Global Plan. "With our attention diverted—along with the absence of financial commitments—TB has strengthened its grip on our planet. But we can regain control and meet our commitments to end TB by 2030 as long as we assert our political will now."

The Global Plan maps out how to end TB as a public health challenge by 2030—the year by which governments around the world committed to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG three is to “ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all and all ages,” and one of the targets includes ending the TB epidemic. This goal was the focal point of the 2018 United Nations High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on TB, where member states embraced several global commitments that the world currently is not on track to meet, especially because of the setback to the global TB response due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The global community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic was to plow money and resources into developing diagnosis tools, treatments and vaccines at lightning speed," said Dr. Lucica Ditiu, Executive Director of the Stop TB Partnership. "TB afflicts 10 million people every year, claiming one and a half

million lives, and yet the global response has been tepid at best. A similar airborne infectious disease, TB remains neglected, even though it is a health threat for every single person. It is in the interest of all of us to end TB."

The Global Plan highlights the need to invest in a new TB vaccine, approve it by 2025, and make sure that resources are available so that it can reach adults and adolescents in countries where TB is most prevalent. The only TB vaccine currently available is the BCG vaccine, which was approved more than a century ago and has a very limited impact on disease prevention.

"The proposed investment of US\$ 10 billion in new TB vaccines, a new tool we all are waiting for, is 10 times less than what was injected in the research and development for COVID-19 vaccines. It should be possible to have the TB vaccine, isn't it?" said Dr. Ditiu.

Because future pandemics are also likely to be caused by airborne respiratory infections, the Global Plan positions TB prevention at the center of pandemic preparedness and response efforts.

"From COVID-19 to any number of crises—including needless wars, mass migrations, famines and other natural disasters—the global community has a long list of excuses for letting TB linger," added Dr. Ditiu. "Today, the Global Plan outlines how we can end the disease: invest in the science and make sure everyone can access the results, especially those from impoverished regions where TB is most entrenched."

Between 2023 and 2030, the Global Plan calls for the mobilization of US\$249.98 billion, diversifying the sources of financing from domestic budgets of governments, external donors, development banks, social health insurance, philanthropy, the private sector, and innovative sources of financing. Of this, US\$157.2 billion is for TB prevention and care, US\$52.6 billion for vaccination once new vaccines are available, and an additional US\$40.18 billion to accelerate the development of new TB medicines, treatment regimens and diagnostics.

The funding needs detailed in the Global Plan are essential to recapture lost progress due to COVID-19 and accelerate progress towards ending TB—previous reports from the Stop TB Partnership noted that COVID-19 had cost the world [12 years of progress against TB](#). As a result, the action steps in the Global Plan would speed up research and development, scale-up access to modern tools and make up for years of shortfalls in TB funding. Additional funding needs are also outlined for community-level services, efforts to protect the rights of people with TB and support for a stigma-free and gender-responsive approach to TB care and prevention.

To end TB, we will need an all-hands-on-deck approach from governments and a diverse range of partners from civil society and affected communities and an increasing investment through mechanisms like Challenge Facility for Civil Society to ensure we can play our role" said Choub Sok Chamreun, executive director of Khmer HIV/AIDS NGO Alliance and Co-Chair of Activists' Coalition on TB Asia-Pacific (ACT! AP). "We are treading water instead of making waves, and we are losing too many people as a result. It's time to end TB for good."

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### **About the Global Plan to End TB 2023-2030**

In April 2021, the Stop TB Partnership initiated the process of developing the next Global Plan to End TB from 2023 to 2030, explicitly identifying the resources needed to end the TB epidemic globally. It was developed through a year-long process of extensive and inclusive consultations with all stakeholders, including online and offline consultations. A Task Force with diverse expertise guided the development of the new Global Plan. Read more [here](#).

### **About the Stop TB Partnership**

The Stop TB Partnership is a unique United Nations hosted entity based in Geneva, Switzerland, committed to revolutionizing tuberculosis (TB) space to end the disease by 2030. The organization aligns more than 2,000 partners worldwide to promote cross-sectoral collaboration. The Stop TB Partnership's various teams and initiatives take bold and smart risks to identify, fund and support innovative approaches, ideas, and solutions to ensure the TB community has a voice at the highest political levels and that all TB-affected people have access to affordable, quality, and people-centered care.