

Financing and policy innovation to advance TB vaccines through licensure: A G20 policy proposal

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Background: TB vaccine research and development (R&D) is underfunded and equitable access is not guaranteed in the absence of immediate political action and resolve. The G20 includes several high TB burden countries (HBC), some of the largest TB R&D funders, and countries with significant clinical trial capacity. As such, it is well positioned to lead TB vaccine R&D and delivery through joint, sustained, scaled up investments.

Methods: The authors developed two T20 policy briefs proposing recommendations to enhance G20 leadership and bring TB vaccines through licensure: Investment Toolbox to Advance TB Vaccine R&D through Joint Action (2023); and Elevating Leadership of HBC G20 States in TB Vaccine R&D and Delivery (2024). The briefs were informed by extensive literature research and aligned with global initiatives for TB and TB vaccine R&D.

Recommendations: Recommendations concern two key domains and account for a country's economic and R&D capacities and disease burden. Firstly, G20 states can mobilize joint investments by: meeting Fair Share targets; developing middle-income HBC business cases; providing advanced market commitments for low-income HBCs; and utilizing innovative finance. Secondly, the G20 can establish an enabling environment through: generating visible political leadership and accountability; attaching access conditions to public funding; optimizing financing and R&D practices; harmonizing regulatory pathways; and integrating TB in relevant health agendas (e.g., AMR).

Conclusion: By acting on these proposals, the G20 can leverage its significant financing, R&D, manufacturing, regulatory and delivery capacities to secure the resources and infrastructure needed to deliver new TB vaccines this decade, saving millions of lives and billions of dollars. Members should assess and implement context-specific approaches to maximize impact while collaborating to meet global targets, such as those in the UN High-Level Meeting on TB political declaration.

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Conflicts of Interest

None



