

1 **Chapter 4: Key Collaborating Partners: Civil Society, Communities, and the Private Sector**

2
3 **SUMMARY**

4
5 To find and treat all people with TB and achieve the End TB Strategy milestones, countries must
6 engage with civil society, community organizations and the private sector as partners at all stages
7 of planning and implementing the response to TB. Civil society and community-based
8 organizations must play a key role in the planning and provision of TB care by increasing
9 awareness; active case finding; improving access to care; encouraging and supporting people
10 with TB during the course of treatment; providing psychosocial support and reducing stigma;
11 monitoring programmes; and facilitating community engagement in research and development.
12 Private health care providers and businesses have an important role to play in providing,
13 developing and partnering to deliver quality and affordable TB care, new tools, resources and
14 expertise. Private health care providers and businesses have an important role to play in
15 providing, developing and partnering to deliver quality and affordable TB care, new tools,
16 resources and expertise. Investments are required to strengthen health and community systems
17 and public–private partnerships. A change in mindset along with an enabling environment is
18 needed in order to meaningfully engage with communities and unlock the full potential of the
19 private sector.

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21 **PRIORITY ACTIONS**

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23 National TB Programmes:

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25 • Strengthen community health systems so that quality-assured TB care and support can be
26 accessed locally.
27 • Engage communities from the start in designing and planning TB programmes and
28 interventions, involving them as active partners in the implementation and monitoring of
29 TB services.
30 • Partner with the private sector and labour unions toward scaling up access to TB care,
31 establishing workplace TB policies and initiatives, and improving community outreach.
32

33 Donors and impact investors:

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35 • Increase funding civil society and community organizations as part of efforts to end TB.
36

37 Private industry and businesses:

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39 • Adopt non-discriminatory recruitment and retention policies, promote infection-free and
40 safe workplaces, and provide their staff and families with good-quality and affordable TB
41 diagnostic, treatment and notification services.
42 • Partner with national TB programs, TB organizations and community organizations in
43 corporate social responsibility initiatives.
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45 **Civil society and communities as partners in the response to TB**

46

47 The UN High Level Meeting on TB helped to shift the global approach to TB further away from
48 “controlling” the epidemic to an approach that is required to end the epidemic. Far from the
49 historical top-down approach through which TB was meant to be controlled, *ending* TB is
50 radically different. Ending TB embraces an approach that empowers patients, survivors and
51 communities and broader civil society as valuable partners.

52
53 Civil society and community-based organizations—including patient-based organizations,
54 nongovernmental organizations, faith-based organizations, youth groups and community
55 volunteers—are fundamental partners in the drive towards universal access to TB care.
56 Community health workers and TB survivor peer-support networks both provide vital support to
57 health systems in many resource-poor countries—and they can reach communities that are
58 hardest to reach. Furthermore, they act as a voice for the most vulnerable, advocating for the
59 needs of TB patients and advising on interventions that are feasible in their specific setting.
60 Without their active involvement in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of TB
61 programmes, the predictable result is often top-down disease programmes that might be aligned
62 with global and national strategies but remain inefficient because they lack an understanding of
63 the local context, community dynamics, and ownership.

64
65 To end TB, countries need to continue strengthening community health systems, where quality-
66 assured health services are accessible locally, and where the community system is to both higher
67 levels of the health system and to the national TB response. Civil society and community
68 organizations must be engaged from the start in planning TB programmes, and involved as active
69 partners in the implementation and monitoring of TB services. For example, social media and
70 social audit mechanisms should be more widely used to enable patients, civil society
71 organizations and community members to contribute to improving services and monitoring
72 progress. For example, WHO’s Engage-TB guidance, developed in 2012, offers guidance to
73 National TB Programmes on how they can effectively work with NGOs and civil society
74 organizations that are not already working on TB.¹

75
76 A key challenge in engaging communities and civil society is the relatively few individuals and
77 networks committed to ending TB. This under-representation also has an impact on national and
78 global planning, where the voices of civil society and communities are not always heard.

79
80 This is changing, however. Networks of TB survivors have grown organically in recent years,
81 including TB People, TB Proof and We Are TB, adding to community coalitions such as the
82 Global Coalition of TB Activists, the TB Community Advisory Board and the TB Europe
83 Coalition. There is a need to further enroll and build the capacity of TB survivors to engage in
84 advocacy and other elements of the TB response through participation in organized networks,
85 forums and national, regional and global groups.

86
87 The TB community could further build its capacity by working even more closely with the HIV
88 community. High rates of TB and HIV coinfection necessitate integrated approaches in key
89 regions, especially Africa. This integration is crucial down to the community level. The TB

¹ Engage-TB: integrating community-based tuberculosis activities into the work of non-governmental and other civil society organizations: operational guidance. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2012.

90 community should also engage more with other advocacy constituencies that offer the potential
91 for collaboration. This includes faith-based organizations, legal clinics, human rights
92 organizations, anti-poverty and microcredit networks, and women and youth networks.

93
94 These endeavors will require significant increases in funding from advocacy donors, alongside
95 increased action on the part of governments to include the communities affected by TB within
96 decision-making bodies and processes.

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99 BOX 4.1: CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORKS AT GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL

100
101 TB affected communities, or communities of people affected by TB, refers to any person with
102 tuberculosis or who previously had tuberculosis, as well as their caregivers and family members.
103 In addition, TB affected communities refers to TB Key and vulnerable populations which can
104 include children, health care workers, indigenous peoples, people living with HIV, people who
105 use drugs, prisoners, miners, mobile and migrant populations as well as the urban and rural poor.
106 Networks of people affected by TB, TB survivors and civil society now exist at the global,
107 regional, national and subnational levels and further efforts are needed to strengthen these
108 network and ensure their active role in planning, implementing and monitoring the TB responses,
109 as well as demand creation for the best quality of TB services for all.

110
111 TB affected communities and TB survivors must play a leading role in global, regional, national
112 and local level policy and programme prioritization, design, implementation, monitoring and
113 evaluation. They can help identify and overcome social, political, cultural, legal, gender and
114 economic barriers to accessing TB services, care and support. They are also in the unique
115 position of being the experts of the lived experience of TB. They know the side effects, the
116 stigma and discrimination, the isolation, the economic, physical and psychological burden, and,
117 for many, the lifelong legacy of the disease. It is because of this they must be empowered to be
118 both leaders and watchdogs in the TB response – making sure all other stakeholders are realizing
119 their commitments and the rights of people affected by TB are being promoted and protected. TB
120 affected community can therefore play a role that nobody else can play. It is a critical role,
121 without which we will not end TB. And, this role must be acknowledged as an expertise and be
122 funded accordingly.

123
124 This principle that TB affected communities are not just recipients of services but active agents
125 in the TB response; that TB patients are people first and patients second, and that while
126 governments, policies, guidelines and donor priorities may shift, the community remains, has
127 seen the increased emergence of TB survivors and TB affected communities claiming their place
128 as equal partners in all aspects of the TB response.

129
130 The mobilization of TB affected communities has materialized in different ways. Globally there
131 are two networks:

- 132
- 133 • Global Coalition of TB Activists (GCTA).
- 134 This network has been leading advocacy efforts focusing on the stigma faced by people affected
135 by TB.

136 • TBpeople
137 This network is new but has grown rapidly, now with national level affiliates. TBpeople led the
138 development of the Declaration of the rights of people affected by TB in 2018-19.

139
140 At the regional level, there are networks of TB affected communities and civil societies:

- 141 • ACT in Anglophone Africa
- 142 • DRAF TB in Francophone Africa
- 143 • ACT! AP in Asia Pacific
- 144 • Americas TB Coalition in Latin America and the Caribbean
- 145 • TBEC in Europe and Central Asia

146
147 At the national level there are also efforts being led by organizations and networks for example

- 148 • TB Proof in South Africa
- 149 • Club des Amis Damien in DRC
- 150 • We Are TB in the United States

151
152 In addition there is the Global Tuberculosis Advisory Board (TB CAB). This is a group of
153 research-literate community activists advising product developers and institutions conducting
154 clinical trials of new TB drugs, regimens, diagnostics and vaccines; and, providing input on
155 study design, early access, regulatory approval, post marketing and implementation strategies.

156 **The need for a global umbrella structure for community groups**

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158
159 With community-based networks, groups and coalitions existing in many regions, there is need
160 now for an umbrella structure to promote knowledge-sharing, coordination and joint activities at
161 the global level, with a focus on ensuring government accountability for fulfilling their UNHLM
162 commitments. Such an umbrella structure should be representative and allow experiences from
163 the grassroots level to be elevated to inform global policymaking and advocacy.

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165 166 **Toward meaningful engagement with communities**

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168 The UN political declaration on TB affirmed that people with TB need integrated care and
169 support, including from the community, including psychosocial, nutritional and socioeconomic
170 support for successful treatment, and the reduction of stigma and discrimination. In response, UN
171 member states committed to *“developing community-based health services through approaches
172 that protect and promote equity, ethics, gender equality and human rights in addressing
173 tuberculosis by focusing on prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care, including socioeconomic
174 and psychosocial support, based on individual needs, that reduce stigma, and integrated care for
175 related health conditions, such as HIV and AIDS, undernutrition, mental health, non-
176 communicable diseases including diabetes and chronic lung disease, and tobacco use, harmful
177 use of alcohol and other substance abuse, including drug injection, with access to existing and
178 new tools.”*

179
180 As core partners in international and national TB activities, TB-affected communities should be
181 brought on board at the start of the planning process before new TB interventions or initiatives

182 are designed. TB programmes should include civil society organizations (CSOs) in core
183 activities, inviting them to attend key meetings, such as those for strategy setting and programme
184 reviews, and to sit on scientific boards. The ultimate aim should be well-designed TB services
185 owned and sustained by communities, working in collaboration with the government and other
186 stakeholders.

187
188 The Global Plan recommends a variety of ways in which communities should be more deeply
189 engaged in the various aspects of the TB response. Communities should be involved in the
190 response to end TB through both community-based efforts and community-led efforts.
191 Community-based efforts are those that are carried out locally in settings outside of the formal
192 health care settings. Community-led efforts are those that are managed, governed or carried out
193 by members of the community. Both community-based and community-led efforts should link to
194 the formal health system.²

195
196 In all cases, national TB programmes should periodically assess progress and impact that
197 engagement with civil society organizations and affected communities has on the fight against
198 TB, and to direct resources where they are shown to be most effective.

199
200 ***Community system strengthening***

201
202 Community system strengthening (CSS) is a useful approach to planning engagement with civil
203 society and affected communities—particularly to help TB programs fulfill their commitments to
204 human rights and gender equity.³ CSS refers to supporting the development of informed,
205 capable, coordinated and sustainable structures, mechanisms, processes and actors through which
206 community members, organizations and groups interact, coordinate and deliver their responses to
207 the challenges and needs within their communities.⁴ By considering communities and their role
208 as part of the larger health system, CSS allows for an analysis of the different facets of that
209 system, how they are interconnected, and what aspects need to be strengthened. With the skills
210 and resources, communities can help health systems determine the needs of people with TB,
211 advocate for better services and hold donors and governments accountable.

212
213 Community organizations hold critical knowledge about the health needs of and feasible
214 interventions for their communities. While TB survivors, civil society and community
215 representatives often have abundant grassroots expertise, they might need capacity-building and
216 support, for example, to meaningfully participate at high-level meetings, to engage with
217 international organizations and governments, conduct outreach to the news media or engage in
218 processes through which policies are shaped.

219
220 To hold national governments accountable for fulfilling their need to “develop integrated,
221 people-centred, community-based and gender-responsive health services based on human
222 rights,” will require human-rights-based advocacy, including advocacy for gender-sensitive
223 health programming. Advocacy capacity-building should therefore include training in the use of

² Technical brief: community systems strengthening. 2019. Geneva: Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Online: https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/4790/core_communitysystems_technicalbrief_en.pdf

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

224 human rights impact assessment tools. Such tools can enable communities to anticipate and
225 respond to the potential human rights impacts of government, trade, and national and corporate
226 policies related to TB.

227
228 The Global Fund has produced a technical brief on community systems strengthening that goes
229 into further detail about benefits and approaches to CSS with respect to TB.⁵

230

231 *Community-based efforts*

232

233 *Community-based monitoring*

234

235 To shift the paradigm toward ending TB, national TB responses should prioritize and invest in
236 efforts that respond directly to the needs of communities affected by TB. To this end,
237 community-based monitoring (CBM) can help to bridge the gap between the health system and
238 the community.

239

240 CBM in TB is an intervention, driven by local information and community needs, that aims to
241 increase accountability in the TB response so that essential, quality and timely TB care and
242 support services are available, accessible and acceptable to all, especially those who are
243 vulnerable, underserved or at risk of TB. By engaging people with TB and affected communities
244 to provide feedback and report barriers that inhibit access to services, CBM can improve the
245 responsiveness and equity of TB care and support services, inform the design of TB
246 programmatic interventions and policy decisions and evaluate the TB response. CBM can help to
247 reach the unreached by generating information used to close the gap in the number of people
248 who lack access to TB care. It also facilitates public participation and strengthens local decision
249 making on issues that are important to both the community and the TB response, including
250 complex social, economic and human-rights issues, which result in millions of people with TB
251 being missed by the health system each year.

252

253 Since 2017 the Stop TB Partnership, with support from USAID and the Global Fund to Fight
254 AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, developed a community-monitoring framework and digital
255 solution platform called OneImpact to facilitate community-based monitoring of the TB
256 response. OneImpact is currently supporting eight countries to implement the intervention.⁶

257

258 *Engaging community health workers to raise awareness and reach the unreached*

259

260 Community health workers play an important role in reaching people who are missed by health
261 systems, helping to fulfill governments' commitments to "leave no person behind." Through
262 community outreach and educational programmes, community health workers encourage people
263 who have TB symptoms to contact a health care worker or visit a health facility. When people
264 are not able to travel, community workers can also help to transport sputum samples to the
265 nearest health facility for diagnosis. Community health workers can also aid in the conduct of TB
266 contact investigations, identifying household members who need to be screened and who are

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ OneImpact. 2019. Geneva: Stop TB Partnership. Online: <https://stoptbpartnershiponeimpact.org>

267 eligible for TB prevention, diagnosis and care. In fact, TB diagnosis is often delayed as people
 268 sick with TB shop around for diagnosis and treatment, leading to unnecessary out-of-pocket
 269 expenses. This out-of-pocket spending before receiving a reliable diagnosis is a major factor that
 270 causes the catastrophic costs associated with TB. Encouraging people with TB symptoms to seek
 271 appropriate medical care relies on the trust and peer-to-peer relationship that a community
 272 representative can bring (Box 4.2).⁷

273
 274 The participation of existing community health workers in such active case-finding initiatives
 275 has improved case detection and treatment outcomes.⁸ However, their role has yet to be
 276 maximized. One way to work with community health workers to actively identify persons in
 277 need of TB screening and care is to integrate TB community outreach with HIV, maternal and
 278 child health or other outreach programs.

279
 280 ***Engaging traditional healers***

281
 282 Community-based systems can play a transformative role by linking informal providers with the
 283 formal health system. A major challenge in TB care is that many people in low-resource, high-
 284 burden countries who have symptoms first seek care from traditional healers or pharmacists,
 285 rather than from public health clinics or hospitals. TB programmes need to more actively reach
 286 out to these traditional healers and pharmacists and work them to provide referrals to health
 287 centers.

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290 **Box 4.2 Ethiopia’s health extension workers**

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 292 In Ethiopia’s rural Sidama Zone, health extension workers (HEW) were trained to work in their
 293 communities to identify people with TB symptoms, collect sputum samples, and prepare slides in
 294 the field for testing before being transported to the laboratory for staining and reading. More than
 295 1,000 HEWs collected sputum samples from more than 200,000 people with TB symptoms and
 296 identified more than 17,500 people with smear-positive TB. This intervention doubled the
 297 number of people put on treatment in a zone of more than 3 million people. In addition, the
 298 HEWs provided treatment support, with treatment success rates improving from 77% to 95%.

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300
 301 ***Providing psychosocial support and links to social protection***

302
 303 Completing TB treatment can be challenging. The treatment is lengthy and inevitably has side
 304 effects, making counselling and support a critical part of comprehensive TB care. Community
 305 members, who may have had TB themselves, can help to ensure that TB patients receive the
 306 psychosocial support they need to successfully complete TB treatment.

⁷ Yassin M A, Datiko DG, Tulloch O, et al. Innovative community-based approaches doubled tuberculosis case notification and improve treatment outcome in southern Ethiopia. PLoS ONE. 2013;8:5 (<http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0063174>).

⁸ Ibid.

307 Travelling to clinics to access treatment can be expensive, especially for people living in remote
308 areas. It can also mean that people with TB lose income in the process of seeking treatment.
309 Community members can help to ensure that people with TB are linked with social protection
310 schemes, such as food vouchers or conditional cash vouchers for treatment support.

311
312 Faith-based groups of all religions are also a vital resource for community-based care. These
313 groups, along with other community-based workers, can help to provide palliative care to people
314 with TB at home—a service that is beyond the capacity of most health systems.

315 316 *Community-led efforts*

317 318 *Eradicating stigma*

319
320 There is still considerable stigma surrounding TB. Eradicating this stigma is a crucial component
321 of encouraging people to seek care and to supporting them throughout the course of TB
322 treatment. For many people affected by TB, the greatest challenge they face is stigma. Stigma
323 can involve stigma from family or the surrounding community, stigma from coworkers or
324 healthcare workers. It can even include self-stigma, where people with TB internalize feelings of
325 shame or guilt for having TB.

326
327 Through the UNHLM political declaration on TB, national governments committed to “*promote*
328 *and support an end to stigma and all forms of discrimination, including by removing*
329 *discriminatory laws, policies and programmes against people with tuberculosis, and through the*
330 *protection and promotion of human rights and dignity, as well as policies and practices which*
331 *improve outreach, education and care.*” Since stigma is rooted in social and cultural perceptions,
332 including gender, in addition to laws and policies, education campaigns in communities will be
333 important for helping to break down misconceptions and biases that lead to stigma and
334 discrimination. Social media and other digital platforms can play an important role in eliminating
335 stigma as well as identifying and overcoming other social barriers to accessing TB services and
336 care. The more that communities are meaningfully engaged, and the more that TB survivors are
337 empowered to advocate, to engage in TB decision-making processes and to assume leadership
338 roles in TB efforts, the more stigma will diminish. Where discriminatory laws remain, advocacy
339 for law reform will be crucial. In all cases, social media can play an important role in eliminating
340 stigma and overcoming other social barriers.

341 342 *Engaging communities in research*

343
344 Engaging TB-affected communities in all aspects of research—from early-stage research to the
345 design of clinical trials and the delivery and large-scale uptake of successful innovations—will
346 help to make communities equal partners in the fight against TB. All researchers and sponsors
347 should develop community engagement plans and take steps to include affected communities,
348 patient groups and civil society in TB R&D. In fact, community members themselves are
349 organized and ready to advise research institutions on how to optimize their engagement with
350 communities for research purposes.¹ Chapter 6 of the Global Plan addresses community
351 engagement in research in more detail.

¹ Critical Path to New TB Drug Regimens. Good participatory practice guidelines for TB drug trials; 2012.

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Providing funding support for community capacity-building

Consistent, sustained investment in community system strengthening is vital to realizing the full potential of communities in the fight against TB. Donors and impact investors should consider funding civil society and community organizations as part of their effort to end TB. Resource needs are discussed in detail in Chapter 7.

BOX 4.3 Parliamentarians Leading the Fight Against TB

Since the UN High-Level Meeting on TB resulted in a Political Declaration endorsed by Heads of State, Members of Parliament (MPs) around the world have mobilized to take the outcomes of the Declaration back to national parliaments for implementation.

Parliamentarians are holding governments to account through the creation of national TB caucuses which are independent networks of MPs within the countries. These caucuses are a powerful channel to raise awareness on TB, and consequently on the UNHLM Declaration targets.

With the support of the Global TB Caucus, national caucuses were launched in Brazil, Denmark, Eswatini, Paraguay and Romania in 2019, which takes the total to 49 worldwide. MPs from 93 countries reported taking parliamentary action on the UNHLM targets in 2019.

The Global TB Caucus (GTBC) is an international network of over 2500 Members of Parliament (MPs) in over 150 countries that works to build the political will to end TB. It focuses on supporting decision makers who are engaged on TB and prepared to take impactful actions such as engaging Ministers of Health or deploying parliamentary processes to advocate for greater investments in TB.

MPs secured budget increases in several countries, including the Netherlands, where the Hon Anne Kuik worked closely with KNCV to add an additional US\$ 5.5 million during budget negotiations towards global implementation of new TB diagnostics. In Kenya the Hon Stephen Mule successfully raised nearly US\$ 2 million for the national TB budget.

At the global level, the Caucus brings MPs together to share their experiences at Summits, including the African TB Summit in August 2019 which brought together over 40 MPs from the region. This cooperation encourages MPs to work at a regional level within political platforms such as APEC, AU, G7 and G20, to bring TB forward on the international agenda.

Community system strengthening

To build effective community systems and to meaningfully engage TB survivors and TB key affected populations – a number of elements are required:

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Mobilization: TB survivors must be mobilized, engaged and supported for coordination. Efforts are required to bring those who have survived this experience together and ensure that this mobilization can be sustainable. Leveraging the support of established civil society organisations is critical in the process of building or strengthening networks.

Capacity Building: Building the capacity of TB survivors to effectively contribute is essential. This includes developing advocacy skills, enhancing TB and TB treatment literacy, investing in development of capacity to counsel and support peers, to monitor, report and advocacy on issues including drug stockouts, drug side effects, human rights violations, stigma and discrimination, funding shortages or inefficiencies, barriers is access to new tools, and broader accountability.

Enabling Environment: TB survivors must have a seat at the decision-making table. While telling the story of the lived experience of TB can be compelling, it is the role of catalysts of programmes and policies that must be further advanced. For this to be effective, representatives of TB affected communities must develop a constituency who they consult and report back to. They must also be given the time and resources to prepare and strategise on key decision points – ensuring the voice of TB communities resonates through every TB discussion at every level.

Meaningful Engagement: Community systems for meaningful engagement, must receive the investment they need to become sustainable. They are not a luxury or a side note. As is highlighted in the UNHLM TB Political Declaration, TB affected communities and civil society are a critical element of the TB response that is beginning to emerge and can be a game changer for national programmes and millions of people impacted by TB every year.

Partnering with the private sector

In the context of the fight against TB, partnering with the private health sector encompasses the following stakeholders:

Partnering with private-sector health-product manufacturers

Commercial manufacturers, including manufacturers of laboratory equipment and vaccines, contribute directly to the research and development of new tools, and the production and supply of diagnostics and drugs to meet the needs of TB programmes and people with and affected by TB worldwide. Public-private partnerships with such companies are essential for fast-tracking the development of new tools, as well as for making drugs, diagnostics and vaccines affordable and accessible to people with TB. [TK UPDATE WITH NEW EXAMPLE AFTER 31/10.]

As new diagnostics, drugs and vaccines are developed for TB, such partnerships are needed to play a key role in providing access for people with TB. Partnering with private sector manufacturers of TB diagnostics and drugs is also important to ensure a steady supply to match demand, especially during the rapid scale-up of services.

Partnering with industry outside the health sector

444 Private industry is needed in the fight to end TB in two ways: by ensuring their workplaces
445 follow best practices for preventing TB transmission and for providing for TB care and support
446 for staff and their families, and by undertaking corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities.
447 Industries and businesses, especially those that are labour-intensive, need to adopt non-
448 discriminatory recruitment and retention policies, promote infection-free and safe workplaces,
449 and provide their staff and families with good-quality and affordable TB diagnostic, treatment
450 and notification services. National TB programmes and TB organizations can partner with
451 businesses to provide staff training and to assist in the development of workplace TB programs,
452 establishing links between those programs and the health system.

453
454 Efforts to end TB should engage corporate CSR initiatives. This is an important area for further
455 engagement between TB programmes, their stakeholders, and businesses. Financial and in-kind
456 contributions from the private sector are critical to progress in many areas, particularly in
457 innovation, the use of information technology, and logistics management. Businesses with
458 products and services that reach large populations may provide opportunities for public
459 education and community outreach. Co-branding partnerships with the health sector could help
460 raise TB awareness and eradicate stigma. Businesses could work with national TB programmes
461 to help create TB-free districts or cities, or to fund feasibility studies for impact bonds or other
462 innovative interventions.

463

464 *Partnering with the private health care system*

465

466 People in many countries prefer private sector health care because of its ease of access and the
467 perception of higher quality. In a number of countries in Asia, a substantial proportion of people
468 with symptoms of TB, including the poor, seek care first at private clinics. However, in most
469 country settings, only a small proportion of private providers refer or notify to national TB
470 programs those patients who they diagnose with and treat for TB. There is therefore much
471 greater potential for making the private health system a true partner in TB care and prevention
472 and addressing case notification gaps.

473

474 NTPs face major constraints in their efforts to engage with the private sector to scale up TB care,
475 chiefly a lack of funding or capacity. Successful projects have addressed these challenges by
476 investing in private intermediary agencies and creating social business models for the provision
477 of quality TB care. Such models have not derailed the business models of private health care
478 providers, but have worked with them synergistically to improve quality, affordability, and
479 public health responsibilities. The use of digital health tools and innovative voucher-based
480 reimbursement systems has also contributed greatly to the success of these projects.

481

482 Countries should work to secure adequate resources to implement and scale up an appropriate
483 mix of the following private health-sector engagement strategies:

484

- 485 a. Sharing the burden of engaging numerous independent private practitioners with private
486 “intermediary organizations” that can establish and scale up social franchising and social
487 business models; NGOs with the capacity and skills to work with private practitioners;
488 and professional societies and associations

489

- 490 b. Optimizing and expanding engagement with large hospitals, academic institutions and
491 NGOs
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- 493 c. Mobilizing and supporting corporate and business-sector health services in order to
494 initiate and expand workplace TB programmes to serve workers, their families and
495 communities
496
- 497 d. Engaging communities and civil society to seek care from and promote private providers
498 offering high-quality TB care
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- 500 e. Enforcing mandatory TB case notification through simplified and user-friendly digital
501 tools, the rational use of TB medicines, and certification and accreditation systems to
502 identify and incentivize collaborating providers
503

504 It is also important for national authorities and international donors to recognize that, in a
505 number of settings, people have more confidence in the private health sector. Investments should
506 therefore be made to strengthen both public and private sectors in order to help scale up good-
507 quality, affordable TB care in both sectors.
508

509 Investment in public–private partnership approaches to strengthening private sector TB care is
510 important for all countries. The Global Plan highlights this need particularly in two of the nine
511 settings: Setting 6 (middle-income country settings with a moderate TB burden) and Setting 7
512 (India). Even in countries where most TB treatment is handled by the public sector, engagement
513 with the private sector is still required for referrals and early TB diagnosis and treatment. The
514 resultant reduction in diagnostic delay could have a major impact on reducing TB transmission.
515

516 ***Partnering with labour unions***

517

518 National TB programmes should work with labour unions to create and enforce workplace
519 provisions that reduce the risk of exposure to TB and provide access to care and support for
520 those affected by TB, including for TB prevention. This is especially important for industries
521 where workers are at high risk of TB, such as the health care and mining sectors. Unions can
522 help to put in place strong workplace programs and national laws and policies that eliminate
523 discrimination of people with TB, ensure safe environments with regard to TB, and enforce best
524 practices and human-rights based policies with regard to migration and treatment of foreign
525 workers.