USAID GLOBAL ACCELERATOR TO END TB:
TB CONTACT INVESTIGATION EFFORTS

USAID's Global Accelerator to End TB was launched in September 2018 during the United Nations High-Level Meeting on TB (UNHLM). It was designed to increase commitment from and build the capacity of governments, civil society, and the private sector to accelerate countries' progress in achieving the UNHLM global TB targets, including diagnosing and treating 40 million people and providing TB preventive treatment to 30 million people by the end of 2022.

Achieving these targets requires significant investments in scaling up active case finding (ACF) and TB Infection (TBI) interventions via:

1. Effective case-finding strategies, such as scaling up TB contact investigations (TBCI).

2. Comprehensive approaches in developing policies and operationalizing and accelerating the use of TB infection diagnostics and shorter preventive treatment regimens.

Low TB case detection and notification rates resulted in continued TB transmission and remain a global challenge. More than three million TB cases are "missed" annually, meaning one-third of individuals with TB are not properly diagnosed, treated, and/or reported. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic significantly disrupted efforts to combat TB and achieve the UNHLM global targets.

> **In 2020, about four million TB cases were "missed," and TB deaths have increased for the first time in a decade.**

In response to these challenges, USAID has developed a Programmatic Implementation of TBCI manual/toolkit and a TBCI e-learning course (enrollment key TBCItest) for frontline workers, and provides additional technical support for high TB burden countries to integrate TBCI into existing and future programs.

KEY APPROACHES TO ACCELERATE TB CONTACT INVESTIGATION ACTIVITIES

USAID supports a wide range of TB case-finding activities by implementing partners' technical assistance and direct program support at national, sub-national, and community levels in priority countries. Key approaches include:

- Provide technical assistance for implementation of all aspects of a country's TBCI program.

- Foster person-centered, evidence-based, and locally driven TBCI interventions.

- Support an enabling environment for TB prevention (policy, guidelines, and regulatory frameworks).

- Foster multi-sectoral coordination, collaboration, and contribution to TB prevention efforts.

- Ensure strong TB program capacity for community TB care activities, referral, and rapid diagnosis.

- Strengthen a continuum of care for TB diagnosis and treatment in children and vulnerable people with comorbidities.

- Advance engagement of individuals with TB, communities, and civil society in TB prevention.

- Advance performance evaluations and measurements of targets.

- Support advocacy for commitment to TB prevention to end TB.

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PROGRAMMATIC IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR TB CONTACT INVESTIGATION

To support the integration of TBCI specific activities into a country's TB portfolio, USAID works with National TB Programs to develop country-specific TBCI Implementation Plans. These implementation plans provide a strategic framework of interventions for TBCI and help countries prioritize TBCI interventions that will make progress towards the goal of detecting missing TB cases and identifying contacts in need of TB preventive treatment (TPT). Further, these implementation plans support the systematic scale-up of TBCI activities and provide USAID-supported countries the necessary technical support to operationalize the current WHO and USAID guidance on TBCI, TPT, and other internationally accepted standards.

The following key strategic interventions will help countries integrate, implement, and scale up TBCI and TPT within their TB portfolio.

1. Secure political commitment at national and sub-national levels to integrate *Programmatic Implementation of TBCI (PI-TBCI)* into national TB programs as a standard practice, based on evidence and part of policy development and clinical practice.

2. Using the existing TB Prevention strategy as outlined in countries' TB Roadmaps, to develop country-specific TBCI implementation plans (Strategic Framework of Interventions) with detailed information on the financial, technical, and management support of prioritized TBCI interventions.

3. Operationalize the PI-TBCI Guidance document with strategic approaches, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), outcome indicators, and a detailed implementation plan with budget.

4. Develop or strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) tools for data collection, analysis, sharing of key TBCI indicators, and program-based operational research to generate evidence and inform policy.

5. Develop training and reference materials for program managers and activity implementers at health facility and community levels.

6. Strengthen local capacity for TB program management and technical leadership to ensure optimal implementation of TBCI.

7. Integrate comprehensive and effective TBCI services into the basic TB programming with community-centered strategies at the core of the services.

8. Identify opportunities to engage key stakeholders (NGOs, CSOs, community services) and the private sector using context-specific approaches.

9. Identify opportunities to address funding gaps using domestic resources in addition to the catalytic donor funds by advocating for political commitment, mobilizing, and coordinating resources through established partnership platforms.

10. Integrate TBCI efforts with COVID-19 activities and other disease-focused programs.

11. Provide continuous M&E and make strategic adjustments as needed to TBCI and TPT activities to help countries achieve the UNHLM targets.