



Global Investment
Plan (GIP)

Global Partnership
Agreement (GPA)

Global Drug
Facility (GDF)

A BRIEF ON THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT TO STOP TUBERCULOSIS (TB)

To coordinate accelerated action against one of the world's biggest killers

The Stop TB Initiative, working through countries and organizations, has begun building the foundation for an international movement to Stop TB, coordinated by a Global Partnership Agreement. A Global Partnership Agreement would:

- **build and sustain** focused attention on the TB pandemic—a massive global problem for which a small investment can lead to a high payoff—so that global targets for TB control can be achieved by 2005 and progress continued thereafter;
- **reinforce and prioritize** the need for controlling TB in the context of good public health, overall health sector development and national poverty alleviation efforts;
- **detail** internationally negotiated and agreed-upon principles of action for both governments and organizations;
- **set the foundation** for a new, dynamic global partnership against TB working towards more coordinated international assistance and stronger support of national leaders committed to effective TB control.

Most importantly, a Partnership Agreement at the international level would serve to support and facilitate the emergence of expanded country-level partnerships to Stop TB.

What would be the underlying principles of a Partnership Agreement?

The Partnership would:

- view the provision of TB treatment and cure first and foremost as a national responsibility;
- mobilize and deploy international assistance for national TB control efforts with a view towards ensuring the additionality of international resources;
- ensure that Partnership-supported TB control strategies would be cost-effective, sustainable in terms of national capacity building and sensitive to major settings (such as in areas with high prevalence HIV, multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB), concentrated urban poverty, refugee camps or prisons);
- be concerned that the national responses be supportive of broader improvements in communicable disease control and primary health services and consistent with a broader-based response to the diseases of poverty;
- promote the design and implementation of national and institutional action plans responsive to differentiated national needs.

How would countries with high burdens of TB benefit from a Partnership Agreement?

A Partnership Agreement focused on accelerated action on the part of governments and organizations would have several potential benefits:

- governments would be reassured that their national action plans and strategies are linked to a set of internationally-accepted, strategies, standards and consensus-based principles for action;
- countries would accrue valuable expertise in expanding partnerships of interested parties from multiple sectors—expertise that would be transferable at the domestic level for expanding critical partnerships for health;
- increased opportunities to access new, significant external assistance would emerge to assist countries in preventing or addressing specific crises or emergencies, particularly relating to drugs and supplies;

- strengthened coordination of external assistance would result as international organizations, donors and nongovernmental organizations pursue their missions within an international partnership based on accepted principles of action.

How would a Partnership Agreement be structured?

A Partnership Agreement would serve as the coordinating instrument of the Stop TB Initiative, enabling a broad, flexible framing of an international partnership and the expected actions of parties within it. An Agreement would be implemented in two stages:

- The General Partnership Agreement would lay out the international consensus positions on objectives, priorities and best practices for TB control as well as the basic responsibilities of all parties. It would bring interested parties into a loose yet coordinated arrangement underpinned by common goals and principles, and articulate the arrangements through which an international partnership would be maintained. It would also serve as a partnership model for replication at national level.
- Organization and Country Specific Action Plans would be used to render operational the commitment of all parties. These Action Plans would provide detailed, monitorable information about how respective partners propose to meet the obligations laid out under the Agreement and they would support dialogue among interested parties to reduce duplication of effort and enhance the exchange of information about “best practices”.

Is a Partnership Agreement to be adopted at the Ministerial Conference on TB and Sustainable Development?

No, this is not expected. Delegations from 20 of the highest burden countries participating in the Ministerial Conference will be asked to pledge their commitment to accelerated TB control in the context of health, social and economic development. It is expected that the Conference Declaration, drafted and endorsed by the country delegations, would include a commitment to participate in the development and implementation of a Partnership Agreement.

When and how would a Partnership Agreement be developed and implemented?

The development of a Partnership Agreement is expected to take place in the months following the March 2000 Ministerial Conference. This would require a collaborative process involving close consultation with governments and organizations. Endorsement of the first-step General Partnership Agreement by several of the highest burden countries as well as selected organizations would be expected by the fall of 2000. Second-step organization or country-specific action plans could be expected to follow commitment to the General Agreement. Time frames for the development of action plans would depend on the complexity and depth of individual plans of countries and organizations. For some, a realistic time frame for having functional action plans could be a few months, for others one year or more. These processes would be coordinated by the Stop TB Initiative.

Is the Partnership Agreement expected to be legally binding?

No. The Agreement is not expected to be a legally binding instrument. It will not call for a formal treaty or convention requiring ratification by parliaments, assemblies or congresses. However, it would be a strong expression of commitment to action on the part of diverse parties, including governments and organizations, supported by individual commitments to prepare and implement multi-year, monitorable Action Plans.

How would a Partnership Agreement relate to a Global Investment Plan for Tuberculosis Elimination?

The relationship would be complementary. Both would be developed under the umbrella of the Stop TB Initiative. A Partnership Agreement would lay out the international consensus on strategies, objectives and best practices for TB control and support the development of specific action plans by countries and organizations, describing the ways they propose to meet these goals and objectives. The Global Investment Plan would reinforce the goals and objectives of the Partnership Agreement, and would describe the major unmet needs and resource gaps that exist globally and in many high burden countries.

C O N T A C T T H E S T O P T B I N I T I A T I V E