



GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION: #TestToBeatTB

KENYA COUNTRY ADVOCACY MEMORANDUM

23 SEPTEMBER 2026

Memorandum To: Hon. Aden Duale, EGH, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Government of Kenya

From: TB affected communities and civil society organisations working on TB

Date: 23 September 2026

Subject: A five-year national roadmap to expand equitable access to Rapid Molecular TB diagnosis in Kenya

Dear Hon. Aden Duale, EGH,

Purpose

This memorandum calls for strengthened national action to close Kenya's TB diagnostic gap through a costed, measurable five-year roadmap for the scale-up of WHO-recommended rapid molecular diagnostics, including appropriate near point-of-care (nPOC) technologies. The recommendations are intended to support implementation of Kenya's National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Health 2023-2028 and to inform future Global Fund and domestic financing decisions.

Why This Matters for Kenya

Kenya remains one of the countries with a high burden of TB. In 2024, the Ministry of Health reported 96,865 TB cases notified against an estimated 124,000 cases, leaving a substantial number of people who developed TB without a recorded diagnosis and notification. WHO's 2025 Global Tuberculosis Report estimates approximately 117,000 people developed TB in Kenya in 2024. These figures point to the continued importance of strengthening case finding, diagnostic access and timely linkage to treatment.

Kenya has already invested in rapid molecular diagnosis, including GeneXpert and Truenat, as well as community-based case-finding and digital chest X-ray approaches. The next priority is to ensure that these investments translate into equitable access to timely molecular testing, particularly at primary health-care level and in underserved and hard-to-reach settings.

The global 2023 UN High-Level Meeting commitment is that, by 2027, 100% of people diagnosed with TB should be initially tested with a WHO-recommended rapid diagnostic. Kenya can use its

existing diagnostic network and primary health-care reforms to accelerate progress towards this commitment.

Ambitious Road Map

We ask that the National TB Program develops an ambitious 5-year rollout roadmap, set bold targets, and integrate molecular tests, including nPOC diagnostics, into the National Strategic Plan and the Global Fund Grant Cycle 8 (GC8) funding request with the following goals:

- **By end of 2026:** Publish a costed five-year national roadmap with annual targets for TB screening, rapid molecular testing, drug-resistance testing and equitable access to diagnostic services.
- **By end of 2027:** Ensure that 100% of people diagnosed with TB are initially tested with a WHO-recommended rapid molecular diagnostic, consistent with Kenya's international commitment and current WHO recommendations.
- **By end of 2028:** Ensure that more than 75% of health facilities have access to nPOC or another WHO-recommended molecular diagnostic, either onsite or through an efficient specimen-transport system, with priority for primary health-care facilities and underserved counties.
- **By end of 2029:** Achieve nationwide health-facility access to nPOC or other WHO-recommended molecular testing, supported by functional specimen referral, connectivity, quality assurance and same-day or timely linkage to care.
- **By end of 2030:** Double the number of people receiving TB screening, molecular testing and drug-resistance testing compared with 2026 levels, with progress monitored by county and by priority population.

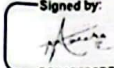
To inform this roadmap, we ask that the Ministry of Health and National TB Program to:

- Identify the gaps where people with TB are being missed, including in priority populations such as people living with HIV, rural communities and the urban poor and identify which regions have the lowest diagnostic coverage
- Map existing infrastructure, including primary health care sites, microscopy centers, and WRD facilities, so that nPOC tests complement current capacity rather than duplicate it
- Budget for the full diagnostic package: devices and cartridges, sample collection, specimen transport, drug-resistance testing, connectivity, maintenance, quality assurance, training, supervision and community engagement.
- Integrate the roadmap into the National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Health, county implementation plans and relevant Global Fund GC8 and domestic financing processes.

- Establish structured mechanisms for community participation in site selection, implementation and monitoring, with quarterly review of diagnostic access, turnaround times, stock availability and referral bottlenecks.

We welcome continued collaboration with the Ministry of Health, county health departments, technical and financing partners, health-care providers and communities to expand equitable access to rapid molecular TB testing.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Allan Maleche

Executive Director- KELIN



On Behalf of TB affected communities and civil society organisation working on TB

Cc: Head, National Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Disease Program

Endorsed by: KELIN, DACASA, WOTE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROJECT CBO, BLUE CROSS NYATIKE, INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF WOMEN LIVING WITH HIV-KENYA CHAPTER, IRDO, LISHEI CBO, NETWORK OF TB CHAMPIONS KENYA, SWOP AMBASSADORS, STOP TB PARTNERSHIP

SOURCE

1. WHO. *Global Tuberculosis Report 2025*.
 2. MOH, Kenya. *Kenya showcases breakthroughs in TB diagnosis and treatment at TICAD9 side event (2025)*.
 3. Republic of Kenya. *National Strategic Plan for Tuberculosis, Leprosy and Lung Health 2023-2028*.
 4. UN General Assembly. *Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on the Fight Against Tuberculosis (2023)*.
 5. World Health Organization. *Near Point-of-Care Tests, Tongue Swabs and Sputum Pooling for TB (2026)*.
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