

JOINT STATEMENT
BY THE WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL AND CIVIL SOCIETY TASK FORCE ON TUBERCULOSIS

**SUSTAINING THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS ENDING TB:
SAFEGUARDING THE TB RESPONSE**

Seventy-nine million people have been saved from dying from tuberculosis (TB) since 2000. The progress made in recent years to secure political commitment towards ending the TB epidemic risks being halted by diverted global priorities and unprecedented funding challenges. Despite funding constraints and shifting global priorities, the commitments made by heads of state at the 2023 United Nations High-Level Meeting (UNHLM) on the fight against TB to mobilize at least US\$ 22 billion annually by 2027 for the TB response must remain a global priority. Achieving this target will require innovative financing approaches, strengthened domestic investments and sustained international collaboration.

Any disruptions in TB services, even temporary—whether due to financial, political, or operational challenges—typically have fatal consequences for the millions of people affected by TB worldwide. Disruptions in TB services during the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an estimated 700,000 excess deaths. Effective recovery from the effects of the pandemic on the TB epidemic and the progress towards ending TB are now further threatened by limited availability of quality TB services, mainly due to inadequate funding.

We emphasize the importance of keeping the world safe from TB, and ensuring an equitable and sustainable response towards ending TB. In the current context, we call on all stakeholders to take urgent action to:

1. Prevent any disruption of TB services with a sense of **urgency, initiating a response commensurate to the disruption.**
2. Ensure **domestic resources** to sustain equitable and essential TB care.
3. **Safeguard the key activities**, essential TB drugs, diagnostics, care and social protection coverage for people with TB, while strengthening collaboration with other stakeholders within and beyond the health sector.
4. **Establish or activate national partner platforms** including public and private sectors, civil society, NGOs, professional societies, donors, in all countries affected by services disruptions, to maintain momentum towards ending TB and tackle financial and operational uncertainties.
5. **Enhance monitoring** by increasing reporting frequency to better assess impact and establish **early warning systems.**

We reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that the voices of communities affected by TB are heard and that their needs are addressed. WHO continues to play a central role as the leading global health agency in supporting countries to accelerate the TB response, guided by the latest WHO TB guidelines. Strong collaboration with civil society and affected communities remains critical to mitigating TB service disruptions and ensuring equitable access to care.

We stand united in the belief that **Yes, we can end TB – and we must do it together.**
