

The TB Vaccine Advocacy Roadmap (TB Vax ARM): A global case study of advocacy best practice

Shaun Palmer¹, Maite Suarez¹, Jennifer Woolley², David Lewinsohn², Kate O'Brien³, Rhea Lobo⁴, Sahera Ramzan⁵, Alesia Matuskevych⁶, Thea Hutnamon⁷, Ezio Távora⁸, Yuliia Kalancha⁹, Karen Hoehn¹⁰, Mike Frick¹¹
¹IAVI, Netherlands; ²Stop TB Partnership Working Group on New TB Vaccines, USA; ³We Are TB, USA; ⁴Stop TB Partnership Board, Australia; ⁵RESULTS UK, UK; ⁶Global TB Caucus, Portugal; ⁷Stop TB Partnership Indonesia, Indonesia; ⁸REDE-TB, Brazil; ⁹TB Europe Coalition, Ukraine; ¹⁰Treatment Action Group, Belgium; ¹¹Treatment Action Group, USA



The TB Vax ARM, formed in 2021, is the first globally coordinated advocacy coalition committed to advancing TB vaccine research and development. The network, selected as a WHO TB civil society best practice, includes affected community, civil society, nonprofit, and research representatives. The TB Vax ARM leads collaborative, global advocacy initiatives aligned with ongoing research and policy efforts.

Approach

The core group conducts activities across four complementary areas:

- **Convening** (webinars, regular meetings, conferences)
- **Analysis** (policy briefs)
- **Advocacy** (campaigns, targeted bilateral engagement with decision makers, civil society input to consultations)
- **Capacity building** (research literacy, fellowships)

Convening

- Comprises over 250 members from over 50 countries
- Webinars sharing information on the latest advocacy opportunities and developments in TB vaccine research, routinely reaching 150 people
- Meet with relevant stakeholders, including decision making and financing bodies
- Contributions to the programming of the 6th and 7th Global Forum, and the 2022, 2023, and 2024 Union Conferences

Analysis

- Utilize existing evidence from across the TB vaccine and global health fields to inform our advocacy
- Published two T20 policy briefs proposing recommendations to enhance G20 leadership in TB vaccines through joint, sustained, scaled up investments in research and access
- Issued a policy brief on the need for new TB vaccines to tackle antimicrobial resistance

Join the **TB Vax ARM discussion session** on Thursday, 10 October from 14:00-15:00

Advocacy

- Informed the vaccine commitments at the 2023 TB UN High-Level Meeting (HLM), including via an open letter campaign to member states endorsed by almost 1200 signatories from 90 countries that was developed by participants of the 2023 advocacy fellowship
- Previous campaigns targeted G20 Ministers of Health and Finance (2021) and European leaders (2022), with the former profiled by the Guardian Global Development



Three wins to deliver new TB vaccines this decade



Measurable increases in national and joint, multilateral funding and financing for TB vaccine R&D



Explicit and transparent commitments and plans from developers and governments to ensure equitable access



TB vaccines and TB R&D integrated into AMR and other relevant global health agendas

Capacity building

- Two online fellowships with community members, advocates, and early career researchers from high burden countries have been conducted, with the most recent developing the HLM open letter campaign
- Coordinated the 7th Global Forum Community Engagement Committee and Community Declaration

IT'S TIME TO SECURE A HEALTHIER TOMORROW INVEST IN TB VACCINE R&D



Participants of the 2023 TB Vaccine Advocacy Fellowship

Conclusion

The TB Vax ARM represents a unique and valuable addition to the field, uniting the voices of TB-affected communities and civil society to raise awareness of TB vaccine research and convey the urgency of developing new TB vaccines to governments, funders, and decision makers. The network offers a dedicated platform to engage diverse partners around the world to amplify global advocacy calls and strengthen skills and capacities.

Learn more via our poster on **"Financing and policy innovation to advance TB vaccines through licensure: A G20 policy proposal"**

Acknowledgements

We share our gratitude to all the TB Vax ARM supporters and collaborators around the world for helping cultivate this global community and informing and strengthening our shared call.

Contact me

Shaun Palmer
 Communication & Advocacy Specialist, IAVI; Co-lead, TB Vax ARM
spalmer@iavi.org



Learn more

Check out our resources



bit.ly/TBVares

Subscribe to the TB VAX ARM



newtbvaccines.org/join-tbvaxarm/