
TB VACCINE ACCELERATOR COUNCIL

PROGRESS UPDATE *January - March 2026*

ABOUT THIS UPDATE

As the TB Vaccine Accelerator Council enters its fourth year, several vaccine clinical trials remain on track to deliver efficacy results, some within the next two years. In addition to new vaccines, other innovations for TB prevention are on the horizon that could transform detection and delivery, including optimized TB preventive treatment regimens and long-acting injectables. On World TB Day in 2026, WHO recommended a new class of near point-of-care tests that could dramatically increase case-finding and close the treatment gap. In addition novel approaches to TB screening, including digital stethoscopes, cough analyzers and new biomarkers, are being evaluated to detect TB earlier. The potential impact of these new tools is unprecedented if we are able to integrate them effectively within the health systems of high TB burden countries, and ensure their acceptance and adoption in synergy with other strategies.

In support of the vaccine preparedness efforts, and as WHO begins to update its global TB Strategy for the post-2030 period, three Accelerator technical working groups are now active ([Clinical and Policy](#); [Financing and Access](#); [Country Readiness & Community Partnership](#)). The strategic co-ordination between them and other initiatives is becoming increasingly essential to align stakeholders at all levels and leverage resources for efficiency. To facilitate this, the WHO TB Vaccine Accelerator secretariat will convene members of the Accelerator working groups and other key stakeholders at the first TB Vaccine Accelerator Forum in Geneva on the 27-28th April, to:

- provide a holistic overview of the work ongoing related to the three WG areas where the TB Vaccine Accelerator is engaged;
- to identify priority preparedness actions for TB vaccine introduction in the context of the TB care toolkit, and identify opportunities for additional strategic collaboration, integration and partnership;
- to align on assumptions, knowns and unknowns and discuss interdependencies to enable acceleration of TB vaccine licensure, policy, access and uptake.

This brief status update aims to provide a summary of the ongoing work and planned activities within the three TB Vaccine Accelerator working groups, ahead of the TB Vaccine Accelerator Forum in late April 2026. The working groups' efforts in the last year have been shaped by the recommendations made by the Council to the Secretariat at its third meeting in May 2025:

- To prioritize the establishment of Working Group 4 (WG4) on Country Readiness, Advocacy and Community Partnership.

- To leverage the October 2025 G20 Health Ministers Meeting to elevate TB vaccine financing and access on the global health agenda and to encourage increased domestic financing for novel TB vaccines and regionally diversified manufacturing, with the aim to foster long-term sustainability.
- To support evaluation of the potential impact of new TB vaccines within an integrated approach to TB prevention, including within the context of innovation in TB diagnostics and preventative treatment, and countries' immunization national immunization strategies.

The fourth TB Vaccine Accelerator Council meeting will take place in Geneva, on the 19th of May 2026, on the sidelines of the World Health Assembly. As of 2026, the Secretariat and the activities described herein have been funded by the Gates Foundation and Wellcome Trust.



A girl receives the HPV vaccine at Chikowa Village, TA Kabudula, Malawi on 18 July 2024. © WHO / Francisco María Galeazzi

The update is structured as follows:

- 1. Tuberculosis vaccine trial outcome scenario planning and evidence needs**
- 2. Establishment of Taskforces to take forward priority solutions on Finance and Access**
- 3. Update on the establishment of the Working Group 4 on Country Readiness, Advocacy and Community Partnership**
- 4. Ongoing activities and looking ahead**

1. Tuberculosis vaccine trial outcome scenario planning and evidence needs

The [Technical Advisory Group \(TAG\) on Evidence for Clinical and Policy Considerations for New Tuberculosis \(TB\) Vaccines](#) was established in January 2025 to provide guidance on the generation, interpretation, and use of evidence required to support regulatory and policy decisions for upcoming adult and adolescent TB vaccines. The TAG contributes to WHO preparedness for major policy processes – including [Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization](#) (SAGE) deliberations, regulatory consultations, and guidance development – by advising on clinical trial design, endpoints, evidence gaps, and anticipated data needs.

In September 2025, the TAG engaged with SAGE to review the evolving evidence landscape for new TB vaccines. SAGE highlighted potential policy implications of limited efficacy data for IGRA-negative populations. On SAGE's request, the TAG has since undertaken a structured scenario analysis to anticipate potential outcomes of Phase 3 trials for M72/AS01 and MTBVAC and to identify additional evidence needed to support global policy recommendations, and national programme decisions. The draft scenario framework is currently undergoing Stakeholder Consultation, initially with developers, funders, and Gavi. Other stakeholders may be consulted following the Forum meeting and the document will be brought for review to the [WHO Product Development for Vaccines Advisory Committee](#) (PDVAC) for further discussion in July 2026. The TAG aims to publish this framework in a peer-reviewed journal by Q4 2026.

2. Africa Establishment of Taskforces to take forward priority solutions on Finance and Access

The Accelerator [Finance and Access Working Group](#) (F&A WG) was launched in February 2025, tasked with identifying urgently needed solutions to accelerate equitable access and sustainable financing to novel TB vaccines, and to present these solutions at a high-level event by end of 2025. The F&A WG is co-convened by WHO, Gavi and the Government of South Africa and has membership including high-burden member states, civil society representatives, regional development banks, pooled procurement agencies and market shaping and financing institutions.

Following the launch in 2025 of the WHO report '[Catalyzing solutions for equitable global access and sustainable financing for novel tuberculosis vaccines for adults and adolescents](#)' in 2026, the F&A WG is moving forward to develop and design urgently needed solutions for Finance and Access that were identified in the report. Over the first quarter of 2026, the F&A WG has established four taskforces to focus on priority activities in 2026-2027. The Taskforces are focused on: 1) Designing catalytic market shaping and innovative financing mechanism(s), 2) Early economic evidence to inform demand and financing decisions, 3) Global financing mapping to understand financing gaps, 4) Regional vaccine manufacturing for novel TB vaccines. The Taskforces have focused on reviewing the issues they are tasked with solving, the associated scope and workplan, and the required stakeholder engagement, before they start the technical work.

In February 2026, the WHO also held a Civil Society Webinar session on the Finance and Access Working Group to update on the launch of the WHO report in 2025 and plans to take forward the identified solutions via the Taskforces.

3. Update on the establishment of the Working Group on Country Readiness, Advocacy and Community Partnership

Following the establishment of the [Working Group on Country Readiness, Advocacy and Community Partnership](#) in December 2025, to support countries in preparing for TB vaccine introduction, plans were made to hold virtual and in-person convenings with stakeholders in high burden countries in 2026. These are focused on raising awareness about new TB vaccines for adults and adolescents, facilitating in country dialog for evidence-based decision-making, strengthening delivery systems, and fostering trust through partnerships with civil society and affected communities.

On 27 February 2026, the WHO European Region in collaboration with the Secretariat of the TB Vaccine Accelerator convened a [virtual information session](#) to present and discuss the Country readiness working group concept with regional and country colleagues, civil society, and technical partners from countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The session had more than 250 participants (including National TB and EPI/immunization programmes, NITAGs, ministries of health, civil society/communities, technical partners, WHO country officers) from 13 countries.

The Country Readiness WG is building upon the successful consultations in Indonesia ([report here](#)) and South Africa ([report here](#)) and preparing for another preparedness meeting for three Gavi-supported countries in the Africa region (Kenya, Malawi and Zambia) to be held in Nairobi in early June 2026. In addition, a preparedness meeting is also planned in Brazil in November 2026.

In preparation for the Forum of working groups of the TB Vaccine Accelerator Council being held at the end of April, the secretariat of the Country Readiness WG convened key partners and stakeholders to a virtual meeting to discuss the coordination structure of the WG and plan an agenda for a side meeting to be held after the Forum.

A collaboration between WHO and the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) will establish an online platform for stakeholders to convene as a [Community of Practice](#), to exchange experiences, share tools and co-develop strategies that address common challenges related to country readiness and implementation research. Over time, this network is expected to strengthen capacity, build trust, and accelerate readiness for equitable TB vaccine introduction and uptake.

4. Ongoing activities and looking ahead

- Following the TB Vaccine Accelerator Forum on 27-28 April at WHO HQ, Geneva, each of the working groups will convene a side meeting with WG members on the 29th April.
- The 4th TB Vaccine Accelerator Council meeting will convene on the 19th May on the sidelines of the World Vaccine Assembly, in Geneva.
- The consultation on clinical outcome scenarios will progress, including with civil society.
- The Technical Advisory Group on Evidence for Clinical and Policy Considerations for New Tuberculosis (TB) Vaccines is working toward a consultation with regulators to discuss phase III clinical trial design and data expectations for advanced clinical candidates, in September 2026.
- The Finance & Access Working Group continues to advance work on financing and access, including operationalizing recommendations from the F&A WG report through the Taskforces
- The online platform of the WG on Country Readiness Community of Practice will be launched in April
- A multi-country preparedness workshop for Kenya, Malawi and Zambia will be held in June 2026 in Nairobi.

The next update will focus on the outcomes of the Forum and Council meetings and be released in the second quarter of 2026.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel free to reach out to Birgitte Giersing at giersingb@who.int