

# The Performance-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (PBMEF) for Tuberculosis (TB) Programs

## What is the PBMEF?

The PBMEF is a comprehensive indicator tool for TB programs. It consists of a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for TB indicators organized across four levels—Core, Core Plus, National, and Subnational—comprising the essential list. These indicators are expected to be included in the monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) plans of the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) implementing partners (IPs). The PBMEF also contains a fifth level, the extended list, which provides additional standardized measurements.

## Why was the PBMEF developed?

The PBMEF was developed to streamline and prioritize indicators for monitoring and evaluating progress toward reaching global- and country-level TB milestones and targets in USAID’s 24 bilaterally supported TB countries. The PBMEF is foundational for monitoring the implementation of USAID’s Global Accelerator to End TB, USAID’s Global TB Strategy (2023-2030), and its 90-90-90+Prevention results framework and ensures accountability of the U.S. Government’s investments in the global fight against TB.

## Who is the audience?

The PBMEF’s main audience is USAID Missions, National TB Program (NTP) managers, M&E specialists, USAID TB technical advisors, IPs, and other national and global partners and stakeholders.

## What resources support the PBMEF?

The [PBMEF Guide](#) includes a complete list of the essential and extended indicators and describes the “*what*” and “*how*” when it comes to using the PBMEF indicators. It contains an indicator reference sheet for each essential indicator and depicts six TB care and treatment cascades and illustrative indicator maps. The MEL Plan Template and Guidance explains how to incorporate PBMEF indicators into TB MEL plans.

## What are the Core TB indicators?

The 10 standardized, impact-level Core indicators best reflect USAID’s investments and assess country performance in detecting, enrolling, and treating TB cases. They measure performance toward USAID’s Global TB Strategy and country-level TB targets. The Core indicators are generally available through NTPs’ existing M&E systems or the World Health Organization Database.

## Why do I have to report the Core TB indicators?

As part of the TB Roadmap process, USAID Missions in TB-priority countries are required to report the 10 Core indicators through the Performance Plan and Reporting process. Having all TB-priority countries report the same indicators allows comparisons across country programs and enhances the understanding of their progress toward TB prevention and care targets.

## What about the other essential indicators?

The *Core Plus* indicators provide an additional layer of detailed data to monitor progress along with the Core indicators. Most of these indicators are well-recognized and are derived from established reporting mechanisms at the country level. *National-level* indicators provide expanded details to help further explain the performance attained by the Core and Core Plus indicators. These indicators are recommended for measuring the contribution of TB investments toward programmatic targets at the national level. *Subnational-level* indicators are designed to provide a more in-depth understanding of TB activities within a country and how these activities are contributing to national TB objectives. These indicators can also measure a TB activity’s attribution to national programmatic outcomes.

## What are the extended indicators?

The extended indicators provide additional data to monitor progress, explain why a country is or is not achieving its targets, inform which course corrections might be taken, and identify which programmatic gaps require additional resources. USAID IPs are encouraged to incorporate and use extended indicators in their MEL plans. They provide context and more detail for understanding the essential list of indicators and are vital to creating indicator cascades.

## What is the purpose of an indicator cascade?

Indicator cascades use standard indicators in a sequential way to identify potential gaps in the steps for TB care and treatment. This type of data analysis and visualization can bolster justification for programming and funding for specific technical areas. The PBMEF has various cascades built into it (e.g., TB Preventive Treatment, TB Contact Investigation, Drug-Resistant TB) so TB data can be analyzed with a cascade approach and used for evidence-based decision making to improve TB programs.