



# CALL TO ACTION 2.0

## A GLOBAL DRIVE TO SCALE UP TB PREVENTION



With 18 months left to reach at least 30 million people with tuberculosis (TB) preventive treatment, as committed by Heads of State at the UN High Level Meeting on TB (UN-HLM) in 2018, there is great urgency to step up health programmatic action. WHO and partners are calling on governments and other stakeholders to keep the promises they made and accelerate coverage of TB preventive treatment for those in need.

TB remains a major cause of disease and death worldwide. TB prevention can save lives and alleviate suffering but is often neglected. The UN-HLM commitments to end TB include a drive to start on TB preventive treatment at least 4 million contacts under 5 years of age and 20 million older contacts, as well as 6 million people living with HIV by the end of 2022. While the target for people living with HIV is expected to have been achieved in 2020, about 22 million contacts have yet to be reached.

Providing TB preventive treatment to reach targets by 2022 will require a massive scale-up of efforts and larger investment. This becomes more relevant given the disruptions in TB care delivery, supply chains and other programme activities due to COVID-19, which add to the urgency. The UN Secretary General in his 2020 Progress Report on TB called for prioritizing and dramatically scaling up access to TB preventive treatment and stronger multisectoral action. It is now urgent for countries and partners to undertake a systematic and invigorated drive to boost the evaluation of people at risk of TB and increase access to TB preventive treatment and other preventive actions.

## **WHO, civil society and other partners are joining forces to make a strong Call To Action for access to TB preventive treatment to those in need, urging governments to undertake the following actions over the next 18 months:**

- Strengthen and finance TB preventive interventions adequately, as a sound investment and in recognition of TB prevention as a human right and entitlement under the rights to health. Achieving the UN-HLM targets for TB preventive treatment alone requires an annual budgetary increase of the order of one third of the US\$ 6.5 billion currently allocated globally for TB activities each year. This would still be well below the US\$ 13 billion considered necessary to fund all TB programme components adequately each year worldwide
- Expand outreach by giving TB preventive treatment to on average 3 people in contact with each person with bacteriologically confirmed TB
- In order to achieve the UN-HLM targets on TB preventive treatment, fully activate systematic screening to find more people with TB and in need of TPT. In addition to people with TB presenting to healthcare services, 6 million more can be found by active TB case finding among household contacts, residents of informal settlements and other high-risk populations

For this to happen, countries, civil society and partners need to work together on key actions:



Strengthen TB case finding in household contacts of all ages and other high-risk groups, such as residents of informal settlements, to accelerate progress, in synergy with efforts for COVID-19 pandemic mitigation



Embrace and increase access to WHO recommended diagnostic technologies such as digital radiography, computer-aided detection software, molecular rapid diagnostic tests and tests of TB infection



Rapidly reinforce programme capacity to ensure affordable access to WHO-recommended shorter TB preventive treatment regimens for people of all ages



Apply successful strategies being used in the large-scale roll-out of TB preventive treatment among people living with HIV to increase coverage for all populations in need



Launch a large-scale communication and advocacy campaign to create demand for TB preventive treatment, and to enhance its acceptability among those who need it as well as healthcare providers



Continue to strengthen all key measures that influence prevention, including improved case finding in primary care, TB infection prevention and control, ending stigma, poverty alleviation, social protection and universal health coverage



Partner with and mobilize communities to generate demand for TB preventive treatment and other prevention services, and to strengthen monitoring and delivery systems



Support research and innovation on TB prevention, especially on vaccine development