



Global Investment
Plan (GIP)

Global Partnership
Agreement (GPA)

Global Drug
Facility (GDF)

A BRIEF ON THE GLOBAL INVESTMENT PLAN FOR TB ELIMINATION

To mobilize action and resources to beat back the global tuberculosis epidemic

Why do we need to address diseases of poverty?

Three communicable diseases have their greatest impact on the poor—tuberculosis (TB), malaria and HIV. Together they account for 10% of the global disease burden, causing immense suffering, economic loss and social distress—devastating families, communities and nations. Much of this burden is preventable with the availability of effective and affordable interventions such as DOTS*. Addressing diseases of poverty is a means of empowering the poor with physical, social and economic well-being.

Why the elimination of tuberculosis?

There are six good reasons why TB elimination should be a high priority:

- **TB causes an immense burden of disease:** two billion people carry the TB infection—every year eight million people develop TB disease and nearly two million people die of TB.
- **TB is a serious obstacle to development:** 75% of people with TB are in the economically productive age groups of 15–54. The impact on economic and social development is devastating. Families are impoverished and stigmatized, and the vicious cycle of poverty and disease is perpetuated.
- **A cost-effective intervention is available:** DOTS is an effective and affordable strategy for controlling TB. It works even in resource-poor settings—a course of treatment to save a life costs as little as US\$ 11. DOTS is a good investment.
- **DOTS builds stronger public health services:** the strategy is based on two principles—diagnosis and cure of people with infectious TB. Ensuring that these principles are applied requires well-developed management systems for laboratories, logistics and information. These systems also provide the basic requirements for efficient health services.
- **The window of opportunity for action is closing rapidly:** the HIV/AIDS epidemic and multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) emergencies threaten the costs and security of future disease control strategies.
- **Globalization brings heightened interest in eliminating TB:** increased travel and migration increases opportunities for transmission of infection across national borders. Elimination of TB in industrialized countries is dependent on elimination in other parts of the world.

Over the past decade the ground has been prepared for a massive expansion of effort against TB. Countries large and small have adopted DOTS, national resources and international assistance allocated to TB have increased, and research interest in TB has been rekindled. However, progress has been too slow and current resources for eliminating TB remain insufficient. The lack of financial and human resources to expand DOTS is not the only problem, but it is the most significant. Worldwide only one in every four people with TB is treated in a DOTS programme.

* *Directly Observed Treatment, Short-course (DOTS) is a health management system that assures that people suffering from TB are diagnosed and that health workers are accountable for successfully curing each patient.*

What actions are needed?

A clear description of the needs, action and funds required is essential to support the mobilization of additional resources and strategies for TB elimination. A Global Investment Plan would describe the urgent actions needed and resources required in order to reduce the epidemiological, economic and social impacts of TB. It would specifically focus on the most urgent actions needed to expand DOTS in most of the world's highest burden countries. Prominent would be: actions to substantially increase access to TB drugs and meet social mobilization, capacity building and operational research needs; steps required to aggressively address the impacts of the dual TB/HIV epidemic; requirements to build effective responses to MDR-TB emergencies in several parts of the world; and highest priority short and long-term research needs focusing on the development of new diagnostic tests and drugs.

Why would countries and organizations benefit from a Global Investment Plan?

Countries, their governments, nongovernmental organizations and other agencies would benefit from a Global Investment Plan that lays out investment priorities and supports domestic resource mobilization strategies. Governments would find the Investment Plan a valuable tool to help rationalize the use of existing resources to ensure that current expenditures are directed to meet the highest priority needs. Donors and international organizations would benefit from an instrument that guides new investments in high-impact activities so that new contributions meet high-priority needs.

Would resources mobilized through a Global Investment Plan replace current funding flows?

No. A Global Investment Plan would be used to support the mobilization of additional resources needed for TB elimination. It is neither intended to replace existing resource flows nor existing financial assistance agreements between donors and countries.

How would additional resources be directed?

As a result of the Global Investment Plan, countries could devote additional national resources to TB control, current and new donors could increase direct external aid to countries in need, and a Stop TB Fund could be established to support pooled funding at the international level. The major role of the Stop TB Fund could be to accelerate the channelling of funds and technical assistance to areas of greatest need. A component of the Stop TB Fund might be a Global Drug Facility.

How would a Global Investment Plan relate to a Global Partnership Agreement?

The relationship would be complementary. Both would be developed under the umbrella of the Stop TB Initiative. A Global Partnership Agreement would lay out the international consensus on strategies, objectives and best practices for TB control and it would support the development of specific action plans by countries and organizations, describing how they propose to meet agreed goals and objectives. The Global Investment Plan would reinforce the goals and objectives of the Global Partnership Agreement and would describe the major unmet needs and resource gaps that exist globally and in many high-burden countries.

How would a Global Investment Plan be developed?

The plan would be developed in collaboration with technical experts, managers, academics and activists from around the world. An editorial committee of international experts would advise a small writing team based in the Stop TB Initiative and Harvard Medical School, and would consult extensively with experts worldwide. Follow-up to the plan's publication would include a donors meeting and assistance to high-burden countries in drafting their action plans.

C O N T A C T T H E S T O P T B I N I T I A T I V E

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