



**TB Modelling and
Analysis Consortium**

Benchmarking, Reporting and Review

Summary of challenges and possible changes

Original intent

- Promote **quality** and **transparency** of country-level TB modelling
 - stimulate progressive improvement of modelling as a tool
 - strengthen incentives for high-quality modelling
 - tighten link between results and the evidence used to justify them
- **How can we change the BRR to improve this?**
- **Beyond the BRR**



How do we design the BRR so its robust to

- Timing?
 - *variable decision-points*
 - *variable process speeds*
 - *various time resources available*
- Content?
 - *various useful aspects to review*
 - *competing opinions on data ownership*
 - *competing opinions on data quality*
- Reviewers?
 - *variable review requirements*
 - *variable reviewer availability*
- Management?
 - *variable resource availability*
 - *variable funder requirements*

How reviews are conducted

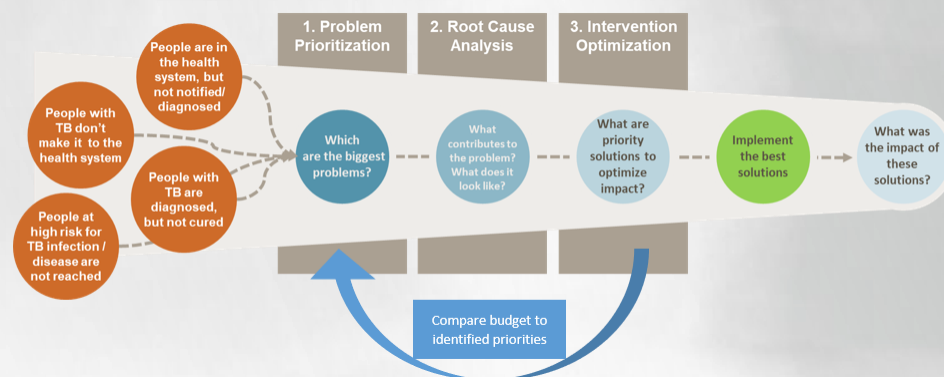
How the BRR is managed



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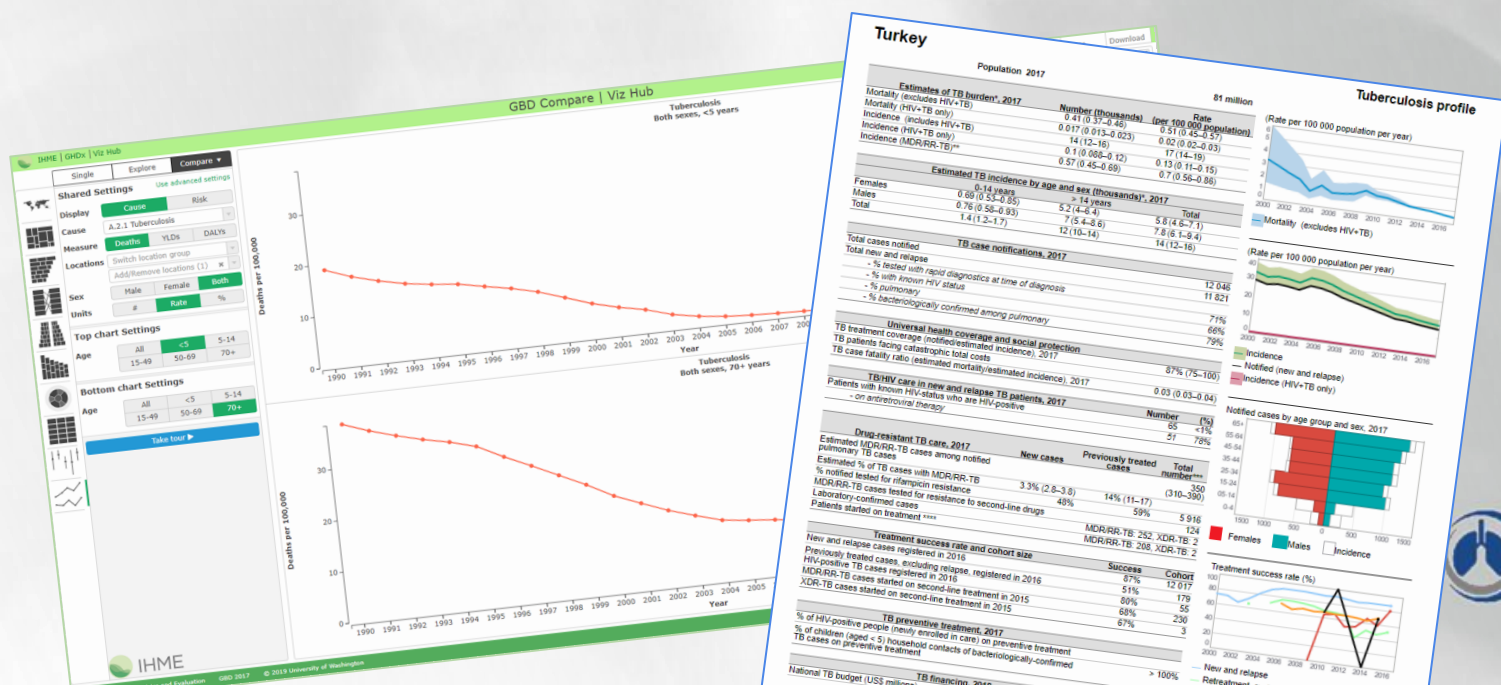
Challenges from the piloting

- Timing
 - a. Engagement with a country can make feedback difficult to incorporate after certain points
 - b. Identification and engagement of reviewers with (relevant country experience) can happen at a different speed to application requirements, how do we engage reviewers earlier
 - c. The BRR could add additional reporting burden to already-busy groups, how frequently should it be done and should it sunset



Challenges from the piloting

- Content
 - a. Are there broad areas of content we should add/take away - e.g. impact
 - b. Sharing of data, reports and results can be difficult due to concerns about ownership and viewership, should we have a draft ToR
 - c. Commenting on the quality of data sources could be sensitive



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Challenges from the piloting

- Reviewers
 - a. There can be uncertainty over where and when applications will take place (which affects relevant country experience)
 - b. Reviewer rates, availability, requirements (number of applications), expertise and CoI can vary between reviewers and over time
 - c. Should we include country teams or others in the process
 - d. Should the review process be more flexible



Terms of Reference

External Review of Country-level TB Modelling Applications

Background and Rationale

The Global Fund is collaborating with the TB Modelling and Analysis Consortium (TB MAC) to develop a standardized approach for benchmarking, reporting, and external review of mathematical modelling undertaken to support country TB decision-making (BRR initiative). As part of this initiative, TB modelling groups providing country-level technical assistance will report on their activities using a standard reporting template. External reviewers will review the modelling and technical assistance approach to assess whether they are consistent with current evidence and good practices for TB modelling, and provide feedback to the modelling groups. The Global Fund and TB MAC are piloting this initiative in 2019, and are seeking reviewers to participate in this pilot.

Purpose

Approximately 5 country modelling applications will be included in this pilot, and for each of these applications will be reviewed by three reviewers. Each reviewer will be responsible for one of three focal areas (TB modelling, economics, programmatic considerations), but will also be expected to review the overall approach. A lead reviewer will be identified for each modeling application, additionally responsible for compilation of the reviews, completion of the reviewer checklist and delivery to the modelling group. It is anticipated that each reviewer involved in the BRR pilot will review 1-3 applications, depending on alignment with the needs of each application.

There will be three stages for review: an initial review of the plan for model application, and interim review of preliminary results, and a final review of the application. This sequence may be modified for modelling applications that are already underway.

These terms of reference describe the responsibilities and deliverables of reviewers engaged to provide external review of country-level TB modelling applications.

Expected results

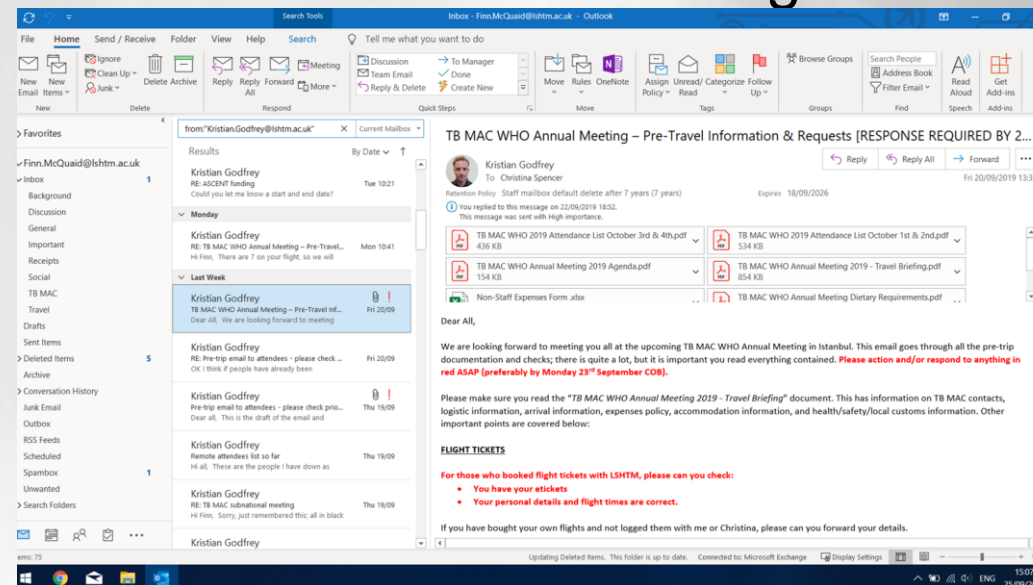
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Reviewer roles and responsibilities

Reviewers are expected to provide timely and constructive criticism and suggested changes during a modelling application in order to improve the quality of TB modelling results and resource

Challenges from the piloting

- Management of the process
 - a. What do we do if the results are bad
 - b. Should the process be more stringent or have more teeth
 - c. TB MAC doesn't currently have the resources to drive this process in the future
 - d. Different funders could use the BRR to a greater or lesser extent over time



Original intent

- Promote **quality** and **transparency** of country-level TB modelling
 - stimulate progressive improvement of modelling as a tool
 - strengthen incentives for high-quality modelling
 - tighten link between results and the evidence used to justify them
- **Given the current BRR, what do we miss?**



Planning for the future

Given our stated intent,

- How much review is needed?
 - Status quo vs self-review vs all reviewed?
- Should we be considering professionalisation of modelling?
 - Central review process?
 - Contracting modelling companies?
 - How do we deal with capacity constraints of modelling groups?
- Should we be considering more model comparison exercises?
- Should we be considering data quality improvement exercises?

What else should we as a community be doing to improve quality & transparency?

Next steps

Consolidate input (some for BRR, some for further steps)

Continue piloting

Draw it all together

