



Community Declaration of the 7th Global Forum on TB Vaccines

Distinguished leader,

On behalf of representatives of the global TB community, including the 7th Global Forum Community Engagement Committee and the undersigned, we hereby share the demands of TB affected communities for the development and implementation of new TB vaccines.

It is an injustice that over 3,500 people die from TB every single day. Most of these lives are lost in communities already vulnerable to exploitation due to deep inequalities. TB is a stigmatized disease that shatters families and ruins lives. It is unacceptable that we still rely on the century-old Bacillus Calmette–Guérin (BCG) vaccine, which is largely ineffective in adolescents and adults, among whom 90% of TB disease occurs. **The fact that we still do not have effective TB vaccines is a clear sign that affected communities are not a real priority. It is time to change the story.**

Ending TB is about ensuring everyone gets a fair shot at a healthy life. To achieve this by 2030, we need multiple new vaccines that work for everyone, are available, accessible, and acceptable to all no matter where they live, and are affordable, especially to high burden countries. **We must urgently fast-track TB vaccine research, particularly crucial late-stage trials, while at the same time preparing for their quick and equitable distribution.**

New TB vaccines will save millions of lives and protect the wellbeing and prosperity of billions. TB vaccines can also help control drug-resistant TB and build stronger health and research systems. Investing in TB vaccines now will boost economic growth and improve public health, while leaving the world better prepared to respond to future airborne pandemics.

It is a shame that funding for TB vaccine research has never passed \$145 million a year. Our leaders need to act fast to keep their promises made at the 2023 United Nations (UN) High-Level Meeting on TB to **develop and deliver at least one new TB vaccine by 2028.** To reach this goal, UN Member States committed to **invest \$5 billion annually in TB research by 2027, with \$1.25 billion for vaccines.** Annual funding must therefore increase by almost 10-fold.

We need to overcome chronic underfunding and speed up development and access.

- **We demand joint, increased, and sustained funding of TB vaccine research and rollout, with coordinated paths for their accelerated approval and implementation.** All countries should contribute their fair share, including high burden countries.
- **We demand that vaccines developed with public funds are universally and equitably accessible, and affordable to all countries.** This means attaching access requirements to public funding, supporting the necessary technology transfer, and removing unfair intellectual property barriers.
- **We demand an independent monitoring and evaluation mechanism to ensure accountability of all commitments and investments in TB research.**
- **We demand strengthened research, manufacturing, and delivery capacity in high burden regions to ensure their leadership** in TB vaccine research and implementation.



- **We demand that the WHO TB Vaccine Accelerator Council fully uses its influence by leading a campaign to raise the resources needed for TB vaccine research and rollout.**

We must listen to communities, address their concerns and needs, build public trust and ownership, and guarantee a fair process to access new TB vaccines.

- **We demand that communities are meaningfully involved at every step of TB vaccine development and rollout, not just as trial participants, but as decision makers.** Their involvement must follow the highest ethical standards to ensure fairness and transparency and shape activities like trial design, post-trial access, and pricing.
- **We demand that research includes all populations, age groups, and regions.** This includes pregnant and lactating women and people, children, people living with HIV, prisoners, people in extreme poverty, homeless people, people with disabilities, healthcare workers, and those who previously had TB. All high burden regions must be represented in clinical trials, including Latin America which is missing from ongoing studies.
- **We demand a review of ethical standards and the prioritization of socio-behavioral research to guarantee participation of those most at risk in trials and rollout.** We must uphold the Human Right to enjoy and share the benefits of scientific progress and its applications. No one should be left behind.
- **We demand that new TB vaccines are part of a comprehensive package of care that addresses all aspects of TB.** This must include support for mental health, finances, and nutrition, address related health issues such as HIV and diabetes, reach remote and marginalized communities, and be available through both public and private providers.
- **We demand clear, simple communication in local languages, shared through community networks.** This is key to help people understand clinical trials and the benefits of new TB vaccines. This will tackle vaccine hesitancy, mistrust, and misinformation, while also building demand for vaccines in our communities.

The world must not prioritize pharmaceutical profits over the lives and wellbeing of people. Billions of people will benefit from investments in new TB vaccines. We stand in solidarity with all people affected by TB in demanding our leaders and decision makers immediately mobilize the political will and investments needed to make new TB vaccines a reality this decade. There is no time to lose – millions of lives depend on your action.

Yours sincerely,

The undersigned