

UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING MUST HELP END TB

PLEASE ASK RISHI
SUNAK TO ATTEND
THE UN HIGH-
LEVEL MEETING
ON TB!

Tuberculosis (TB) has regained its status as the world's deadliest infectious disease, killing more than 1.6 million people worldwide every year. While some new vaccines and therapies are in development, progress is far too slow to reach the global target to end the epidemic by 2030. Diplomats from around the world have been negotiating a new agreement for global cooperation in the fight against TB, to be signed at the second UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) on TB on 22 September, to accelerate the global response to TB. It will be essential that the commitments made at the HLM are specific, provide adequate resources, and reflect the needs of people and communities affected by this deadly but curable disease. The UK has an ongoing commitment to the Global Fund to Fight HIV, TB and Malaria, and a strong stake in global research and development (R&D) efforts to combat infectious diseases. The UK must commit to redoubling its efforts at the HLM, which the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak must attend personally.

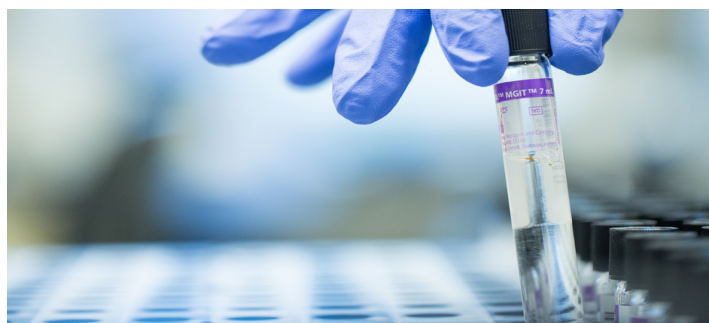
Talking points for your letter:

- September's UN High-Level Meeting on TB is the best chance yet to galvanise efforts to tackle the world's most deadly yet most overlooked infectious disease - tuberculosis (TB) - and provide a road map to ending preventable deaths from TB by 2030.
- There is a need for accountability to ensure that commitments made at the HLM by countries and international institutions are met. This involves not only making promises, but follow-through with genuine action and adequate financing.
- The UK must play its part in global efforts to tackle TB, and has historically provided strong financial commitments and strong support for research and development into new diagnostics and treatments.
- Prime Minister Rishi Sunak must attend the HLM and make concrete announcements to step up the UK's contribution and leadership in the global fight against TB.



**READ OUR NEW REPORT:
ACCOUNTABILITY TO END
TUBERCULOSIS: A GLOBAL
RESPONSIBILITY.**

Despite TB being declared a public health emergency in 1993, no TB vaccine candidate has yet completed a Phase III trial. In fact, the world still relies on the century-old BCG vaccine, which is largely ineffective in adolescents and adults who are most at risk of developing and spreading TB. Image credit: World Health Organization.



Insufficient international agreement to tackle TB

The international community last came together to agree coordinated efforts in 2018, at the first ever United Nations High-Level Meeting (HLM) on TB, where Nation States made [specific and concrete commitments](#) to tackling TB, but since then, with insecurity, an economic crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic, progress in tackling the disease [has gone into reverse](#). Now, it is time to review progress against the commitments made in 2018, and it is sadly very clear that the world is far from achieving what it set out to do five years ago.

What's missing?

There are profound concerns that the draft Political Declaration for the forthcoming UN HLM on TB is lacking in ambition and urgency, including a lack of specific targets for funding and research and development (R&D), no recognition of the rights of affected communities, or [commitments to accountability for implementation](#). The draft fails to address the persistent challenges faced by those affected by TB, including timely access to affordable diagnostics, medicines, and treatment, and adequate funding to support effective locally-led TB responses.

Listening to affected communities

Because of the disproportionate impact of TB on vulnerable populations, such as adolescents, migrants, refugees, people who use drugs, prisoners, and other marginalised communities, it is vital that governments and policymakers engage in a meaningful and inclusive dialogue with affected communities and civil society organisations to ensure that their voices can guide the global TB response. Up until now, this has not happened in the negotiations.

TAKE ACTION! This month:



Please write to the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, explaining why you are concerned to ensure that the UN High-Level Meeting on TB in September is a success. Even if the Declaration of the meeting proves disappointing, he must attend the HLM personally, and make concrete announcements to step up the UK's contribution to the global fight against TB.

Contact details:

The Prime Minister, Rt. Hon. Rishi Sunak MP, 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA. > Email: mail@no10.gov.uk

Let us know that you've taken this month's action by emailing:

Campaigns Coordinator Aurora Basso at aurora.basso@results.org.uk