TB is the leading cause of death of people living with HIV/AIDS. HIV promotes the progression of latent TB infection to active TB, while the presence of TB and other infections accelerates the progression of HIV infection to AIDS. In Southern Africa, over 60% of newly diagnosed TB patients are HIV positive; in Swaziland TB/HIV co-infection rates are as high as 83%. TB and HIV are both diseases that carry a social stigma that inhibits treatment-seeking behavior; are experienced primarily by the poor and disadvantaged, and exacerbate existing inequities for vulnerable populations. Coordinated TB & HIV responses by communities, national programs, and the international community are essential to prevent and effectively manage both diseases to improve health outcomes of populations.

The USAID TB CARE II Project is a five-year cooperative agreement led by University Research Co., LLC (URC). The Project aims to provide global leadership and support to National TB Programs (NTPs) and other in-country partners to accelerate the implementation of TB DOTS, integrated TB/HIV, and Programmatic Management of Drug Resistant TB (PMDT) programs. The project's activities are underlined by the following key strategies:

- Assist countries in rapid scale-up of program implementation
- Systems strengthening and capacity building
- Integrating content of care with process of care
- Rapid scale-up of best practices through district-based approaches
- Leveraging partner resources (e.g., public, private, NGOs, GFATM, etc.)
- Reaching vulnerable populations with quality services

A key objective of the TB CARE II Project is to expand the delivery of high quality, integrated TB/HIV services. To improve TB/HIV services in high burden settings, project activities aim to:

- Effectively prevent, diagnose, and treat TB in HIV settings
- Effectively prevent, diagnose, and treat HIV in TB settings
- Accelerate TB/HIV integration at policy, program and service delivery levels
- Accelerate implementation of the 3I's (Three I's): Intensified case-finding, Isoniazid prevention therapy (IPT), and Infection control

How TB CARE works: The TB CARE II Project works with NTPs, community organizations, research institutes, NGOs, private sector health facilities and companies, and other stakeholders to develop strategies to strengthen TB/HIV integration. Through national, regional and global initiatives as well as long-term field support programs in countries such as Malawi, the project team works to tackle key issues such as increasing TB screening, prompt diagnosis, and access to treatment within HIV settings. Technical assistance and support services through the USAID TB CARE II are accessible to USAID Missions through field support mechanisms.

The TB CARE II partnership for accelerating TB implementation brings extensive expertise in strengthening TB services, including developing integrated TB/HIV care and treatment strategies. The TB CARE II partnership includes organizations that have worked with partners at the local level to implement responses to TB/HIV in more than a dozen countries in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. These include University Research Co., LLC (URC) which has over the last decade worked extensively in Southern Africa and Russia to increase referrals and improve coordination between TB and HIV services. Currently in URC supported sites in South Africa, more than 70% of patients diagnosed HIV+ through provider-initiated testing services are screened for TB. Partners In Health has demonstrated the successfullness of models of care for HIV which emphasize coordination with expanded calls for aggressive treatment of TB in their sites in Haiti, Peru, Lesotho, and elsewhere. Jhpiego has worked with ministries of health, national TB and HIV programs, educational institutions and NGOs to strengthen TB & HIV prevention, care, and treatment services in more than 15 countries across the globe, using a woman-centered approach. As a leader in maternal, newborn and child health, Jhpiego is integrating TB/HIV services within these settings. Project HOPE has assisted partners in Central Asia and Southern Africa to improve TB/HIV education and prevention programs.

The TB CARE II consortium also includes a range of resource partners with specialized expertise that can be applied to the development of TB/HIV programs. These include BEA Enterprises, Canadian Lung Association, Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute, Dartmouth Medical School, Euro Health Group, and the New Jersey Medical School Global TB Institute. TB CARE II also has partnerships with National Jewish Health, FIND and the World Health Organization, among others.