

Potential ideas for the TB MAC RFA call ‘Funding opportunities for projects on structural and socio-economic determinants of TB’

These ideas were generated by participants from a meeting held by TB-MAC on this subject, 13-14 October in New York, USA

Title	Optimising health service organisation and social protection to improve clinical and economic TB outcomes
What is gap	Evidence is lacking on the relationship between diagnostic and treatment system organisation and patient economic burdens and need for social protection.
Advance in field	1)Data mapping 2)Creating the evidence base for health systems and social protection interventions 3)Estimating requirements for SP programmes and decentralisation of services to optimise resource allocation
Link to TB policy/practice	Inform decisions around social protection resource allocation and organisation of services
Title	<i>The impact of TB on household and community impoverishment</i>
What is gap	The SDGs call for a reduction in poverty which is thought to be tied to TB. However, little is known about the social and economic impact of TB at household and community levels. Further, how impoverishment then feeds back into TB transmission is unknown.
Advance in field	Adding a broader understanding of household and community poverty and TB dynamics
Link to TB policy/practice	This would strengthen the rationale for investment for social protection and identify better targets and interventions.
Title	<i>Understanding data and mechanisms of TB control through social protection</i>
What is gap	There is evidence that social protection can improve health outcomes, but there is limited evidence on the mechanisms/pathways through which they affect TB outcomes. These data have not been consolidated in a way that would inform mechanistic models, nor do we understand the mechanisms by which they influence TB outcomes.
Advance in field	Conceptual framework grounded in empirical data could crystallize thinking regarding the mechanisms by which social protection might impact TB outcomes and way in which mechanistic models could incorporate the evidence/data being collected. By using modelling, this work could avoid the operational barriers of complex, expensive experiments/ trials.
Link to TB policy/practice	Social protection is now a non-negotiable component of the global TB strategy for the post-2015 agenda. Need to inform/support this policy drive.
Title	<i>Linking measurable outcomes of social protection programmes to TB impact</i>
What is gap	The effects of social protection programmes are traditionally measured for intermediate outcomes, and the effect of those on TB outcomes remain uncertain.
Advance in field	Translate measurable indicators of social protection (and other socio-economic interventions) into projects of impact on TB outcomes
Link to TB policy/practice	Social protection is now a non-negotiable component of the global TB strategy for the post-2015 agenda. Need to inform/support this policy drive.

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Title	How do demographic changes impact TB?
What is gap	We don't know: 1) How demographic changes (e.g. urbanisation, geography, migration, displacement, household structure changes) affect TB transmission 2) What proportion of changes in TB are mediated by these factors?
Advance in field	1)Data collation 2)Inform model choice and structure 3)Inform parameterisation of mechanistic model
Link to TB policy/practice	Inform TB control by improving projections of interventions impact and resources allocation

Title	Comparing financial and economic impact of different priorities for TB interventions
What is gap	Beyond the standard set of TB interventions, there are questions as to what to do next with additional funding. One standard tradeoff question is whether to invest in improved social protection of patients currently under care (along with their households) or to invest in intensified case finding activities, such as systematic screening in high risk group/communities.
Advance in field	Data on costs to patients and household is available in many countries, and new patient costs surveys are being planning in several countries. There are some data on the impact of social protection and financial/social enablers on access and adherence. A systematic review has been done on the impact of systematic screening on case detection and epidemiological parameters However, empirical data on impact of social protection or systematic screening on financial risk protection are scarce.
Link to TB policy/practice	Move beyond zero-sum game (improve financial outcomes versus improve epidemiological outcomes) to see epidemiological impacts of improved social protection of patients. Provide context-specific projections for informing this policy tradeoff.