

## **Appendices**

### **Appendix 1: participant information sheet**

#### Participant information sheet

##### Introduction

You have been invited to take part in a research study. Joining the study is entirely up to you. Before you decide, you need to understand why the research is being done and what it would involve. If anything you read is not clear or you would like more information, please email XXX.

##### What is the purpose of this study?

Researchers from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) are looking to gather knowledge and get consensus among a panel of experts on the challenges and opportunities of integrating other services into TB treatment programmes or screening for TB among household contacts. Consensus decisions aim to meet an entire group's needs and acceptance. They are crucial when developing guidelines as they ensure that there is group engagement, inclusivity, and agreement prior to publication. This study will use the Delphi process for consensus decision-making. The Delphi process involves multiple stages of surveying participants where participants are informed of the results after each round.

The first survey asks mainly open questions for which we would like you to provide as much detail as possible. The follow-up surveys typically consist of statements developed from the first-round answers. You will be asked to rate how much you “agree” or “disagree” with each statement using a scale called the Likert scale. After several rounds of surveys, the researchers can see which statements or “items” had at least 75% agreement from participants. Items with 75% or more agreement are included in a core list of statements to inform guidelines.

The study objectives are:

1. To come to consensus on the challenges and opportunities of offering additional (non-TB) services to people with TB and their household members.
2. To come to consensus on a core list of diseases and/or services to be included in integrated service delivery practices and policies in the context of TB screening or care.

##### Who is invited to take part?

We are aiming to survey a wide range of people with expertise in TB, and or integrated approaches to screening and care for health conditions. We consider experts to include policy makers, programme managers, researchers, healthcare workers, civil society advocates and people with lived experience. It is important for the research that we hear a diversity of views.

You have been invited to take part in this process because you have been identified by the study team, or by someone else who was also invited to participate, as having relevant knowledge and experience for this topic.

You may have heard about this study through other professional networks, such as at a meeting or conference, or via social media. We are also interested in hearing from you, if you consider yourself to have relevant expertise on this topic.

## Participant information sheet

### Do I have to take part?

Participation is voluntary. You can also decide to only partially complete the survey. If you do agree to take part in this study, we will have you sign an electronic consent form before you continue to the survey.

### What will happen to me if I take part?

If you agree to take part, we will ask you to participate in up to three rounds of surveys in your professional capacity. Each survey will take between 20-35 minutes to complete. The surveys will be completed online and are available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

### What are the possible risks and disadvantages?

There are no identified risks of physical or psychological harm associated with the survey(s).

### What are the possible benefits?

This study will inform future research and programmatic development of integrated service delivery for people affected by or at risk of TB. The results of the survey will be shared with you, if you choose to participate, enabling you to understand the areas of consensus or disagreement.

### What will happen to information collected about me?

The identity of participants will only be known by the research team. We are asking you to respond in your professional capacity (but not on behalf of your employer) and sensitive information is not collected. Any information that may identify you will be kept confidential and will not be shared with anyone outside the research team. Data will be stored in password-protected folders on an encrypted server for 10 years, as per LSHTM policies. A subset of the data, which has been fully anonymized, will be archived on LSHTM Data Compass.

Responses will be de-identified prior to analysis, and results will be reported at an aggregate level, so that you cannot be identified by your responses. If subsequent studies would like to re-use the data, further ethics committee approval will be obtained before data is shared. If data is shared with other researchers, no personal identifiable information will be included.

### Who has reviewed this study?

This study has been reviewed by the ethics committee at LSHTM (reference 28783). Version & Date: 1, 5th May 2023

## Appendix 2: Participant consent form

### Participant consent form

1. Please indicate whether you agree with the following statements \*

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch with the team, please email [tenzin.kunor1@student.lshhtm.ac.uk](mailto:tenzin.kunor1@student.lshhtm.ac.uk). If you do not agree and do not wish to participate, simply exit this form.

Please select 5 options.

- I acknowledge that I have read the information sheet for the study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have these answered to my satisfaction.
- I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving any reason. To withdraw from the study, simply exit the form at any time.
- I understand that any information that may identify me will not be shared with anyone outside the research team.
- I understand that if the data provided by me may be useful to subsequent relevant studies, further ethics committee approval will be sought before any data sharing is conducted.
- I agree to take part in the above named study.

### Appendix 3: Recruitment email

Dear XXX,

We would like to invite you to participate in a **modified Delphi survey on opportunities and challenges of offering additional (non-TB) services to people with TB and/or their household members**. This survey is being conducted by researchers at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine.

The overall aim of the project is to build consensus regarding integrated services, understand the practical implications, and inform future research and programmatic development of integrated service delivery for people affected by or at risk of TB. We would be very grateful for your contribution to this project, drawing on your valuable insight and experience.

To briefly explain, we are currently inviting you to the first round of an online survey, which will take between 20-35 minutes to complete. If you participate, we will share the findings with you and invite you to participate in further rounds of surveys, however you have no obligation to participate in any further round. The survey is currently available in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French language (at the same link). The survey deadline is August 31, 2023.

[Find more information and complete the survey here](#)

We are interested in hearing a wide range of perspectives and therefore would also be very grateful if you would forward this email or share the survey with other individuals and networks who may have valuable input. If you do, it would be helpful if you could copy X (X) onto the email(s) so we can understand the reach the survey has had. You are also welcome to share the survey using social media networks with the following link (<https://forms.office.com/e/GLxPZCA041>).

Thank you very much and we are looking forward to learning from you. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or comments.

Best,  
XXX

## **Appendix 4: Delphi survey questionnaire**

Section 1: Participant information sheet and participant consent form (included above)

Section 2: Demographics

How would you describe your employer/organization?

International NGO  
National/local NGO  
Community-based organization  
National TB programme  
National NCD programme  
Ministry of Health  
Academic institution  
Research organisation  
World Health Organization  
Diagnostic manufacturer  
Private-sector healthcare provider  
Public-sector healthcare provider  
No affiliation  
Other

What is your professional background?

Public health professional  
Patient/survivor  
Civil society advocate  
Researcher  
Policymaker / professional  
Doctor  
Nurse  
Community / Lay healthcare worker  
Laboratory scientist  
Monitoring & evaluation specialist  
Other

In which country are you employed/based?

You may enter multiple if required

How would you describe your gender?

You may select multiple options.

Woman  
Man  
Non-binary  
Transgender  
Prefer not to say  
Prefer to self-describe

### Section 3: Integrated screening and services for people with TB

For people with TB, would you consider screening for other conditions or providing other non-TB services? Screening for health conditions is defined as use of tools (including medical tests) to check for diseases or health conditions before a person develops any signs or symptoms. A condition could be physical or mental, or something with social or psychological impacts. Services might be related to health or other issues, such as social support.

Yes

No

(Please answer if you responded “No” to question #8): Why would you not offer additional services or screen for any other conditions among people with TB?

(Please continue from here if you responded “Yes” to question #8): Which services would you offer or which conditions would you screen for?

Why would you offer those services or screen for those conditions? Please give your reasons for each intervention or condition suggested and give as much detail as possible.

Thinking about the services or conditions you suggested in the previous section:

Should everyone with TB be screened for these conditions or offered these services? If not everyone, who should be included?

Please answer for each condition/service you suggested above. You may suggest that everyone would benefit, or a focus on people of a certain age or gender, or having other characteristics.

Please describe why you have suggested these groups for screening/services.

Among people with TB, are there any conditions you would not screen for, or interventions you would not offer? Please describe them.

Why would you not offer these screening tests or interventions?

Please share any additional comments you may have about integrated screening and services for people with TB

#### Section 4: Integrated screening and services for TB household contacts

As part of systematic screening for TB household contacts, would you consider screening for other conditions or providing other non-TB services? Screening for health conditions is defined as use of tools (including medical tests) to check for diseases or health conditions before a person develops any signs or symptoms. A condition could be physical or mental, or something with social or psychological impacts. Services might be related to health or other issues, such as social support.

Yes

No

(Please answer if you responded “No” to question #17): Why would you not screen for other conditions or provide non-TB services as part of systematic screening for TB household contacts?

(Please continue from here if you responded “Yes” to question #17): Which services would you offer or which conditions would you screen for?

Why would you offer those services or screen for those conditions? Please give your reasons for each intervention or condition suggested and give as much detail as possible.

Thinking about the services or conditions you suggested in the previous section:

As part of systematic screening for TB among household contacts, who should be screened for these other conditions or offered these non-TB services?

Please answer for each condition/service suggested above. You may suggest that everyone would benefit, or a focus on people of a certain age or gender, or having other characteristics.

Please describe why you have suggested these groups for screening/services.

Are there any conditions you would not screen for, or interventions you would not offer, among TB household contacts? Please describe them.

Why would you not offer these screening tests or interventions?

Should the characteristics of the person with TB in the household influence which conditions are screened for or services offered to household contacts? Considerations might include whether the person has highly infectious or multi/extensively drug resistant TB, is living with HIV, is a child, etc.

Please share any additional comments you may have about integrated screening and services for TB household contacts

#### Section 5: Practical considerations for implementation of integrated services

In your health system context, what needs to be in place to offer screening or other (non-TB) interventions among people with TB or TB household contacts?

If integrated services for people with TB or their household members were offered in your setting, who would be responsible for delivering these services? You might consider which grade of healthcare worker implements the service and the management / oversight structures (e.g. the responsible programme).

Where should the screening be based, or the services offered and why? For example, should they be offered at a healthcare facility, in the home or at another location? Why do you think the chosen location is best?

What should the approach be for people who screen positive for a health condition as part of these interventions? For example, how and where should they be referred, where and by whom should they be started on treatment.

What are the barriers to offering screening or other interventions for (non-TB) conditions among people with TB or TB household contacts? Please describe.

Please share any additional comments you may have.

Thank you very much for your time. If you have any questions or would like to get in touch with the team conducting this survey, please email X.