

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Assessing Impact of LIFT-TB project to fast-track access to BPAL-based regimens

**Global Alliance for TB Drug Development
April 22, 2025**

1. Background of the LIFT-TB project and planned assessment

Launched in 2020, the LIFT-TB (Leveraging Innovation for Faster Treatment of Tuberculosis) - is a project aimed to speed adoption and broad programmatic implementation of innovative 6-month MDR-TB treatments – BPaL/M. The project is co-funded by TB Alliance and KOICA, conceptualized and managed by TB Alliance, and implemented with support of multiple global, regional and country partners under supervision of TB Alliance.

LIFT-TB operates in Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. Starting from Operational Research (OR) for BPaL to develop local experience and clinical confidence in the 7 project countries, LIFT-TB expanded to providing technical assistance and support for wider implementation and scale-up of BPaL/M after the regimens were recommended for programmatic use by WHO in December 2022.

LIFT-TB supported countries in several ways including confirming safety and efficacy of BPaL in their own settings was consistent with clinical trials; developing a better understanding of cost-effectiveness and savings potential of BPaL/M; local policy development; planning and readiness for implementation and scale-up; clinical and lab capacity building at national and sub-national level; and engaging communities in roll out.

A unique feature of LIFT-TB was responsiveness to global policy (the project came together and the first OR started in 5 months of initial WHO recommendation and programmatic usage began within 2 months of final WHO guidelines) and high representation and deep reliance on local partners after initial involvement of international partners in operations research. This resulted in speed of local adoption while building local capacity for implementation and scale up.

Usually, pilots and implementation projects have been done in 1-2 relatively small countries. A differentiating factor for LIFT-TB is that it has seven complex and diverse project countries with varying requirements, spread across different regions, and 6 out of 7 are among the highest TB burden countries globally. Hence apart from generating evidence and experience to inform global scale-up, LIFT-TB resulted in these countries becoming early adopters and champions of the regimens, creating demand and shaping the market for pretomanid.

While many of the above outcomes are documented, TB Alliance is interested to comprehensively and systematically, assess impact of the project and surface learnings.

Through this RFP, we aim to select a partner who will help us achieve that objective.

2. Key objectives:

1. Project evaluation:

- Did the project meet or exceed objectives agreed with the donor;
- Analyze outcomes – what resulted in success, failures, outstanding achievements or failures;
- Evaluate efficiency of project structure and execution, identifying factors that contributed or hindered efficiency;
- Value for money and its positive/negative determinants (factors/partners that improved VfM and those that adversely affected);
- Assess contribution of individual partners and their contribution to success/speed and conversely contribution to delays;
- Assess role of TB Alliance and lessons for the future; and
- Other parameters as agreed with TB Alliance.

2. Macro, public-health impact:

- Evaluate impact of the project in project countries and effect of the project on shaping uptake of BPaL/M globally;
- Compare speed and effectiveness vs. previous comparable launches – in the field of TB – bedaquiline and delamanid or by other PDPs; and
- Other parameters as agreed with TB Alliance.

3. Impact assessment plan

Study design, approach, and tools such as questionnaires will be developed in collaboration with TB Alliance. Research should be designed and conducted in a manner that is systematic, objective, robust, adequately sourced, and conducive to, ideally, the ultimate publication of findings. The study will utilize a combination of expert interviews and desk research.

The list of potential interviewees (expected, at least 20-25 in number) will be defined as part of the project design and may include:

- LIFT-TB donors, pretomanid manufacturers, research partners and technical implementing partners;
- LIFT-TB National TB program managers and policy decision-makers; OR principal investigators in LIFT-TB countries; and
- Community members and patient advocacy groups in LIFT-TB countries; and
- Global health stakeholders.

4. Deliverables

Deliverables will include:

- Report summarizing design, results, conclusions, and challenges/limitations with study implementation;
- Power-point synthesizing key highlights from the report;
- Excel spreadsheet capturing data outputs from qualitative and quantitative data collection/interviews; and
- Manuscript for publication in the peer-reviewed journal (upon agreement)

5. Proposal submission and anticipated project timelines

- RFP publication date: **April 22nd, 2025**
- Proposal submission due date: **May 8th, 2025**
- Contract establishment: **June, 2025**
- Project design development and alignment with TBA: **July 2025**
- Data collection and analysis: **August – October, 2025**
- Interim report: **October 20, 2025**
- Final report: **November 30, 2025**

6. Proposal format and requirements

To be considered as a potential supplier, the proposal must meet the stated requirements described in this section. Proposals are due to the TB Alliance by email by the end of business day on May 8, 2025. Due to potential conflict of interest, LIFT-TB partners are not eligible to apply.

Proposals (maximum 10 pages) should include the following components:

- Executive summary
- Description of the services to be provided and timelines
- Description of the plan for ensuring adequate coordination with TB Alliance
- Description of the end product/s to be delivered
- Detailed budget including spreadsheet (budget spreadsheet not in 15 pages limit)
- Overview of roles, responsibilities, and relevant experience of project personnel, summary of staff expertise
- Curriculum vitae of project personnel (not included in the 15 pages limit)

7. Proposal evaluation criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Strength of proposal and responsiveness to RFP
- Availability of the right team members to execute the project
- Knowledge of TB landscape in target countries and understanding of issues related to TB diagnosis and treatment
- The ability to leverage relationships with key stakeholders to expeditiously and effectively gather required information and ensure cost effectiveness of study
- Experience producing publication-quality research
- Availability to participate in key meetings, information gathering opportunities, and briefings, as deemed necessary
- Timelines
- Quoted budget

8. Submission of proposals

Proposals should be submitted by e-mail to: maria.diachenko-consultant@tballiance.org