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HS4TB FACT SHEET

TB Financial Sustainability Index

BACKGROUND

Sustainable financing is a critical objective in building a strong national tuberculosis (TB) response. As global and domestic funding priorities change, increased domestic resources will be required to finance core elements of TB programs, fully fund the Global Plan to Stop TB, and realize the commitments made by countries through the United Nations High-Level Meeting political declaration. Additionally, it is essential for countries to identify and establish efficient mechanisms for resource allocation to ensure optimal utilization of these funds. USAID's Health Systems for TB (HS4TB) project is helping countries identify challenges and opportunities along the pathway to sustainably financing their efforts to end TB, using the TB Financial Sustainability Index (TB FSI).

ABOUT THE TB FSI

The TB FSI is a self-assessment tool focusing on domestic government processes that national TB programs (NTPs) must engage in to successfully plan, mobilize, budget, and track additional resources for TB within the country's health financing and systems framework. It is scored across four components: (1) Efficient planning and budgeting cycle; (2) Efficient use of resources; (3) Sustainable financing; and (4) Financial protection. Aspirational targets are based on global best practices and can be used to advocate for progress towards reaching those targets over time.

This tool builds on evidence-based best practices and global guidance for sustainable health financing, where available, and draws on concepts from sustainability and transition-related frameworks. Its primary users are Ministry of Health leadership, NTPs, Finance and Planning Departments, TB focal persons at the national and subnational levels, civil society partners and other TB stakeholders. In addition, the TB FSI creates visibility on areas of support for external partner organizations such as USAID, WHO, World Bank, and the Global Fund.

COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION

After piloting and refining the TB FSI in Ethiopia, the Philippines, and the Kyrgyz Republic, HS4TB is now scaling up the tool. As of October 2024, seven countries have implemented the TB FSI: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. In each country, expert regional and national consultants partnered with NTPs in a two-month process of collecting data; conducting key informant interviews; and gathering key stakeholders to agree on scores for each section of the tool, identify gaps, and develop an action plan that identifies priority actions necessary to address these gaps. Implementation reports for each country are now being finalized and will be used as a baseline to measure progress as countries implement their action plans.

A few priorities have emerged across multiple countries, including the need to work with and reinforce domestic systems for financing, continue to advocate and initiate dialogue with senior country leadership, and build the capacity of NTPs to lead this engagement. HS4TB is developing a global report that will highlight these global trends and overarching challenges, and will describe country-specific best practices. The project will also share the TB FSI, guidance documents, and capacity-building materials as a resource to support financial sustainability globally and make further progress toward ending TB. Additionally, Vietnam is in the planning stages of implementing the TB FSI, and HS4TB continues to discuss implementation opportunities in other TB priority countries.

HS4TB PROJECT

USAID's HS4TB project supports high TB burden countries with financing and governance strategies, tools, and approaches to achieve TB elimination goals. Led by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) in partnership with Open Development, HS4TB ensures both that TB care and prevention approaches have a strong underpinning in health system concepts, and that health system approaches are directly tied to improved TB outcomes. The result is a more directed and measurable approach to TB and health systems work. HS4TB supports policy reforms for increased and improved domestic contracting of TB services, greater domestic financing, and more efficient use of resources, while building in-country financial and managerial skills and leadership.

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