

Bridging research gaps between health and social protection: the SPARKS network

Dr Tom Wingfield

Reader, Deputy Director of LSTM Centre for TB Research & LIV-TB lead

Consultant Physician Infectious Diseases, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK

Research Associate, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

WHO/ILO Webinar on Universal Health Coverage & Social Protection, 12/12/2024

[@tomwingfield.bsky.social](https://bsky.social/tom.wingfield) / tom.wingfield@lstmed.ac.uk

Celebrating 125 years of global health impact

125
YEARS
1898 - 2023



What is SPARKS?



<https://sparksnetwork.ki.se/>



Wanga
Zembe-Mkabile



Rachel
Forse



Lieve
Vanleeuw



Mauro
Sanchez

Aim: to optimise the (co-)design, delivery, evaluation, and policy translation of social protection research

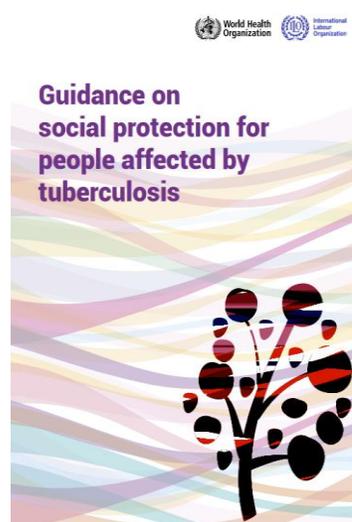
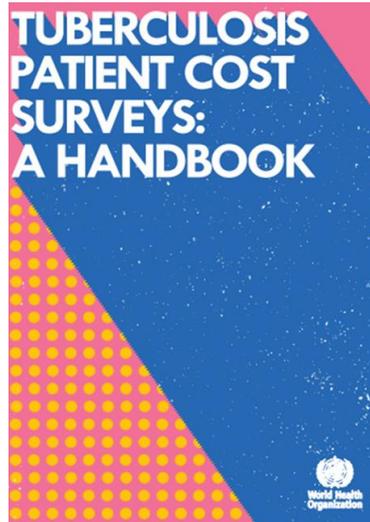
SPARKS working groups

- Systematic reviews and meta-analyses
- Social protection programme mapping
- Intervention studies & costs surveys
- Applied learning & research beyond TB

TB-focused...

Align
research
& policy
questions
(PICO),
methods,
& outcome
measures

SPARKS policy and systematic review outputs



Achieving universal social protection for people with tuberculosis

Ahmad Fuady, Thea Hutnamon, Olivia Herlinda, Nurul Luntungan, Tom Wingfield

As we mark World TB Day 2024, we take this opportunity to reflect on the 2023 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting (HLM) on the fight against tuberculosis—a milestone in the commitment towards a more coordinated, comprehensive approach to end tuberculosis globally. The UN HLM declaration on the fight against tuberculosis includes a specific pledge that all people with tuberculosis should receive a social benefits package to mitigate financial hardship. However, it is not known how this specific pledge will be realised and through which concrete actions. The



Lancet Public Health 2024;
9: e339–44
Published Online
March 23, 2024
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667\(24\)00046-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(24)00046-X)

INT J TUBERC LUNG DIS 28(10):473–475
© 2024 The Union <http://dx.doi.org/10.5588/ijtld.24.0361>

EDITORIAL

Making social protection a reality for people with TB: a perspective on new global guidance

Cochrane Database of Systematic reviews | [Review - Qualitative](#)

Experiences of conditional and unconditional cash transfers intended for improving health outcomes and health service use: a qualitative evidence synthesis

Clara A Yoshino^a, Kristi Sidney-Annerstedt^a, Tom Wingfield, Beatrice Kirubi, Kerri Viney, Delia Boccia, Salla Atkins

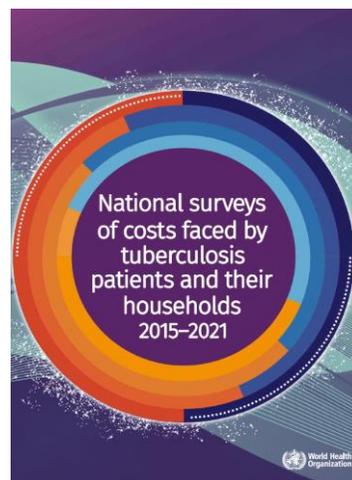
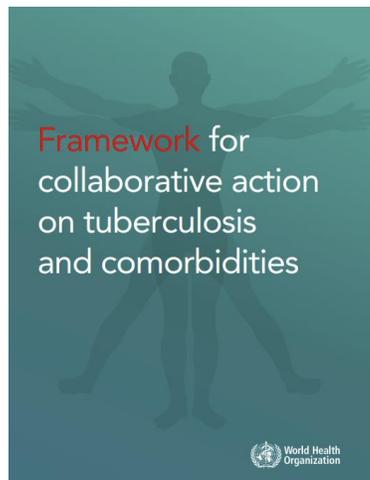
Authors' declarations of interest

Version published: 31 March 2023 [Version history](#)

<https://doi.org/10.1002/14651858.CD013635.pub2>



Trusted evidence.
Informed decisions.
Better health.



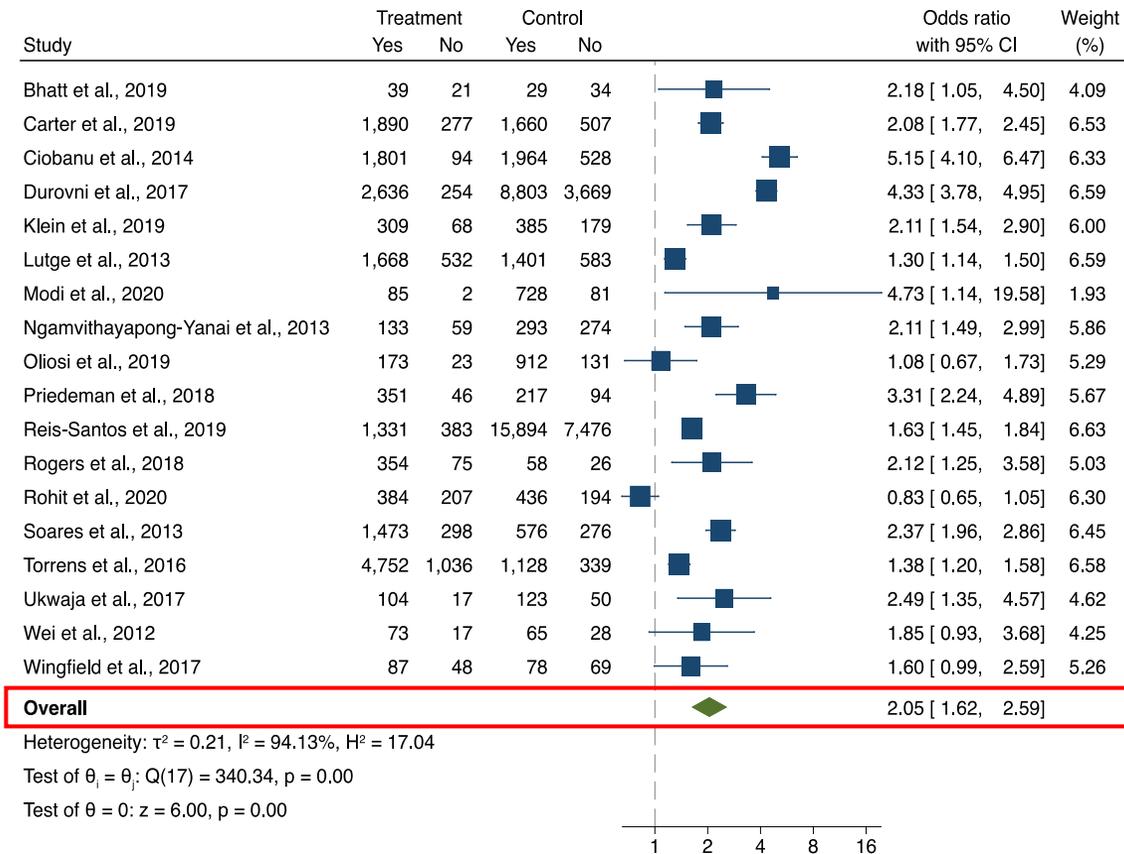
Celebrating 125 years of global health impact

125
YEARS
1898 - 2023

LSTM
CENTRE FOR TUBERCULOSIS
RESEARCH

SPARKS systematic review and policy outputs

Social protection doubles the likelihood of TB treatment success



Random-effects restricted maximum likelihood (REML) model

Celebrating 125 years of global health impact

Hudson M, et al.
Under Review, Lancet GH 2024



125
YEARS
1898 - 2023



Implementation research including trials



Birat Nepal Medical Trust



Nepal & Indonesia:
Implementation trials of psycho-socioeconomic support intervention for TB-affected households



Vietnam: **UPLIFT trial of social health insurance and cash transfers to improve TB treatment and broader outcomes**

- Shared, open-access protocols
- Alignment of outcome measures
- Meaningful engagement with civil-society & affected communities



Brazil: **ecological modelling analyses of impact of Bolsa Familia; focus on identifying & reaching underserved groups; cross-sector policy dialogue**



Mozambique: **CHEST, TB SEQUEL & SAFEST-1 MDR-TB studies on social protection delivery, long-term socioeconomic impact & person-centred care with VOT**

South Africa: **mixed methods research and policy on social protection for children, carers, & disabled people**



Center for Tuberculosis



U-TIRC



University of California San Francisco

Uganda: **ExaCT TB trial of cash transfers, mixed-methods implementation science on care cascade & supply/demand barriers**

125
YEARS
1898 - 2023

LSTM
CENTRE FOR TUBERCULOSIS
RESEARCH

Conclusions

- SPARKS is an inclusive, interdisciplinary network working across sectors to advance the social protection agenda
- Our research in collaboration with multisectoral partners addresses the know-do gaps in social protection research, policy & practice
- We are expanding beyond TB to other illnesses, populations & UHC
- We have a broad range of experience/expertise & welcome new members and partnerships!

Celebrating 125 years of global health impact

125
YEARS
1898 - 2023

LSTM
CENTRE FOR TUBERCULOSIS
RESEARCH

The logo graphic for LSTM (London School of Tropical Medicine) features a stylized red and white shape that resembles a curved arrow or a stylized 'S' or 'L' shape, positioned to the right of the text.

Thank you. Any questions?

125
YEARS
1898 - 2023

LSTM
CENTRE FOR TUBERCULOSIS
RESEARCH



 **SPARKS Network**
HEALTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION ACTION RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE SHARING

<https://sparksnetwork.ki.se/>

tom.wingfield@lstmed.ac.uk
orcid.org/0000-0001-8433-6887
[Blue Sky: tomwingfield.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/tomwingfield.bsky.social)