

learning exercise: a 'whole of society' approach to TB

May 2024

This learning exercise aims to help you practise a short 'elevator pitch' to powerfully express this month's campaign on TB.

Learn the points below, which summarise this month's campaign. Then practice explaining the issue to others, such as members of your Results group, family or friends. This will help you to speak fluently when you want to explain the issue to an MP, or to write a succinct letter. It may also prompt others to take action!

what does a 'whole of society' approach to TB matter?

- Tuberculosis (TB) is a disease of poverty that is curable, yet kills over 10 million people every year.
- TB thrives because of poverty, undernutrition, stigma and poor healthcare systems. While a patient needs drugs, none of these risk factors can be treated medically.
- Global targets to end TB by 2030 cannot be reached unless governments engage everyone in society, not just health systems.
- Without a social protection system, TB patients and their families often lose their income when they can't work because of their illness and extensive medical treatment.
- The UK Government signed a Political Declaration to help solve this problem at a United Nations 'High-Level Meeting in September 2023.
- The UK Government must act on this commitment by ensuring that 100% of people with tuberculosis have access to a health and social benefits package so they do not have to endure financial hardship because of their illness.