

WHO Civil Society Task Force on TB Terms of Reference

Background

Significant progress has been made in the global fight against tuberculosis (TB). TB death rates dropped by nearly half (47%) since 1990, and 43 million lives were saved between 2000 and 2014. Yet, TB killed 1.5 million people, including 400 000 people with HIV infection in 2014. To further intensify the global TB response and to end the TB epidemic by 2030, WHO Member States endorsed the End TB Strategy in May 2014. One of the four principles of the strategy is a “strong coalition with civil society organizations and communities.” On 11–13 November 2015, 90 community-based nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), other civil society organizations (CSOs) and more than 150 participants from 35 countries met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to define steps to facilitate their implementation of the End TB Strategy. The Statement of Action is available at <http://www.who.int/tb/publications/2015/statement-of-action/en/>.

The Global TB Programme of WHO is establishing a Civil Society Task Force on TB (CSTF) to follow up on the recommendations of the Statement of Action to enhance the engagement of communities, NGOs and other CSOs in assisting the whole of society approach for the implementation of the End TB Strategy.

Functions of the CSTF

- Contribute to the implementation of the End TB Strategy and key recommendations of the Statement of Action with particular focus on social protection and universal health coverage and advocating their inclusion in national TB strategies and plans, national social programmes and political platforms (e.g. parliaments) and regional and global platforms of policy dialogue.
- Strategically contribute to the Global TB Programme of WHO to enhance the engagement of communities, NGOs and other CSOs in the overall implementation of the End TB Strategy.
- Provide inputs to the annual deliberations of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis (STAG-TB) on specific topics pertaining to the enhanced engagement of communities, NGOs and other CSOs in the overall implementation of the End TB Strategy.
- Promote and nurture strong and effective linkages between CSOs and national TB programmes or their equivalents as well as promote the generation of demand for TB prevention, diagnosis, care and treatment services.
- Assess the progress of implementation of the Addis Ababa Statement of Action.

Membership

The WHO CSTF will comprise individual members from non-profit organisations that do not belong to the state or the private for profit sectors, with demonstrated commitment or potential for scaling up community based TB activities and the implementation of the End TB Strategy with geographic and regional representation. In order to ensure the diversity of views and broad representation, selected members will serve for a term of two years renewable once at the discretion of the Global TB Programme. Individuals may withdraw from the Task Force anytime based on written notification to WHO. Similarly WHO reserves the right to terminate participation at any time.

Meetings and administration

WHO will operate electronic discussion platforms with members. WHO will create a web-based site (as part of Global TB Programme) to publicise the Task Force. Task Force members will meet at least once a year based on availability of funds. The TB/HIV and Community Engagement Unit of Global TB Programme will host the Secretariat of the Task Force.