Latent Tuberculosis Infection Taskforce
Terms of Reference

Background

WHO recognizes the importance of the management of latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) as an essential element of the End TB Strategy. It is also a crucial component of the Framework towards tuberculosis elimination in low-incidence countries.

To provide guidance in this area, WHO issued the ‘Guidelines on the management of latent tuberculosis infection’ which provides recommendations on a public health approach to implement evidence-based practices for testing and treating LTBI.

It is important to raise the profile of programmatic management of LTBI particularly in low incidence countries, including monitoring and evaluation of implemented activities, as well as promoting research.

To facilitate this, WHO is establishing a task force on LTBI.

LTBI Task Force Tasks

1. Analyse bottlenecks, identify innovative approaches and unblock barriers for implementation of the guidelines at global and national level.

2. Develop a framework to monitor and evaluate the implementation of LTBI management, including standardised indicators.

3. Promote research on LTBI by identifying knowledge gaps, and define priorities in both fundamental and operational research.

4. Contribute to the process for the re-estimation of the global burden of LTBI.

Task Force Structure and Process

- **Membership.** The task force members will be selected based on their individual capacity, skills and expertise in the management of LTBI. The Task Force members will be required to commit to conference calls, occasional face to face meetings
(pending on funding availability), review documents and provide feedback. Membership in the Task Force will not be remunerated and each membership term will be three years with a possibility of extension only for one additional term.

- **Chair and vice-Chair.** The Task Force will have a chair and vice-chair selected among its members. The chair will facilitate meeting and guide discussions. Additionally, s/he will be the spokesperson of the task force for issues related to LTBI to advance the agenda and explore opportunities. The vice-chair will assist the chair in fulfilling these duties.

- **Secretariat.** The TB/HIV and community engagement (THC) unit of WHO Global TB Programme (GTB) will serve as the secretariat of the Task Force. The main activities will include ensuring efficient communication to members, setting meeting agenda, preparing and managing meetings reports, following progress of tasks, facilitating communication and collaboration with other units of GTB department as well as other relevant stakeholders.

- **Sub-groups.** Sub-groups of selected Task Force members may be established to discuss specific technical issues as deemed necessary. Based on specific needs and tasks, additional members may be invited to join sub-groups.