

Terms of Reference:
**Working Group on Country Readiness, Advocacy,
and Community Partnership for New TB Vaccines (WG4)**
(Version: January 2026)

The [TB Vaccine Accelerator Council](#) was established by the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2023. The aim of the Accelerator is to accelerate the product development, regulatory approval and use of effective novel TB vaccines by catalyzing high-level alignment between donors, global agencies, governments, manufacturers and end users in identifying and overcoming barriers to investment and access. It aims to co-ordinate its activities through four distinct but inter-related working groups (WGs), namely Working Group 1 on Research and Innovation; Working Group 2 on Product Development, Manufacturing and Policy; Working Group 3 on Finance and Access; and Working Group 4 on Country Readiness, Advocacy, and Community Partnership.

Working Group 4 (WG4) is established in recognition that decisions to introduce new TB vaccines will ultimately be made at country level, and that early and sustained country engagement is critical to ensuring timely, evidence-based, equitable, and effective introduction of new TB vaccines. One or more TB vaccine candidates for adults and adolescents may receive regulatory approval within the next 3–4 years, making preparedness activities urgent, particularly in high TB burden and low and middle-income countries. WG4 aims to maximize the public health and socio-economic impact of novel, effective TB vaccines through facilitated collaboration within and between countries and informing decision making for accelerated introduction and equitable vaccine uptake.

Goal and objectives

The goal of WG4 is to maximize the public health and socio-economic impact of novel, effective TB vaccines through facilitated collaboration within and between countries, to inform decision making for accelerated introduction and equitable vaccine uptake.

The over-arching aim of WG4 is to support countries and constituents to develop their own costed, evidence-based, and cost-effective implementation strategies, appropriate for their own contexts, and to provide an ecosystem for potential cross-learning to address priority implementation research questions. WG4 aims to engender country and community ownership in preparedness and adoption of novel TB vaccines by:

- facilitating discussions about optimal use cases and potential implementation strategies, including identification of priority populations for initial introduction where appropriate
- proposing solutions towards health system strengthening and program co-ordination and integration
- providing evidence for policy and procurement decision-making based on context-relevant cost-effectiveness, budget impact, and vaccine impact modelling, and identifying gaps as needed
- establishing working relationships between country-level decision makers and key constituencies including civil society and affected communities, and
- sharing learnings, exchanging models and protocols, and, where appropriate, co-developing solutions and tools for TB vaccine implementation.

Way of working

- In distinction to other Working Groups that have a fixed membership and leadership structure, WG4 will have a flexible and adaptable structure. The WHO TB Vaccine Accelerator will act as its secretariat and coordinator. The WG4 community will include representatives from a several relevant constituencies, depending on the theme of the consultation, including:
 - Key government representatives from MoH (immunization, TB programs, and potentially HIV programs) and other ministries as appropriate, for example ministries responsible for finance, industry, trade, and science & technology
 - Representatives of civil society, communities, and advocates affected by TB such as people with lived experience of TB, leaders of civil society organizations, and faith-based organizations
 - Representatives of civil society with expertise in immunization policy, demand creation, and implementation, including advocates, and community-based organizations
 - National advisory groups such as the national immunization technical advisory groups (NITAGs), technical advisory groups on TB
 - National Regulatory Agencies that will be responsible for the approval of new vaccines in consideration of their safety, quality and efficacy
 - Other technical and implementation partners including key country level stakeholders (e.g., medical research councils, local implementation partners, non-profits, domestic manufacturers, professional groups such as unions of health care professionals, and academia, including national TB research institutions)
 - Regional level participants e.g., Africa CDC, African Medicines Agency, representatives from ASEAN's Vaccine Security and Self-Reliance Initiative, and members of the regional immunization technical advisory groups (RITAGs)
 - Funders and donors for example the Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust, the Global Fund, Gavi, key representatives from the TB Accelerator Finance and Access Working Group 3
 - Global technical partners: such as UNICEF, PATH, and CHAI
- The membership of WG4 is expected to grow over time, creating a **community of practice** composed of individuals engaged to support country planning and implementation. The group will follow a shared ownership model. The WHO secretariat will help with convenings and disseminate meeting reports promptly to inform successive meetings and global stakeholders.
- We envisage that the community of practice of WG4 will develop around two types of convenings, namely **thematic** and **country preparedness** workshops:

Thematic workshops

- In the spirit of implementer-led collaboration, the WHO secretariat will co-ordinate the workshops around agreed priority thematic areas. The proposed themes at this stage are the following:
 - Generating Evidence for Policy, Implementation and Investment
 - Designing, Strengthening, and Integrating Delivery Systems
 - Financing and Access (in collaboration with WG3 on Finance and Access)
 - Driving Vaccine Uptake and Community Trust through Partnerships with Civil Society and Affected Communities

- Manufacturing and Supply Readiness
 - Regulatory Alignment and Policy Integration
 - Monitoring and Evaluation of TB Vaccine Implementation
- These workshops will offer opportunities for sharing of updates from activities and initiatives of other working groups under the Accelerator council such as WG3 on finance and access to inform all constituents of global efforts on financing and access and seek inputs for global work. Likewise, for a thematic discussion on generating evidence for policy and investment, there will be close alignment with the WHO technical advisory group (TAG) on clinical and policy considerations that is considering evidence needs for SAGE. Here, too, the TAG could share its understanding of what evidence is needed for global policy, and other constituents could complement with their context specific evidence needs and conditionalities for recommendation.
 - The WHO secretariat will collaborate with countries or a region to develop each thematic workshop. The co-conveners will be individuals or entities who are selected based on the topic of the convening and their own experience and expertise.
 - A ‘steering group’ composed of up to ten individuals (based on representativeness and expertise) from different constituencies and country group(s) and the WHO secretariat will coordinate these meetings. The ‘steering group’ will develop the meeting agenda, objectives, and content for the convening. Members of the steering group will be engaged in each future convening, either as participants or members of the steering group to create a diversified community of highly engaged individuals to provide coherence and continuity of learnings. This structure will offer shared country and constituent ownership and leadership in establishment of WG4 as a community.
 - It is envisaged that most of the meetings will be virtual, hosted by the WHO secretariat in collaboration with the co-leads of the convening. Some meetings may be convened in-person as feasible (e.g. on the side of other WHO meetings or conferences such as the world conference of the International Union against TB and Lung Disease).

Country preparedness workshops

- These workshops will follow the prototype that was first used in Indonesia in November 2024 and South Africa in July 2025 (1, 2). In contrast to the thematic workshops these are envisaged to be in-person convenings – possibly with a hybrid option - lasting about two days. They will focus on the specific needs of the country, bringing together country-based stakeholders and other partners that are critical to the introduction and scale up of novel vaccines in that country. The discussions will be organized along the same cross-cutting themes used for the thematic workshops. One of the key outputs of the country preparedness workshop will be an implementation roadmap, describing the key actions needed ahead of the arrival of new vaccines (3).

Working group outputs

The following outputs are proposed as preliminary measures of progress.

- Convene at least three thematic workshops and/or country preparedness workshops per year
- Develop and disseminate meeting reports and recommendations (ideally through peer-reviewed publication) to share learnings from each workshop, potentially in a rolling series on TB vaccine readiness
- Develop country-focused implementation checklists at the country grouping level for countries to identify their readiness for TB vaccine roll out (e.g., evidence and tools necessary for roll out)
- Create a framework to facilitate the development of country-specific vaccine implementation roadmaps
- Host webinars to share learnings about themes discussed in the workshops
- Launch a community of practice website, hosted by the WHO TB Vaccine Accelerator
- Develop broader, more diverse networks of country stakeholders to collaborate and engage with TB vaccine preparedness

Bibliography

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2. Report on advancing policy and decision-making for TB vaccine introduction in South Africa: a preparedness workshop. 2025. <https://tbthinktank.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/A-Preparedness-Workshop-Report.pdf>
3. WHO global framework to prepare for country introduction of new TB vaccines for adults and adolescents. 2024. <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240086593>