



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Supporting, Mobilizing, and
Accelerating Research for
Tuberculosis Elimination



Early Stage Investigator Program

BACKGROUND

TB research focused on the locally-driven priorities of high-burden countries is a vital component to strengthening local capacity. SMART4TB launched the Early Stage Investigator (ESI) Training and Mentorship Program to train and support the next generation of TB investigators to develop, implement, and lead their own studies aligned with their national and local TB research priorities.



GOAL

Create a rigorous four-phase program to develop, present, and implement a research project aligned with SMART4TB's and National TB Programs' priorities.



CURRICULUM

A cross-disciplinary SMART4TB team presents topics including how to design studies, develop research questions and concepts, and engage with community partners.



PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Early stage Investigators from USAID-approved national TB programs and implementation partners.



PROGRAM LOCATIONS

Mozambique, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa, Uganda, Vietnam, and Zambia

WHAT SMART4TB SCHOLARS ARE SAYING

The most recent cohort of SMART4TB Scholars had 49 participants representing six countries with overall completion rates for the program at nearly 100%.



Emma Mungomba
SMART4TB Scholar, Zambia

"The SMART4TB program equipped me with the capacity to identify specific, yet unanswered problems and apply a scientific approach to conducting research on socio-economic, demographic, and other factors associated with TB infections among recipients of care currently on antiretroviral therapy."



Ngoc Anh Le Thi
SMART4TB Scholar, Vietnam

"Being a part of the SMART4TB Early Stage Investigator program is an invaluable chance for young health practitioners to become skilled, experienced researchers step-by-step. My research regarding adverse events in oral regimens in Vietnam is an important project for my country's efforts to treat TB."



Patricia Turimumahaoro
SMART4TB Scholar, Uganda

"I found the SMART4TB program particularly intriguing because of its focus on developing a country-driven research agenda. I am exploring the use of a digital case-based contact management dashboard to determine if it increases the number of contacts completing TB evaluation compared to other data-collection methods."

ABOUT SMART4TB

This report is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the sole responsibility of SMART4TB and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government or consortium collaborators or members. If you have any questions, please contact us at smart4tbinfo@jh.edu.