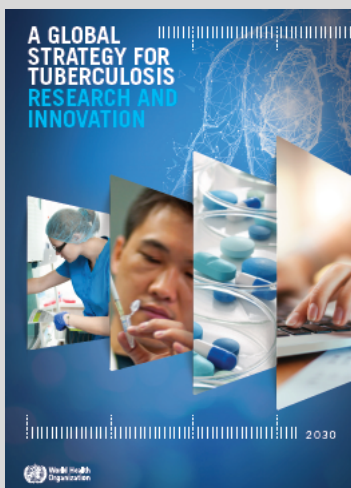


Situational Assessment Checklist

to guide implementation
of the global strategy for
tuberculosis research
and innovation



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**World Health
Organization**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Research along its full spectrum, from basic to implementation, is critical for developing new tools and strategies for better tuberculosis (TB) prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care and to provide scientific evidence for programmes, practitioners and policy-makers working to alleviate morbidity and mortality from TB. At the World Health Assembly in 2018, Member States adopted a resolution on TB that included a request to the WHO Director-General to develop a global strategy for TB research and innovation.¹ The rationale for the strategy was: “to make further progress in enhancing cooperation and coordination in respect of tuberculosis research and development”.

Under the leadership of WHO, the global strategy was developed in consultation with Member States, including managers of national TB programmes and other officials from within and beyond ministries of health, including ministries of science and technology. Also consulted were members of the WHO Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis and the WHO Global TB Research Task Force, representatives of civil society and affected communities, professional associations, research funding institutions and other stakeholders in TB research and innovation. The global strategy for TB research and innovation (hereafter referred to as the global strategy)² offers an opportunity for Member States and other relevant stakeholders to translate political commitments on research and innovation made in the Moscow Declaration to End TB (November 2017) and the political declaration at the United Nations high-level meeting on TB (September 2018) into concrete actions.

Four major areas for action are addressed in the strategy: creating an enabling environment for TB research and innovation; increasing financial investment in TB research and innovation; promoting and improving approaches to data-sharing; and promoting equitable access to the benefits of research and innovation. A prerequisite for accelerating efforts to end TB is a concerted effort by all stakeholders to collaborate. Hence, the strategy also makes the case for a unified, aligned response in which national and international partners and affected communities support Member States by making the necessary investments or partnerships (or both) for accelerating innovation. The primary audiences for the strategy are Member States, particularly ministries of health, science and technology, finance and education. Member States adopted the strategy during the Seventy-third World Health Assembly in 2020.³

¹ Preparation for a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on ending tuberculosis (WHA7.13). Seventy-first World Health Assembly. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018 (https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA71/A71_R3-en.pdf, accessed 1 November 2020).

² Global Strategy for TB Research and Innovation. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 (<https://www.who.int/teams/global-tuberculosis-programme/development-of-a-global-strategy-for-tb-research-and-innovation>, accessed 1 November 2020).

³ Global Strategy for TB Research and Innovation (WHA73.3). Geneva: Seventy-third World Health Assembly. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2020 (https://apps.who.int/gb/ebwha/pdf_files/WHA73/A73_R3-en.pdf, accessed 1 November 2020).

2. PURPOSE OF THE SITUATIONAL ASSESSMENT

A situational assessment is an important step in national adaptation of a global strategy. Ideally, it is conducted as part of the planning cycle in implementation of the strategy and updated every few years. The checklist presented here is designed to support countries in planning their analyses according to their own contexts. While it sets out the key principles and recommendations to frame the situational assessment, it deliberately avoids being overly prescriptive, giving countries the space and flexibility to determine what is missing, what should be strengthened and the most feasible approaches to addressing pressing challenges. It consists of four topics aligned with the four objectives of the strategy to strengthen thematic analyses.

This tool is not designed for identifying or prioritizing research gaps but rather for improving policy and strategic decisions to enhance TB research on the four thematic areas (objectives) of the global strategy. For those interested in developing a research agenda, WHO has published a toolkit that provides guidance and allows sharing of best practices.⁴

The release of this checklist coincides with the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health

Box 1. What is the purpose of a situational assessment?

A situational assessment is valuable:

- to describe the baseline health research system, with all its strengths and weaknesses, their causes and effects, in order to reach consensus on the status of TB research and innovation in the country;
- to provide evidence for implementing the recommendations of the global strategy in a manner that is responsive to the needs of the country;
- to extend the engagement and participation of relevant stakeholders, including the private sector; and
- to support and strengthen monitoring and evaluation during implementation of the global strategy.

care systems and health research. It is expected that this tool will allow adaptation of the global strategy in such a way that TB research will be able to respond to the changing, complex environment of TB prevention and care caused or exacerbated by the pandemic, while remaining faithful to the principles of the End TB Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The checklist is designed as a reference for ministries of health

and other entities responsible for governing national health research. It presents the recommendations of the global strategy in a series of thematic questions that allow robust analysis of the current situation before any changes are made and to measure progress. The situational assessment itself should serve as an opportunity to promote meaningful dialogue among sectors, by involving academia, funding agencies

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