

# Health Systems for Tuberculosis (HS4TB) Project



Photo Credit: Jenn Gardella/MSH

## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Tuberculosis (TB) remains one of the world's top infectious killers. National TB programs need strong health systems to bring TB responses to scale and save lives. Launched in 2020, USAID's Health Systems for TB (HS4TB) project supports high TB burden countries with financing and governance strategies, tools, and approaches to achieve TB elimination goals. 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.

Currently, HS4TB is working in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India, and Kenya, where it 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. The project is also engaged in two global activities to strengthen sustainable financing for TB.



Representatives from the Tana River county of Kenya evaluate the pros and cons of a sample TB disbursement tracker developed by HS4TB. Photo credit: Andrew Carlson/MSH

Funded by USAID and implemented by Management Sciences for Health (MSH), HS4TB focuses on two objectives:

1. Increase the ability of health system actors to use health financing to drive effective achievement of improved TB outcomes.
2. Increase the effectiveness of TB governance by providing:
  - solutions for countries with decentralized governance
  - investment and allocation strategies that align with the local political landscape and meet the needs of modern TB service delivery
  - improvements in the coherence and communication between different actors

## COUNTRY WORK

**In Bangladesh,** the project is supporting the government to design and implement a pathway for government-funded procurement of TB services through competitive contracting with non-government entities. After conducting an assessment, the project assisted the government to develop a roadmap for establishing domestic contracting and to define a regulatory pathway and plans for piloting.



**In Ethiopia,** the project is leveraging ongoing health reforms to assist the national government in establishing a co-financing approach and improved domestic financing for essential health services, including TB. To date, this work has been documented in an inception report and a TB Domestic Resource Mobilization and Sustainability Roadmap.

**In India,** the project is working with the Central TB Division and governments in five states to improve government contracting of private sector agencies and network intermediaries providing TB support services. Expected outcomes include increased TB service coverage, increased responsiveness to program needs, and more timely contracting and payment processes. HS4TB is also establishing innovative financing mechanisms to help private TB contractors to access working capital.

**In Kenya,** the project is supporting the National Tuberculosis, Leprosy, and Lung Disease Program to: develop a TB financing roadmap; assess the planning and budgeting capacities of county-level TB coordinators; develop related training materials for county-level TB resource mobilization; institutionalize a TB financial resource tracking tool at the county level; and assess the potential for contracting out selected TB services to private organizations.

## GLOBAL WORK

HS4TB has published a technical report on the **state of TB financing**, the economic case for the TB response, and the interdependence between health and the economy.

In ongoing work, the project conducted a study of promising practices in countries that have **sustainable contracting of health services** to non-state providers. Areas examined include political will and advocacy, legal and regulatory environment, governance structures and processes, finance and budget, and evaluation, learning and adapting. Forthcoming is a paper synthesizing these practices as well as a practical guidance document on creating an enabling environment for contracting.

Additionally, the project is piloting a global TB **Sustainability Index**, a set of indicators on various dimensions of TB financing and governance that will help countries assess and ensure sustainable financing of their TB programs.

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