



**Treatment Action Group**

To: Mark Dybul, Executive Director  
Mark Edington, Head, Grant Management  
The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

Cc: Lucica Ditiu, Stop TB Partnership  
Lelio Marmora, UNITAID  
Mario Raviglione, World Health Organization  
Cheri Vincent, USAID  
Brenda Waning, Global Drug Facility

20 October 2016

**OPEN LETTER RE: Coordinating procurement of new pediatric TB medicines**

Dear Ambassador Dybul and Mr. Edington,

We write to express our enthusiastic support for Global Fund-funded countries rolling out the new pediatric formulation of first-line tuberculosis (TB) medicines, and the urgent need to ensure that procurement is coordinated via the Global Drug Facility (GDF) to ensure maximal affordability, efficiency, and market stability.

The introduction of the first ever appropriately-dosed, child-friendly formulation of first-line TB drugs in November 2015 offered a much easier way for programs and caregivers to cure the one million children who fall ill with TB each year.<sup>1</sup> We are troubled that, nearly one year later, many Global Fund-funded countries have not yet transitioned to using this important new product. Furthermore, we are alarmed that Global Fund-funded countries that are already procuring the product are not buying via the GDF, and thereby paying much higher prices using public funding for this product that was developed with public funding. Pediatric TB, much like pediatric HIV and drug-resistant TB, is a fragile market, for which market consolidation is required to ensure stable supply, affordable pricing, regulatory permission, and efficiency for both the purchaser and the supplier.

We therefore ask the Global Fund to:

- 1) by December 2016, establish a policy through which all Global Fund-funded countries purchase first-line pediatric TB medicines via the GDF (similar to what is already done for second-line TB medicines); and
- 2) by June 2017, require all Global Fund-funded countries to have transitioned to procuring and initiating new pediatric patients on, only the new formulation.

We copy to this letter other partners in the global TB response to support the Global Fund in implementing these demands. We look forward to your commitment to fulfilling the above, and to the chance to meet with the Global Fund and partners to discuss further at the upcoming Union World Conference on Lung Health. Please indicate your availability by writing to [erica.lessem@treatmentactiongroup.org](mailto:erica.lessem@treatmentactiongroup.org).

We look forward to your favorable response,

Erica Lessem, TB/HIV Project Director, on behalf of Treatment Action Group

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.tballiance.org/news/tb-alliance-announces-worlds-first-appropriate-child-friendly-tb-medicines>