

Q & A

Why has the Stop TB Partnership Board made the decision to end the administrative relationship of the Partnership with WHO?

The Stop TB Partnership's mandate is to coordinate its partner organizations in the global fight against TB and lead the global advocacy effort to raise awareness, funding and action against TB. In 2012 and 2013 the STB Board agreed on new operational strategy, with input and support from WHO. It also established a new work plan and reformed its governance. In light of this, it was deemed important for the Partnership to acquire a greater degree of autonomy, which was expressed through the adoption by the Board of certain principles designed to support a more independent implementation of the revised work plan and operational strategy. The Board – after long discussions with WHO – has found that the Partnership will be better able to serve its mandate by purchasing administrative services from a specialized provider, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). UNOPS, which is a dedicated operational service provider, is well equipped to support the grant and procurement procedures required by the Global Drug Facility and TB-Reach, two entities which form part of the Stop TB Partnership. This new arrangement will clarify the complementary, supportive and mutually reinforcing, but separate roles of WHO and the Partnership.

How will WHO and the Stop TB Partnership collaborate in the future?

WHO will continue as a central partner – and as such will continue to sit on the Partnership's Coordinating Board and its Executive Committee. As the agency responsible for setting global policy and targets, WHO will continue its leading role in the fight against TB, and the Partnership will draw on its expertise, use its global data and information as the base for its own advocacy material and will coordinate its actions and initiatives closely with WHO.

Where will the Partnership be located?

The Partnership will stay in Geneva, but will move from WHO premises to offices subleased from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in the Blandonnet area of the city.

Does this mean the Partnership will become part of the Global Fund?

No. The Partnership will be administratively hosted by UNOPS. This means that everybody who works at the Partnership will be UNOPS staff members, and the Stop TB Partnership will, through its UNOPS linkage, continue to exist within the UN system. The Global Fund is an important and central member of the Partnership. However, the office location is simply a practical arrangement determined by rental costs. It will not affect the structural relationship between the Global Fund and the Partnership.

About the Stop TB Partnership

The Stop TB Partnership, founded in 2001 in collaboration with WHO, has as its mission is to serve every person who is vulnerable to TB and ensure that high-quality treatment is available to all who need it.

Stop TB's more than 1000 partners are a collective force that is transforming the fight against TB in more than 100 countries. They include international and technical organizations, government programmes, research and funding agencies, foundations, NGOs, civil society and community groups and the private sector.

The Partnership operates through a secretariat located in Geneva, Switzerland and eight working groups whose role is to accelerate progress on access to TB diagnosis and treatment; research and development for new TB diagnostics, drugs and vaccines; and tackling drug resistant- and HIV-associated TB. The secretariat is governed by a coordinating board that sets strategic direction for the global fight against TB.

From its founding through 2014 the Partnership Secretariat was hosted and administered by WHO. From early 2015, the Partnership will be administered by UNOPS, and the offices of the Secretariat will be located within the premises of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

About the WHO Global Tuberculosis Programme

WHO's current priorities in TB are set out in the 2014-2015 Programme Budget and focus on normative, surveillance, technical support and partnership roles as crucial elements in controlling the TB epidemic. In this regard, WHO's Global TB Programme ("GTB") prioritizes building capacity to implement the current recommended global TB strategy at the national and regional levels in order to reach vulnerable populations, ensure adequate access to new tools and guidelines for prevention and treatment of all forms of TB and access to first – and second-line treatment, and strengthen surveillance systems and use of data. Furthermore, GTB provides Member States with updated and consolidated policy and technical guidance in relation to TB care, control and prevention and further works with Member States to adapt such policies and guidance in the national and regional context. These priorities are underpinned by GTB's core functions, reflecting overall WHO core functions, namely the:

- *Provision of global leadership on matters critical to TB;*
- *Development of evidence-based policies, strategies and standards for TB care, prevention, and control, as well as related implementation monitoring;*
- *Provision of technical support to Member States, in order to catalyse change, and build sustainable capacity through joint work with WHO country and regional offices;*
- *Monitoring of the global TB situation, and the measuring of progress in TB care, control, and financing;*
- *Shaping of the TB research agenda and stimulation of the generation, translation and dissemination of valuable knowledge;*
- *Facilitation and engagement in partnerships for TB action.*