Promoting TB Research at country level

*The role of NGOs and other CSOs*

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Why do we need TB research?

• TB diagnosis takes long and even several weeks
• TB treatment takes long and up to 2 years for MDR TB
• Current efforts do not reach 3.6 million TB patients

Microscopy is still the mainstay of TB diagnosis in many settings
Why do we need TB research?

PILLAR 1
Integrated, patient-centered TB care and prevention

PILLAR 2
Bold policies and supportive systems

PILLAR 3
Intensified research and innovation

Government stewardship and accountability, with monitoring and evaluation

Building a strong coalition with civil society and communities

Protecting and promoting human rights, ethics and equity

Adaptation of the strategy and targets at country level, with global collaboration
Developed the Global Action Framework for TB Research

- Promote TB research at country level through national TB research plan and capacity building
- Promote TB research globally through advocacy and research networks
Ten year vision (2016-2025) to promote TB research

- Increased **capacity and leadership** for TB Research in high TB-burden countries
- Increase of **public** and **private financing** for TB Research – especially in middle-income high TB-burden countries
- Increased commitment and financing for **global TB R&D** in high-income countries;
- Enhanced **international collaboration** within the context of the SDG component of 'health research and development'.
What is needed to promote TB research at country level?

- Integrated national TB research network
- National Plan for TB research
- Build and maintain capacity for TB Research
- National funding for TB Research
I. Integrated national TB research network

- **Membership:**
  - NTP/MoH and other Ministries.
  - Academic based researchers
  - International organizations
  - NGOs and other CSOs

- **Funding** – for maintaining secretariat needed

- **Chairpersonship** – ideally rotates between members

- **Functions:**
  - Conduct scientific meetings
  - Set national research agenda
  - Help coordinate projects
II. National Plan for TB research

- Should be developed by all stakeholders, under the TB Research Network

- Content
  - Country-specific TB research priorities
  - Research capacity building - Training and infrastructure
  - Sustained national funding

- Establish mechanisms for M and E of the implementation and expansion of TB research.
III. Build and maintain capacity for TB Research

- Research training at several levels
  - Undergraduate and post graduate
  - Research methods (basic to operational)

- Salaries – for researchers
  - Through competitive mechanisms
  - Through universities or research institutes

- Infrastructure development
  - Labs – for basic research, or to support clinical research (RCTs)
  - Personnel – research coordinators, data analysts, etc
IV. National funding for TB Research

- Part of a national plan for health research funding
- Funding should come from national Government (Ministry of Health, Science & Technology)
- Other sources could include
  - Industry (Pharmaceuticals, Diagnostics)
  - Donors (e.g. Global Fund, bilateral)
  - NGOs
- Funding commitment should be long-term
- Funding mechanism should be open, transparent and peer reviewed
The Role of NGOs and other CSOs at national level

• Active advocacy and participation in the National TB Research Network

• Advocate for the development and implementation of country specific TB Research Plan

• Advocate for government commitment for sustained public funding of TB research

• Participate in the monitoring of the implementation of the national TB Research Plan

• Strengthen community engagement in research (e.g. design and conduct of clinical trials and uptake of results)
Two-prong approach agreed

- **National level**: Advocate for the establishment of National TB/HIV Coordinating body and press for national TB/HIV policy

- **Local level**: work with district health managers and clinicians to commence the provision of integrated TB and HIV services

Participants of the first TB/HIV Advocacy training workshop for HIV CSOs and activists, Nairobi, July 2004

The lessons from TB/HIV NGOs and CSOs engagement, 2004
The two prong approach contributed to the scale up in Africa

HIV testing for TB patients: Africa vs. other regions
We can not end the TB epidemic without research and innovation

More investment and scientific interest is required for TB research

NGOs and other CSOs can play a critical role to promote TB research at global, national and local level
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