



CASE STUDY

Guidance for country-level TB modelling

WHY DID WE DO IT?

The use of mathematical modelling to inform and support tuberculosis (TB) policy-making has been encouraged by major funders and adopted by several high-burden countries. These quantitative planning exercises are undertaken to provide evidence for proposed interventions, improve the impact of TB funding and support funding applications. In recent years, a number of technical assistance providers have developed mathematical models and technical assistance capacity to support in-country TB policy decisions, and it is expected that the demand for technical assistance to support TB modelling will increase. This guidance was developed to address the needs of an increased demand for model-based policy evaluation, concern about observed heterogeneity in results, and a desire to see more transparent links between modelled evidence and the empirical data that support them.

WHO

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WHEN

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WHAT

Guidance for country-level TB modelling. *World Health Organization* (2018)

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HOW DID WE DO IT?

The document was developed by the TB Modelling and Analysis Consortium (TB MAC) and the WHO Global TB Programme, with input from representatives from key external stakeholders (the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Bank, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development, and the Stop TB Partnership), leading TB modelling groups, technical experts and country-level TB policy and programme staff. Versions of the guidance were reviewed by a range of individuals involved with supporting or participating in country TB policy-making, as well as technical and subject-matter experts.

SO WHAT?

This document has led to discussions resulting in the development of an accompanying Benchmarking, Reporting and Review (BRR) process. This process seeks to operationalize the guidance document, providing a mechanism for constructive review of modelling work to improve quality and transparency. The BRR process, through the support of TB Country-level Modelling Roadmap Steering Committee, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, has been piloted in 5 country-level modelling applications to provide support for TB planning.

WHAT DID WE LEARN?

A key lesson learned from the development of this work was the necessity for involvement of all relevant stakeholders to enable buy-in, so that the principles and practices developed would be widely acknowledged and used. This included the need to maintain strong working relationships between modelling groups and decision-makers. Lastly, it was evident that, beyond guidance, funders had a need for concrete tools to evaluate and improve quality.