

# A 'Paradigm Shift' Needed to End TB

Recruit a 'Health Peer' to support the new Global Plan to end TB.

On 20 November, the United Nations' Stop TB Partnership released its Global Plan to End TB 2016-2020, outlining how the world can end Tuberculosis (TB) within a generation. TB is the world's most deadly infectious disease, yet diagnosis and treatment rates are unacceptably low. At the current rate, it will take 150 years to end TB, let alone the 15-year target set out in Global Goal 3 ('ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all').

A fundamental shift is needed in the way we tackle TB globally. If countries implement the Global Plan, more than 10 million lives will be saved over the next ten years. Alongside other donor countries, the UK Government should endorse the Plan in advance of the replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria ('GFATM') in 2016. Parliamentarians, including Members of the House of Lords with a particular interest in international development, will be very influential in this process. This month, we are asking you to write to one of the Peers we have identified in order to help persuade the Department for International Development (DfID) to endorse the Global Plan.

## What is TB and what is the scale of the problem?

Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne, infectious bacterial infection most often found in the lungs, though it can spread to any organ in the body. TB is a major threat to global health security. It is not just a disease of the developing world; it is found in many of the world's major cities, including London. TB is treatable and curable but without concerted action, rapidly developing drug-resistance could send us back to a pre-antibiotic era.

The World Health Organization's recent Global TB Report shows that TB killed around 1.5 million people in 2014, making it the world's deadliest infectious disease. Unlike the sustained effort and investment that is helping bring the HIV epidemic under control, diagnosis and treatment of TB is very low and, at the current rate of decline in TB of just 1.5% annually, it will take 150 years to end the epidemic.

## What is the UN Stop TB Partnership?

Founded in 2001, the UN's Stop TB Partnership is made up of 1,300 partners in more than 100 countries. They include: international and technical organizations, government programmes, research and funding agencies, NGOs, community groups and the private sector. It provides free anti-tuberculosis drugs and advice to countries that could otherwise not afford them. It works for the development of new preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic strategies, aiming to eliminate TB as a global health problem.

## What is the Global Plan calling for?

The 2016-2020 Global Plan calls for a 'paradigm shift' in the way that TB is tackled, with additional energy and resources needed to turn the tide on the disease. The Stop TB Global Plan to End TB sets out 8 key areas in which the approach to tackling TB must be shifted: a change in mindset; a human rights and gender-based approach to TB; broader, more inclusive political leadership; a community and patient-driven approach; innovative and modernised TB programmes equipped to end TB; integrated health systems that are responsive to needs and fit for purpose; a new approach to funding TB care; and investment in socio-economic actions.

The Global Plan calls for countries to meet the "90-(90)-90" targets: diagnosing 90% of people with TB worldwide, including 90% of the most marginalized groups, and ensuring that 90% of those diagnosed successfully complete treatment. At present, only 60% of TB cases are officially diagnosed, with the remaining 40% often facing sub-standard quality of care or no treatment at all.

The Stop TB Partnership describes the impact of meeting the "90-(90)-90" targets as 'transformative'. It estimates that 10 million lives could be saved over the next decade, and up to 45 million cases of TB averted. The new UN Global Goals target the elimination of TB by 2030. This target will be impossible to achieve without a radically new approach to tackling the disease.

## How will meeting the Global Plan be funded?

The Global Plan estimates that a global investment of US \$56 billion will deliver a return of US \$85 for each new dollar invested, and must include increases in domestic funding from countries themselves. On the donor side, the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria provides over 80% of all international funding to tackle the disease, is to be replenished in 2016. The UK Government, alongside other donors, will be asked to provide a share of the Global Fund replenishment this year.

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria is critical in the global fight against TB and the UK is already a major donor. In 2013, the UK Government pledged up to £1 billion in support for the Global Fund, of which only £800m will be delivered. This pledge saves a life every three minutes and the Global Fund was described as 'very good value for money' in the 2011 Multilateral Aid Review (an assessment to examine the value for money that we get from putting our funding through organisations, and to help decide future funding levels to these organisations).

## What should the UK Government do now?

The UK Government should endorse the Stop TB Partnership's Global Plan to End TB in advance of the replenishment of the Global Fund. This process kicks off on the 17<sup>th</sup> of December with a preparatory conference in Tokyo. DfID has a leading role in Tokyo, and the Minister of State with responsibility for global health, Grant Shapps, should make this a priority.

We believe that DfID is likely to consider supporting the Plan but will need to be convinced that their support will be noticed and applauded by people in the UK, hence the need for grassroots and parliamentary action now. DfID's active engagement

with the Plan will be an important marker of progress in and support for the negotiations for the 2016 Global Fund replenishment.

## How can RESULTS influence the process?

Influential people from all walks of life are needed to persuade DfID to endorse the Plan. Alongside MPs, Members of the House of Lords who have a history of interest in international development are particularly influential. RESULTS has compiled a list of these, and this month, we would like you to contact one of them, to ask DfID to endorse the Global Plan, and to help establish a body of committed parliamentarians who can press for its funding and implementation.

## Why Peers?

Although not having constituents to represent like an MP does, Peers have a legislative function, and are often actively engaged in social issues. Many of them also have years of experience from former roles in public life. And it isn't any more difficult contacting a Peer than your MP – they are people with interests and opinions, just the same as anyone else! You can [find out more about the role of the House of Lords here](#), including [how to address a Peer](#).

*As part of this year's 'Health For All – Leave No One Behind' campaign, we have already asked you to contact your MP on polio and health system strengthening. Please note that as part of our campaigning to End TB, we will be asking you to contact your MP once again later on in 2016 at an appropriate moment.*

### Take action

1. **Write to a Member of the House of Lords chosen from the accompanying Background Sheet. You can find out about their previous support for international development at [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com) or [www.parliament.uk](http://www.parliament.uk). Their postal address is: The House of Lords, London SW1A 0PW.**
2. **Thank the Peer for their support for international development issues in the past, and ask them to contact DfID Minister of State the Rt. Hon. Grant Shapps MP, urging him to endorse the Stop TB Partnership's Global Plan to End TB.**
3. **Ask the Peer if they will be willing to advocate for efforts to combat TB in 2016, and for a reply.**