



Near Point of Care Early Adopter Initiative

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Background

The Challenge

- Over **2.5 million people** go undiagnosed with TB each year
- Only **48%** of TB cases are diagnosed using rapid molecular tests

Key barriers:

- High diagnostic costs
- Centralized testing infrastructure
- Limited access at primary health care (PHC) level
- Weak sample transport systems

Innovative tools to address diagnostic gap: Near Point of Care (NPOC) TB Diagnostics

- **Expands access** to molecular TB testing, even at peripheral health facilities
- Enables **same-day diagnosis**, reducing initial loss-to-follow-up
- Facilitates **same-day treatment initiation**, accelerating care and improving outcomes

Transformative Opportunity

Introducing Near Point-of-Care (NPOC) TB diagnostics, potentially with new sample types, offers a game-changing solution to close diagnostic gaps, reduce cost of diagnosing TB and speed up treatment initiation, especially in decentralized and underserved settings.

Strategic Approach (GC7 Context)

Given fiscal constraints in GC7, the NextGen Strategic Initiative will leverage the Access Fund to support **proof-of-concept** introductions of NPOC diagnostics, paving the way for broader scale-up and sustainable integration in GC8.

NPOC is not just a tool-it's a new approach

1. Access



Decentralization to PHC levels will increase access to communities and allow for potential **same-day** treatment initiation.

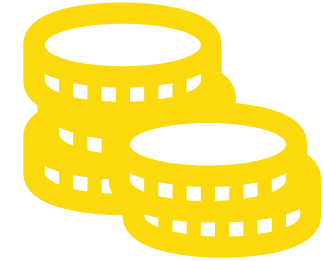
Tongue swabs are beneficial for populations who struggle to produce sputum.

2. Quality



Replacement of diagnostic smear microscopy with molecular tests will improve the quality of TB diagnostics.

3. Cost



Reduce cartridge costs by using NPOCs as an initial test. Positive samples requiring drug sensitivity testing, globally estimated at approx. 10% of WRD tests.

NextGen SI Support for introduction of NPOC

Primary Objective: Accelerate implementation and support planning for scale-up in GC8 of Near Point-of-Care Tests (pending WHO guidance) to ensure progress towards affordable access to molecular diagnostics.

Secondary Objectives:

- **Accelerate Access & Case Detection:** Drive early adoption of quality-assured, affordable NPOC diagnostics to expand testing coverage and improve case detection, particularly in decentralized and underserved settings.
- **Foster a Sustainable and Competitive Market:** Utilize the Access Fund to de-risk early market entry for new suppliers, diversify the TB diagnostic landscape, and stimulate competition that drives down prices and enhances supply security.
- **Generate Evidence for Scalable Market Shaping:** Develop implementation tools, cost and impact data, and market insights to inform procurement and investment decisions—providing the evidence base for accelerated expansion under GC8.
- **Shape Market Conditions for Scale-Up:** Create demand visibility and supplier confidence to enable a healthy, competitive market capable of sustaining innovation and affordable access beyond donor

Access Fund design

For ease of introduction the Global Fund will support the procurement of NPOC (Pluslife) TB diagnostics in bundles. These bundles could include:

Bundle One: 1:1 Bundle with Battery pack



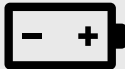
1 Pluslife MiniDock



1,500 Tests/
year



1 Thermolyse Machine



1 Battery Pack

Ideal for decentralized settings

Bundle Two: 1:1 Bundle without Battery pack



1 Pluslife MiniDock



2,000 Tests/
year



1 Thermolyse Machine

Ideal for microscopy/ treatment sites

Bundle Three: 3:1 Bundle



3 Pluslife
MiniDocks



6,000 Tests/
year



1 Thermolyse Machine

Ideal for higher volume sites

Global Fund Early Adopter Initiative (CIFF supported)

Early Adopter Countries

Benin
Bangladesh
Cameroon
Ethiopia
Indonesia
Kenya
Nigeria
Peru
Philippines
South Africa
Uganda
Vietnam
Zambia



Support:

Access Fund: Supporting the early adopter countries to co-pay the cost of equipment and tests (as bundles) to support early introduction of these diagnostics.

Technical Assistance: Funded by CIFF (donor) and implemented through the Aurum Institute;

- **In the 6 CIFF-priority countries** - Technical & comprehensive implementation support provided by an in-country partner organization, working in close collaboration with the NTP
- **In the 7 additional countries** - support provided by consultants embedded within the National TB Programs for up to 12 months.
- Scope of TA support includes the 2026 NPOC planning & implementation support, capacity building and facilitate GC8 funding requests plans for scaling up NPOC technologies.

Progress at a glance

~2.8M

Tests to be procured

13

Country requests placed

7

Countries with embedded consultants engaged

6

Countries with implementation partners identified & engaged

Training of Trainers

Global ToT held in Kampala in March 2026

GC8

Support available for GC8 preparation including Intensive TA for non early adopters

Benin & Uganda

First Deliveries in June 2026

10

Additional countries expected to have deliveries by end of July

July

Trainings expected to begin across countries