



October 2020

## Reaching Impact, Saturation and Epidemic Control (RISE)

# TB/HIV Integration

### The Global Challenge

Although Tuberculosis (TB) incidence rates are declining, they are not dropping fast enough to end the global TB epidemic by 2035, and TB remains one of the top 10 causes of death worldwide and the leading cause of death for PLHIV. Large gaps persist in identifying TB cases—including among children—and in coverage of TB treatment and TB preventive treatment (TPT) among PLHIV. A preventable and treatable disease, TB was responsible for one of every three HIV-related deaths in 2018. An estimated 49% of people living with HIV (PLHIV) who also have TB are unaware of their coinfection and thus are not receiving care.

New strategies are needed to ensure efficient case finding and high TPT coverage. In addition, countries require policy and implementation support to ensure widespread use of newer diagnostics and new regimens for TPT and multidrug resistant (MDR) TB that will shorten treatment duration and improve tolerability. In response to these critical and time-sensitive needs, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) have provided generous funding for RISE, a 5-year global project (2019–2024) that supports countries to achieve and maintain epidemic control by providing strategic technical assistance and direct service delivery to improve HIV prevention, case finding, treatment, and viral load suppression. To meet the TB prevention and treatment needs of PLHIV, we promote integration of TB and HIV services.

### Our Technical Focus in TB/HIV Integration

RISE provides comprehensive technical assistance to ministries of health (MOHs) and other partners to address national TB challenges and strengthen integrated prevention, diagnosis, care, and treatment of TB and HIV. Key elements of our technical approach to TB/HIV integration include:

The RISE consortium (Jhpiego, ICAP, Management Sciences for Health, Anova Health Institute, BAO Systems, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Mann Global Health) brings unrivaled expertise in taking evidence-based programming to scale and transitioning to local implementing partners for sustainable, self-reliant, and resilient health systems. We have a history of meeting ambitious targets through provision of high-quality, cost-efficient services matched with innovative and human-centered demand-creation approaches.



- **Ensuring that TB clinics and facilities providing antiretroviral therapy (ART) offer HIV testing and TB screening.** RISE integrates TB and HIV services so that PLHIV receive TB screening as part of their routine care, and all TB clients receive HIV testing and counseling and are linked to follow-up services as needed. To further link clients to care, RISE integrates systematic TB contact and household tracing strategies with HIV partner notification and index testing services.
- **Providing ongoing assessment of integration strategies.** RISE works with stakeholders at the national, district, and local levels to regularly assess the feasibility, acceptability, and effectiveness of combination strategies to improve the TB cascade (including early ART, increased uptake and completion of TPT, integration of TPT into differentiated ART service delivery models, and integrated TB/HIV services) and to implement the best available strategies.
- **Building capacity of health care providers.** RISE supports the development of guidelines and tools, including job aids, to ensure that TB service provision follows global best practices. We work with MOHs and local authorities to educate service providers on comprehensive TB and HIV services, including infection prevention and control, facilitate the integration of care into other primary health care service programming, and extend care and treatment services to the community level.
- **Introducing and scaling up the newest proven diagnostics, prevention and treatment regimens.** We work with MOHs to ensure access to new-era diagnostics, including point-of-care urinary lipoarabinomannan for people with advanced HIV, new short course TPT regimens, and newer drugs for treatment of MDR TB, and provide support to strengthen the TB management infrastructure, including installation of GeneXpert machines to improve diagnosis.

## Examples of Our Work in TB/HIV Integration

As is true for all of RISE’s technical areas, our work in TB/HIV integration is crosscutting, spanning efforts in health systems strengthening, HIV testing, and laboratory services, among others. Examples of RISE partners’ work include:

- In eSwatini, RISE partner ICAP supported the national TB program to make remarkable progress confronting the TB epidemic. Through technical assistance for guideline and tool development, training and mentorship for TB providers, expansion of TB management infrastructure, and enhanced M&E systems, ICAP’s contributions helped eSwatini increase the TB case detection rate from below 60 percent to 84 percent in 2019. Incidence of TB declined rapidly—from 733 to 308 cases per 100,000 in just four years—and MDR-TB saw a similar decline. Prevalence of first-line drug resistance among newly diagnosed TB patients decreased from seven to three percent. ICAP is now supporting the Ministry of Health to address remaining gaps (e.g., uptake of TPT among people living with HIV who are enrolled in care remains low [16%] and, despite dramatic reductions in new cases, TB mortality rate remains high [14%]).
- In Lesotho, where 80% of people with TB are coinfecting with HIV, ICAP supported implementation of integrated TB/HIV services at three high-volume regional health facilities. The intervention targeted miners, a migratory population with high incidence of TB, and included same-day testing and initiation on treatment and SMS-based adherence monitoring and support. Project activities have included clinical training, education and outreach, and nurse mentorship.
- In Zambia, RISE-lead Jhpiego worked with the Zambia Defense Force to ensure that TB clinics offered HIV testing services and TB screening was available in all facilities providing ART. Jhpiego also introduced intensified TB screening tools for PLHIV and established additional TB diagnostic centers, reaching 5,208 adults and children living with HIV.
- In Mopani and Gauteng, South Africa, RISE partner Anova supported national rollout of an electronic TB register at the primary health care level to provide real-time treatment and care details for clients coinfecting with TB and HIV, enabling clinicians to track clients’ response to treatment, support retention in care by identifying clients with missed appointments, and enable program staff to monitor clinical outcomes.

### RISE Project Principles

- Break the cycle of HIV transmission and reach those at highest risk for HIV.
- Scale up proven and innovative approaches, using human-centered design thinking to inform the development and implementation of locally driven, adaptive solutions.
- Implement interventions that address structural drivers.
- Strengthen local partners and build networks for resilient systems.
- Impart a culture of quality, data use, and accountability.
- Rapidly mobilize to respond to immediate country needs and establish strong working platforms to achieve the bold vision of epidemic control by 2020.
- Work with local partners to tailor impactful, innovative, evidence-based services to targeted populations, particularly at-risk adult men and women, including key populations.

## Tools & Resources

- [CQUIN Community of Practice Meeting on Opportunities and Challenges for TB Prevention and Care](#)
- [ICAP Grand Rounds Webinar \(archived recording\): Differentiated Service Delivery for TB Preventive Therapy](#)
- [MDR-TB Planning Toolkit \(WHO/USAID\)](#)
- Integrating Intensive TB Case Finding and TB Preventive Treatment [Services into Differentiated ART Models](#)
- Howard A, Pimental de Gusmao E, Mafukidze A, et al. High Uptake of IPT with Integration of TB/HIV Services in RMNCH Settings in Manzini Region, Eswatini. Poster presented at the Union World Conference on Lung Health, The Hague (2018): <https://icap.columbia.edu/ptb-tb-who>

### RISE Technical Areas

To learn more about our work, visit our website at <https://www.jhpiego.org/rise>, and see our briefs on:

- [RISE Introductory Brief & Project Overview](#)
- Health Systems Strengthening
- HIV Prevention: Oral Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
- HIV Prevention: Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision
- Engaging Men in HIV Testing, Linkage, and Retention in Care
- Antiretroviral Therapy Optimization
- Strategic Information
- Key Populations
- TB/HIV Integration
- Laboratory Services

For more information about RISE, contact:

At RISE: Kelly Curran, RISE Project Director ([kelly.curran@Jhpiego.org](mailto:kelly.curran@Jhpiego.org))

At USAID: Elizabeth Berard, USAID Agreement Officer's Representative ([EBerard@usaid.gov](mailto:EBerard@usaid.gov))