



RESULTS Canada

2018 UN High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis Policy Brief Series: TB-HIV

What's at Stake?

Tuberculosis (TB) is the world's leading infectious killer, claiming 1.7 million lives every year. Our global progress to fight the disease is off-track and requires serious and dedicated global political leadership. In September 2018, the United Nations (UN) will hold a high-level meeting on TB. The UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) on TB is a crucial opportunity to bolster and align world leaders' commitments to tackling TB. This policy series is intended to increase attention to the HLM on TB in Canada and to ensure that civil society is engaged in shaping the direction and impact it will have.

Tackling the Burden Together

UN high-level meetings are rare, and there have only ever been six dedicated to health issues – including two on HIV/AIDS. The HIV/AIDS community has a breadth of experience in maximizing the impact of these meetings and the TB community could greatly benefit from collaboration.

The TB and HIV/AIDS communities have a unique relationship given the impact of TB on the lives of people living with HIV. People living with HIV are more susceptible to falling ill from TB bacteria, are harder to diagnose with TB, and face more complicated and difficult treatment regimens. Often, one community is disproportionately affected by both diseases. This is true in Canada – in particular for both newcomer and Indigenous communities.

Furthermore, communities affected by each disease are often heavily stigmatized and face significant social, economic, and cultural barriers in fighting them. The HIV and TB communities both stand to greatly benefit from a successful HLM on TB.

Canada is one of the 193 member nations of the UN that can decide the direction and fate of the HLM. With long-held support for global health issues, including as a major donor to the Global Fund and TB REACH, Canada has made clear its intentions to take a leadership role in eradicating diseases and building healthy populations across the globe. Canada's leadership on ensuring a successful HLM on TB is crucial.

Civil Society Opportunities:

Before the HLM: Now is the time to influence the political declaration agreed to by the UN members.

During the HLM: As in previous HLMs, including on HIV/AIDS, civil society must be represented in all sessions and panels.

After the HLM: We must work with the government of Canada to ensure that an agreed upon accountability framework is effective and utilized.

The Power of Two Communities

“If I have seen further than others, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” Isaac Newton.

Real change takes tough discussions and ambitious commitments and we need to push our global leaders. We will not realize our goals for ending TB if we do not generate collective political will accompanied by tangible commitments and resources from across the globe. But with the strength and size of the HIV/AIDS community allied underneath us, we can achieve these objectives and put the end of TB in our sights.

Continue reading the blog [HERE](#)



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TAKE ACTION

Bring our communities together to shape a successful HLM on TB with strong Canadian leadership:

- **Attend the webinar series:**

TB-HIV and the HLM: Tuesday, March 6th, 2018. [Register on Eventbrite.](#)

TB, Gender and the HLM: Thursday, April 26th, 2018.

- **Participate in the policy dialogue** in May 2018. Details to come in our next issue of the UN HLM on TB Policy Brief Series in April 2018.
- **Build relationships with decision-makers** (including members of parliament, members of Health Canada and Global Affairs Canada, etc.) and share our priorities for a successful HLM on TB for 2018.
- **Stay informed:**

Reach out to RESULTS Canada's TB Officer for resources and more information about the Canadian and global civil society activities that you can get involved in, including the global civil society list serve (email: shelley@results-resultats.ca).

Goals for the HLM on TB:

- Attended by heads of state.
- Engages civil society throughout the process.
- Communities affected by TB are at the centre of all decisions.
- Reflects Canadian priorities and highlights Canadian leadership.

About RESULTS Canada

RESULTS Canada combines the voices of our grassroots advocates with strategic advocacy efforts to leverage millions of dollars for programs and improved policies that give the world's poorest people the health, education, and opportunity they need to thrive.

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