



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

South-East Asia

A SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS OF
**PROGRAMMATIC
MANAGEMENT OF
TB PREVENTIVE
TREATMENT**



WHO IN THE
SOUTH-EAST ASIA REGION



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A situational analysis of programmatic management of TB preventive treatment in the WHO South-East Asia Region

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FOREWORD



The WHO South-East Asia Region continues to accelerate efforts towards ending TB by 2030, for which all high-risk individuals require access to TB preventive treatment (TPT). TB infection, which is a precursor of TB disease, is extremely common in the Region, with an estimated 30% of the Region's population infected with TB bacteria. Global and regional scientific evidence clearly indicate that the burden of TB cannot be reduced unless we prevent the disease in individuals at high risk of progression from TB infection to disease. Such individuals include household contacts of persons with infectious TB disease, people living with HIV and other high-risk groups whose immunity is compromised.

TPT is a cost-effective way of reducing the risk of TB infection from progressing to TB disease. WHO has developed guidelines and operational handbooks to support the uptake and scale up of TPT services. To add momentum and urgency to the implementation of TPT, in September 2018, at the first ever UN High-Level Meeting on TB, all country leaders pledged to provide TPT to at least 30 million people at risk of TB disease between 2018 and 2022. In the same year, WHO, in consultation with stakeholders, supported the development of a regional action plan to support the adoption of TPT among Member States and to meet the global commitments in the provision of TPT to individuals at high risk of TB disease.

This situation analysis, undertaken by WHO in 2020, assesses the progress made in eight countries in the Region with regard to the adoption and implementation of the latest TPT policies. The analysis highlights two key findings. First, countries in the Region have provided TPT to 1.2 million high risk individuals, which is a significant achievement. But at the current pace of progress, the Region is unlikely to achieve the target of providing TPT to at least 10.8 million high risk individuals by 2022. Second, almost all countries in the Region have adopted or are in the process of adopting the latest WHO guidelines on TPT. But fully implementing the guidelines requires focused attention and coordinated action from all stakeholders, especially given the emergence and spread of COVID-19, which provides TB programmes additional challenges that we can – and must – overcome.

I call upon all Member States, partners, communities and stakeholders to prioritize the provision of person-centric TPT service delivery models that are suitable to the country context, and to allocate the resources required to rapidly scale up TPT services to End TB in the Region. Together we must continue to push ever harder to protect our many gains and to deliver on the Region's Flagship Priority on accelerating efforts to End TB, for a healthier, more sustainable future for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Khetrpal'.

Dr Poonam Khetrpal Singh
Regional Director
WHO South-East Asia Region

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