Establishing the global governance to End-TB in the Korean Peninsula

Hojoon Sohn, PhD

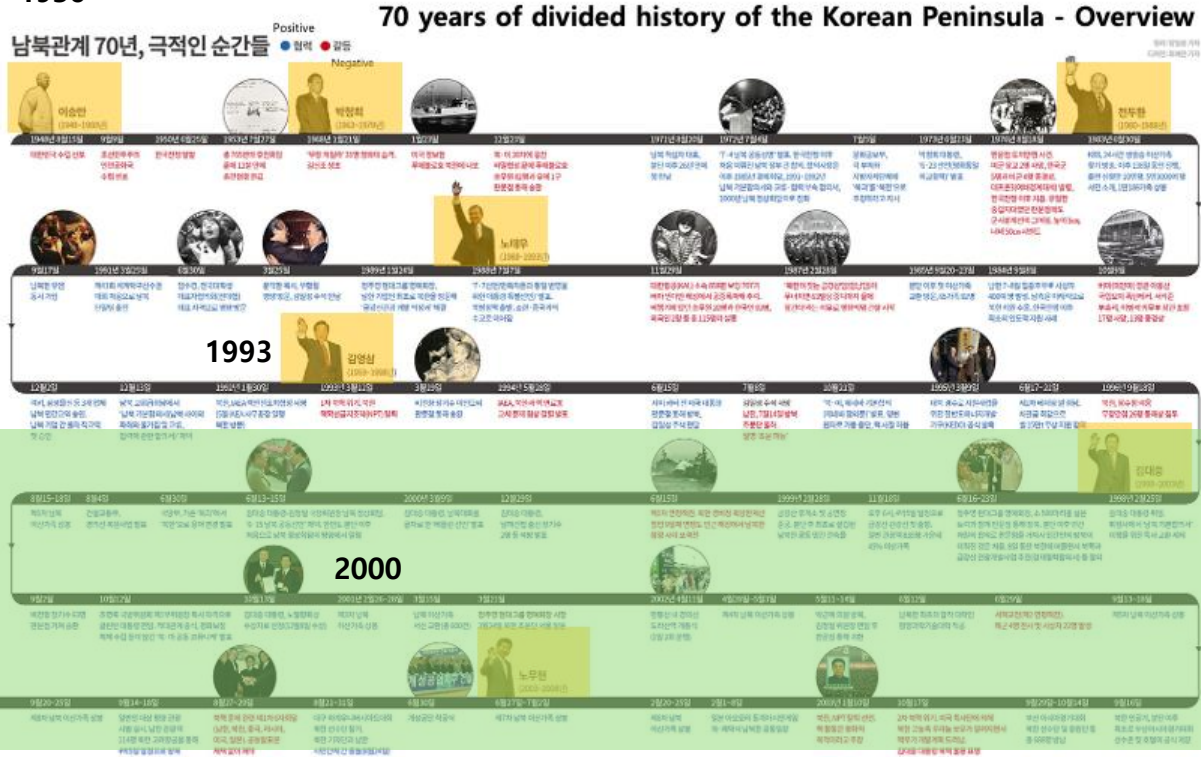Associate Professor

Seoul National University College of Medicine

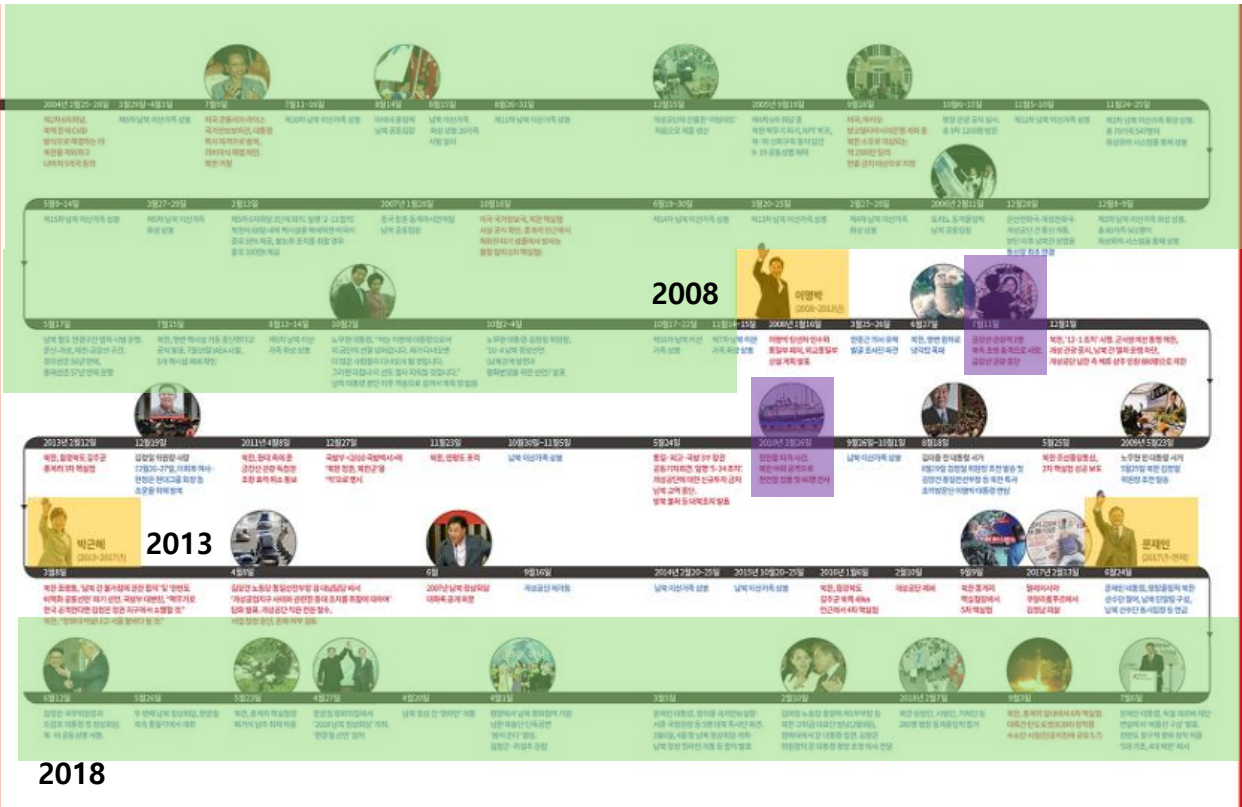November 7th, 2024

Image sourced from: https://ccej.or.kr/posts/w9tdXR

Turbulent political climate in the Peninsula: rollercoaster ride of the hopes and despair of unified Korea
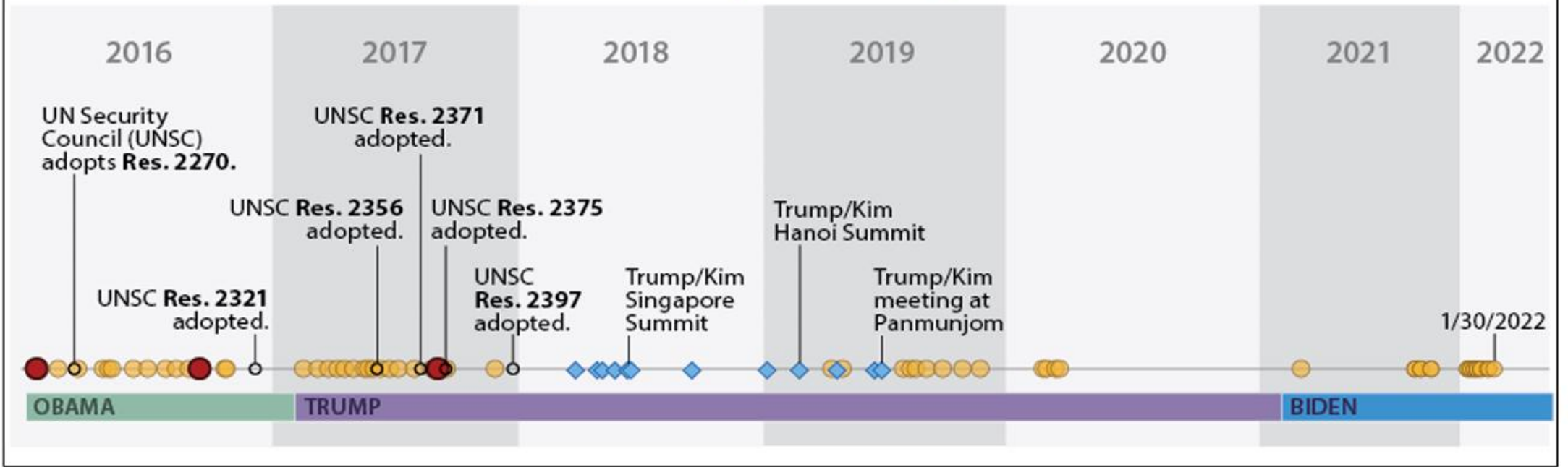

South Korean Presidency

Periods of exchange & on-ground support (2001 – 2018)

Conflicts resulting in S. Korean casualties

Diplomacy status report (2022), Congressional Research Service — Missile Test, Nuclear Test, Summit. Figure created by CRS 02/03/2022.

UN Sanctions, Missile & Nuclear Tests, Trade w/ N. Korea in the recent decade

North Korea Imports from China: 2001-2018 — Agriculture, Machinery, and Equipment
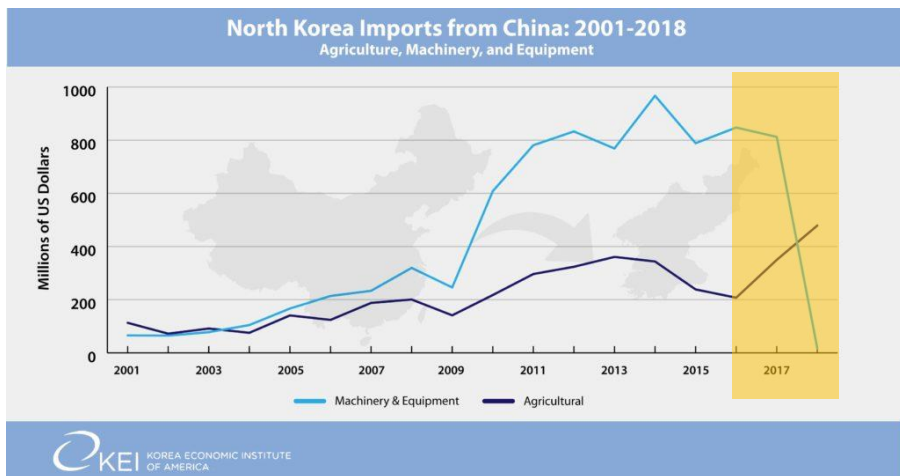
No new U.N. resolutions, fewer trade restraints
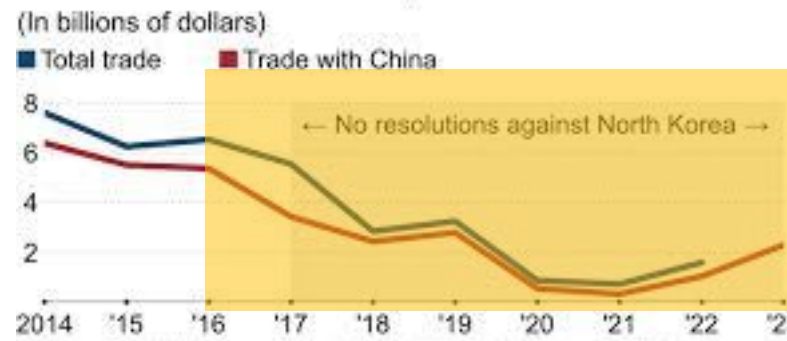
남북교역액 추이

S. Korean expectations in reunification 2018

통일에 대한 인식

통일이 우리에게 이익이 되는 정도
이익 크지 않을 것 35.4%
이익클것 | **64.6**%

남북통일 실현에 대한 전망
가능하지 않을 것
이른 시일 내 가능 3.9%
16.6%
장기적으로 가능 | **79.6**%

통일 방식에 대한 의견
가급적 빠른 통일 7.2%
평화체제 유지/별개의 국가 29.9%
점진적 통일 | **62.9**%
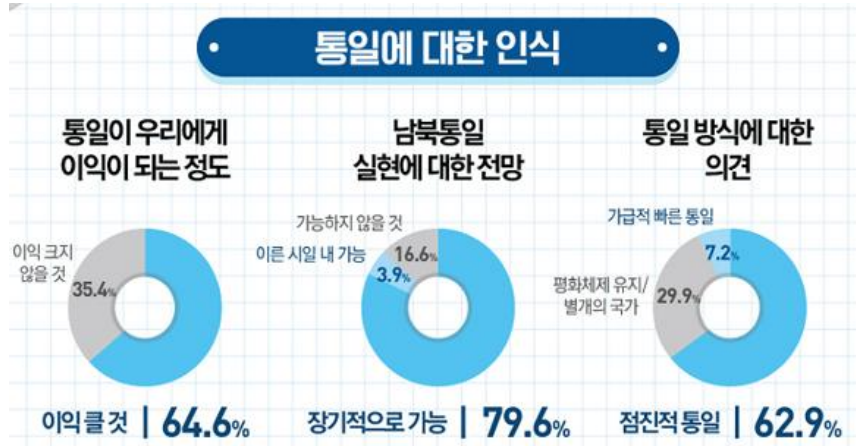
S. Korean expectations in reunification since 2019

최근 5년간 통일인식 변화 추이 (단위: %)

통일이 필요하다 ▼   필요하지 않다 ▼

연도	통일이 필요하다	필요하지 않다
2019년	53.6	20
2020년	52.9	24.7
2021년	44.6	29.4
2022년	46	26.1
2023년	43.8	29.8

〈자료: 서울대학교 통일평화연구원 통일의식조사〉

Declining hopes for unification

Planning as a unified country

Planning as a two independent countries
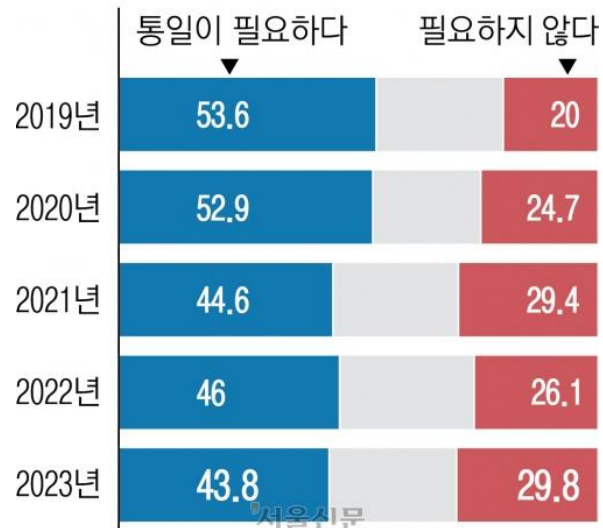
Current climate of humanitarian aid to N. Korea
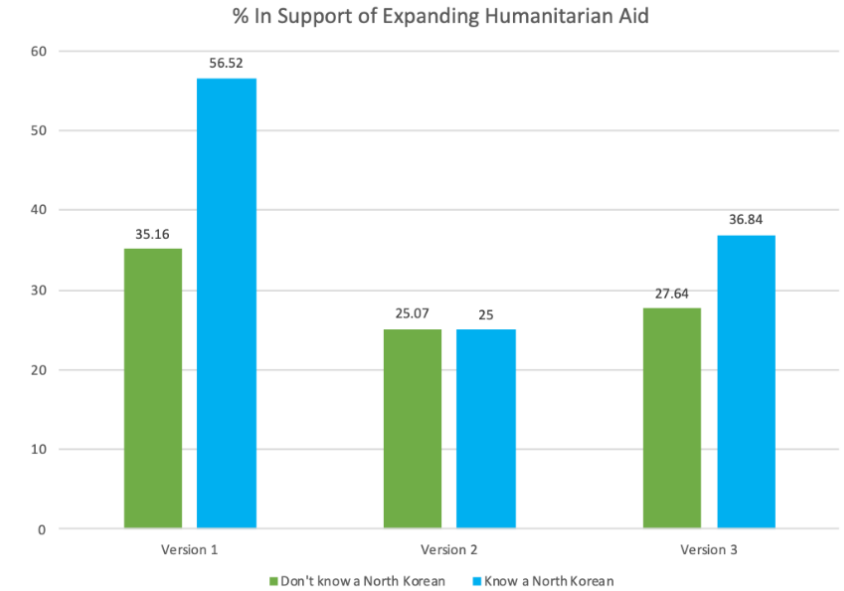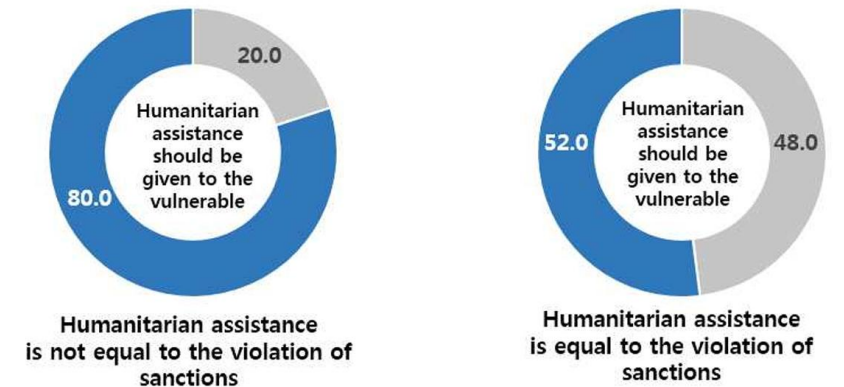
% In Support of Expanding Humanitarian Aid

Version 1: 35.16 / 56.52
Version 2: 25.07 / 25
Version 3: 27.64 / 36.84

Don't know a North Korean   Know a North Korean

Humanitarian assistance should be given to the vulnerable
80.0 / 20.0
Humanitarian assistance is not equal to the violation of sanctions

Humanitarian assistance should be given to the vulnerable
52.0 / 48.0
Humanitarian assistance is equal to the violation of sanctions

Barriers
In planning

Challenges in the paths to achieving the global governance on humanitarian & health in the Korean Peninsula

Limitations in global governance on future engagement in N. Korea

Theoretical planning

Political & Economic

Global Sanctions

Hostile global political environment

Frequent military actions

Programmatic support

Limited/no direct exchange or support

Declining Aid Support

Limited global cooperation

Public perception

Building perception of "Not much we can do"

Ideas of two independent countries

Declining perceptions for the need of humanitarian aid

Limited reflection of the realities

Lack of global interaction in identifying solutions

Lack of evidence-based approach

Impact on N. Korea (and the Korean Peninsula) health and social welfare

Declining health and social welfare

Trends in Health ODA support to N. Korea from S. Korea (2008-2017)

Cumulative ODA investment to N. Korea from S. Korea (2008-2017)

100 Million KRW

~ 100K USD

1800
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0

일반구호 | 긴급구호 | 사회복지 | 보건의료 | 농업 | 산림 | 생활개선/에너지
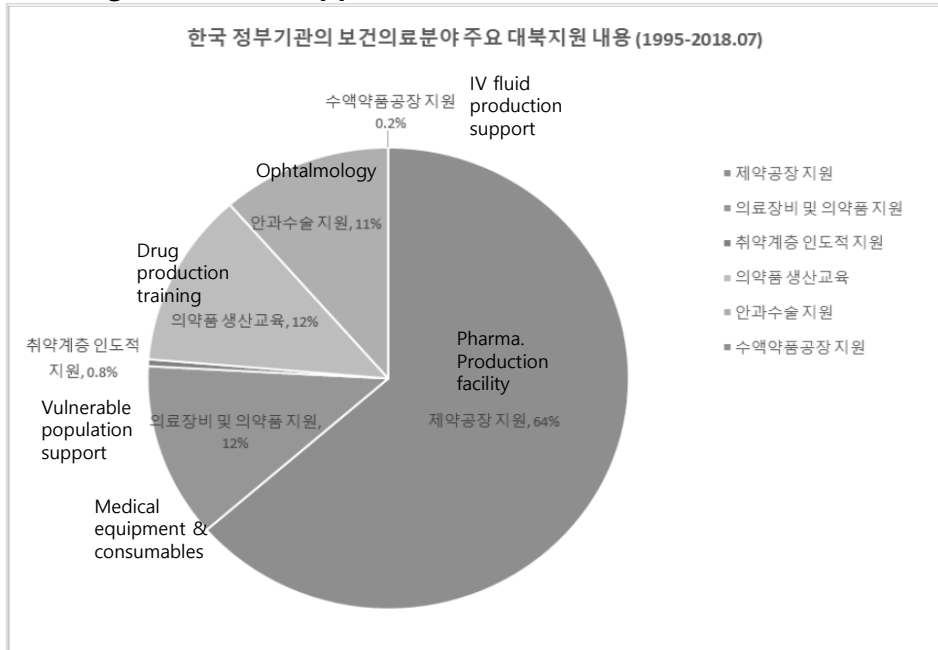
General relief | Emergency response | Social welfare | Public health & Medicine | Agriculture | Forestry | Life / Energy

S. Korean government support to N. Korea in Public Health & Medicine

한국 정부기관의 보건의료분야 주요 대북지원 내용 (1995-2018.07)

- 제약공장 지원
- 의료장비 및 의약품 지원
- 취약계층 인도적 지원
- 의약품 생산교육
- 안과수술 지원
- 수액약품공장 지원

수액약품공장 지원 0.2% — IV fluid production support

Ophtalmology — 안과수술 지원, 11%

Drug production training — 의약품 생산교육, 12%

취약계층 인도적 지원, 0.8% — Vulnerable population support

의료장비 및 의약품 지원, 12% — Medical equipment & consumables

Pharma. Production facility — 제약공장 지원, 64%

S. Korean NGO support to N. Korea in Public Health & Medicine

1995-2017 한국 민간기관의 보건의료분야 대북지원 사업규모 (백만원)

26 domestic NGOs
- 2 in TB (Eugene Bell & KNTA)
- 13 in pediatric and nutrition support (26 projects)

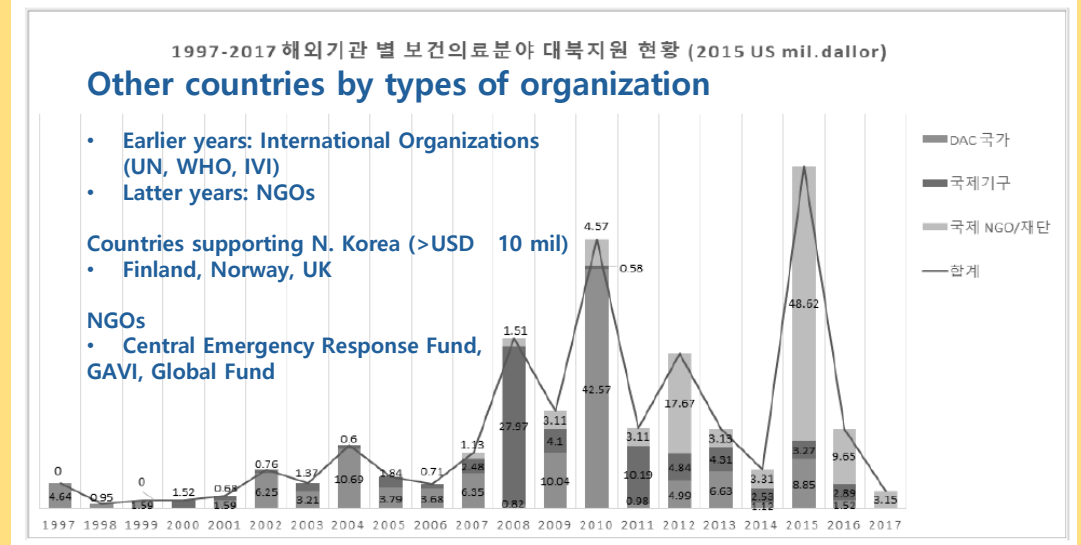| 사업명	규모
어린이급식(빵)의료지원	769.1
제약공장설립및병원운영+나진선봉)	263
취약계층농업의료지원사업	560
취약계층식량및보건의료지원	560
어린이보건지원사업	69
북한어린이건강증진	137
어린이영양개선및건강증진지원	123
북한어린이건강증진	302
육아원의료급식(빵)	197
어린이영양체생산원로지원	198
결핵퇴치	3575
결핵퇴치및결핵병원지원	630
결핵퇴치및병원지원사업	560
취약계층지원어린이급식및 아동용품지원	101
취약계층식량및보건의료지원사업	90
식량및보건의료지원사업	450
제약생산지원및병원현대화사업	210
기초의약품및제약공장	147
농업개발병원및제약시설지원	2773
제약공장의정제및수액제생산설비	40
꽝양어린이병원의약품및의료용품지원	102
병원현대화사업	560
취약계층의료지원	216
북한어린이보건의료및영양개선	221
북한어린이의료및영양개선	291
어린이보건의료및영양개선사업	560
어린이종합복지사업	187
어린이영양의료시설	1463
황진가방비 타래보내기사업	54
황전가방의료지원사업	61
영양개선및복지지원보건의료지원	34
영양개선및복지지원보건의료지원	89
급식지원및보건의료복지관리팀	69
영양개선및복지지원보건의료지원	208
대북보건의료지원사업	123
북한주민간질치료	134
북한장애인어린이종합복지지원	630
장애인자립재활센터건립	31
북한결핵치료사업	34
영유아이유식생산지원	121
북한어린이영양식공급및성장발육	486
어린이경양식공급	212
북한주민질병퇴치	75
북한주민질병퇴치및 아동성장환경개선	308
개성공단북측근로자등의료지원	48
개성협력병원을통한대북의료지원	66
그린닥터스개성협력병원개원	36
의약품지원	116
어린이건강증진및 질병퇴치사업	29
질병퇴치	44
청소년결목장육아원의료지원	3234.7
락랑섬김인민병원설립	221

Trends in Health ODA support to N. Korea from other countries (2008-2017)

Cumulative ODA investment to N. Korea from other countries (2008-2017)

Cumulative ODA health investment by areas of support (2008-2017)

Health ODA support trend by year (other countries vs. S. Korea)

1997-2017 해외기관 별 보건의료분야 대북지원 현황 (2015 US mil.dallor)

Other countries by types of organization

- Earlier years: International Organizations (UN, WHO, IVI)
- Latter years: NGOs

Countries supporting N. Korea (>USD 10 mil)
- Finland, Norway, UK

NGOs
- Central Emergency Response Fund, GAVI, Global Fund

국내 기관 별 보건의료분야 대북지원 현황 (2000-2017)

S. Korean organizations

- Majority of support through NGOs
- No or little support since 2011

A Strategy Towa...
of a Unified Kore...

Yo Han Lee[1], Seok-Jun Yoon[2], Seok...
Jangho Yoon[7], Young Seok Shin[4]
[1]Graduate School of Public Health, Korea U...

Period	Phase 1 (5 y)	Phase 2 (5 y)	Phase 3 (10 y)	Phase 4
Goals	Treat those in urgent need, especially children and women	Treat those with life-threatening problems, and provide basic health care services for the whole population	Provide basic health promotion services for the whole population and prepare infrastructure for health care system integration	Integrate health care system between South and North Korea
Affected population	6 Million	10 Million	24 Million	75 Million
Strategy	Choose 5 cities/counties in each province and set up health bases	Set up health bases throughout every city/county	Run nationwide health promotion programs Train health care professionals and ...	Start a national health care system in a specific area Then disseminate

Early roadmap for healthcare reconstruction in the unified Korean peninsula

• Developed during the optimistic times of S/N Korea exchange (just before domestic support discontinued)

• Macroscopic & horizontal approach for overall support

• With a mindset of re-unified Korea (→ not reflective of the current climate)

• S. Korean government centric engagement strategy

• Limited perspective(s) on the interchange between the disease specific (vertical) and health systems (horizontal) approach to improving health

• Limited assessment of the need of evidence-based approach in implementing public health strategies (data needs & use)

• Lack of global cooperative engagement strategy (Consideration of N. Korea as a global health aid target country)

JKMS

Check for updates

Mid-Term Strategic Plan for the Public Health and Medical Care Cooperation in the Korean Peninsula

Yun Seop Kim [ID],[1*] Jin-Won Noh [ID],[2*] Yo Han Lee [ID],[3,4] and Sin Gon Kim [ID] [4,5]

[1]Korea University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea
[2]Division of Health Administration, College of Software and Digital Healthcare Convergence, Yonsei University, Wonju, Korea
[3]Department of Preventive Medicine, Korea University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea
[4]Department of Healthcare and Medicine for Unified Korea, Graduate School, Korea University, Seoul, Korea
[5]Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Department of Internal Medicine, Korea University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea

OPEN ACCESS

Established 'domestic' expert networks in health for the Korean Peninsula

Areas of support	Contents
Medical infrastructure	Modernization of health facilities and infrastructure
Nutritional support	Assessment of nutritional status and selection of priority support items
Emergency response in disaster	Assessment of emergency response cases, development of models of engagement
Infectious disease support	Assessment of past support cases, development of models of engagement
Disability support	Assessment of disability status, facilities of disabilities care

Ministry of Unification (2018)

Agenda	Health security	Easing the burden of major diseases	Resilient healthcare system	R&D cooperation	Sustainable cooperation system
Goal1	Creating a health safety net for women and children	Establishment of joint response system for new infectious disease	Strengthening the capacity of health personnel	Developing solutions for major health problems in DPRK	Promoting Health Medical Platform in Korean Peninsula
Goal2	Creating an environment for clean water and sanitation	Management system for major endemic infectious diseases	Modernization of healthcare facilities to provide essential health services	Developing future innovative solutions for health problems	Systematization of planning, monitoring and evaluation
Goal3	Establishment of joint response system for environmental health crisis	Promoting of non-infectious disease management projects	Reinforcement of medical production capacity including essential medicines and equipment	R&D on the internationalization of the healthcare system in DPRK	Laying the foundation for cooperation

DPRK = Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

1. Established based on domestic expert collaboration groups → limited views and engagement of the global partners and experts
2. Lack of inter-connectivity across different health agenda → a need for prioritization of resources and development of integrated strategies

A Mid/Long-term N. Korea TB support plan (2015)

Not so different from other disciplines!

북한 결핵관리지원 중장기 실행방안 수립

용역-2-2015-6

북한 결핵관리지원
중장기 실행방안 수립

2015. 3.

Key areas w/ strategic recommendation

1. Key areas of support
   - Local TB service delivery and patient management strengthening
   - Normalization of TB sanitariums
   - National TB prevalence survey and steady supply of TB drugs

2. Direct support plan
   - TB Active Case Finding (ACF)
   - Strengthening of TB laboratories
   - Strengthening of TB patient management
   - TB Preventive Therapy
   - National TB prevalence survey

3. Strategy for mass influx of N. Korea refugee entry
   - Screening of the refugee camps
   - Bacteriologic testing using NAATs
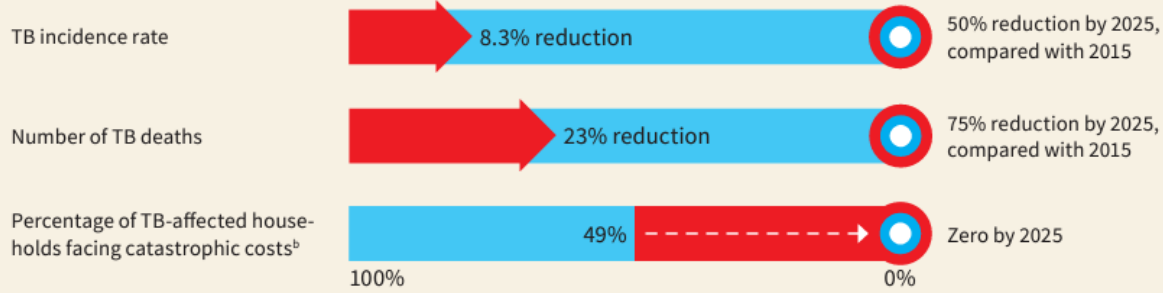   - Treatment initiation and management in quarantine

1. High-level, theoretical and simplified strategic assessment of the future engagement strategy
2. Lack of global and intra-disciplinary cooperative engagement strategy
3. Lack of evidence-based strategic development

The simplified process of formation of policies / strategies
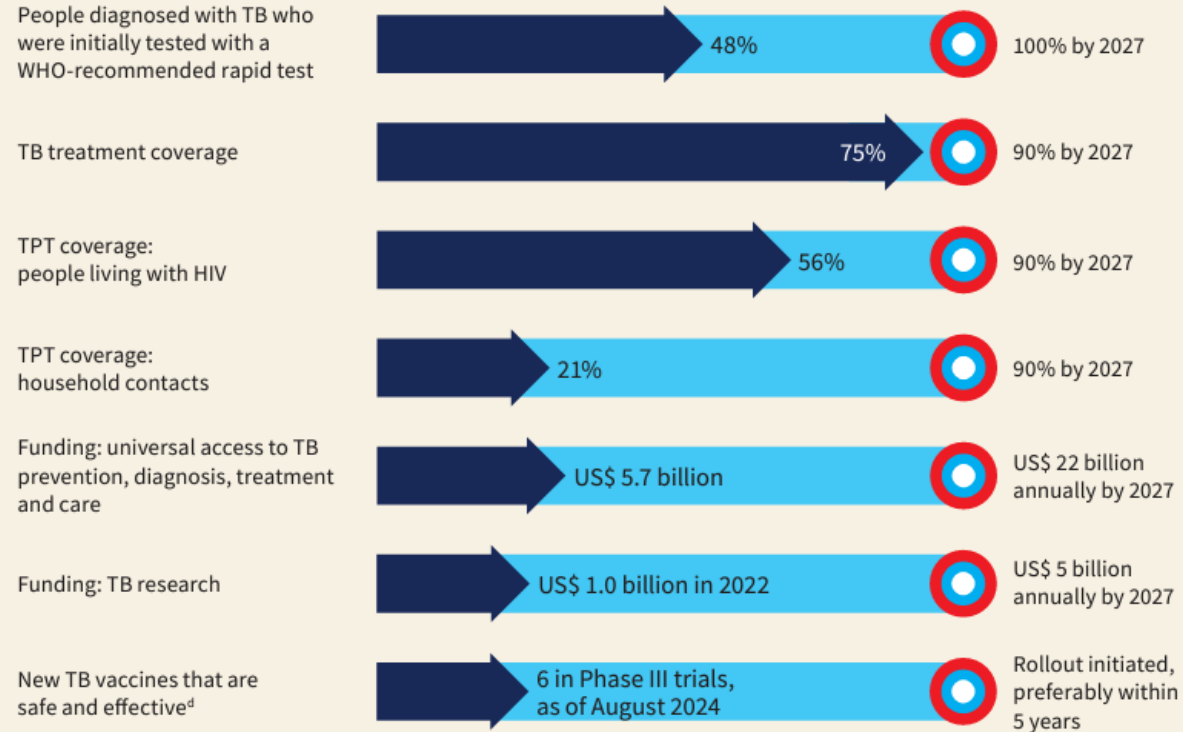

What are the gaps?

Agenda setting
Identify problems
Develop policy agenda

Policy formation

Decision
Policy Adoption
Budgeting

Evaluation
Implementation
Data generation

What are current evidence?

What is the impact?
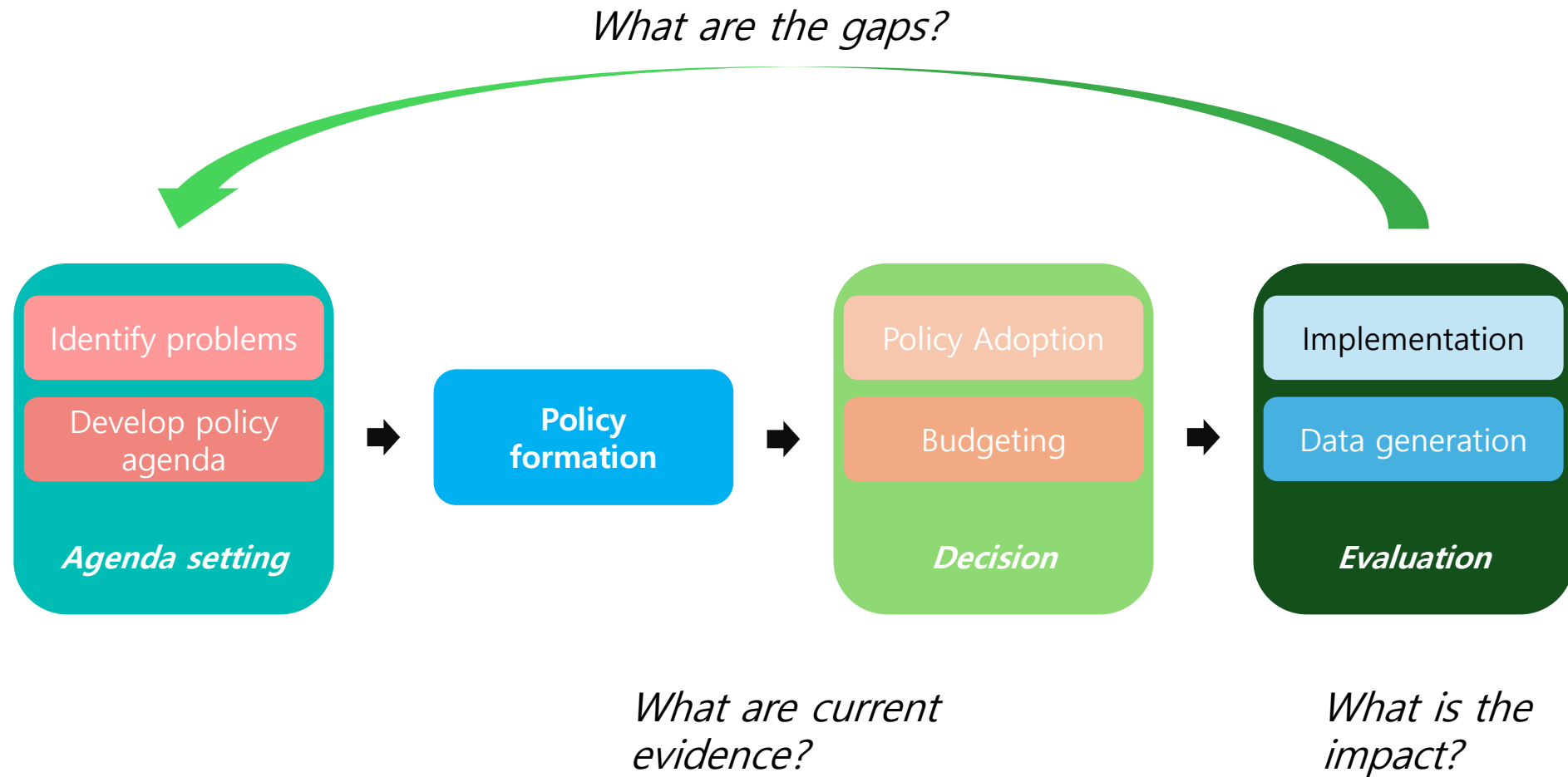
A cyclical and multi-disciplinary approach

Why should we focus on TB?

A global perspective

End TB Strategy, 2025 milestones

- TB incidence rate — 8.3% reduction — 50% reduction by 2025, compared with 2015
- Number of TB deaths — 23% reduction — 75% reduction by 2025, compared with 2015
- Percentage of TB-affected households facing catastrophic costs[b] — 49% — Zero by 2025
  - 100% ... 0%

2023 UN high-level meeting on TB, targets[c]

- People diagnosed with TB who were initially tested with a WHO-recommended rapid test — 48% — 100% by 2027
- TB treatment coverage — 75% — 90% by 2027
- TPT coverage: people living with HIV — 56% — 90% by 2027
- TPT coverage: household contacts — 21% — 90% by 2027
- Funding: universal access to TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care — US$ 5.7 billion — US$ 22 billion annually by 2027
- Funding: TB research — US$ 1.0 billion in 2022 — US$ 5 billion annually by 2027
- New TB vaccines that are safe and effective[d] — 6 in Phase III trials, as of August 2024 — Rollout initiated, preferably within 5 years

Undernutrition
Alcohol use disorders
Smoking
HIV infection
Diabetes

Number of cases (millions)

Key attributes for TB (except HIV) are major public health concern for N. Korea

A need for multi-disciplinary integrated & TB specific approach for TB control efforts

Global tuberculosis report 2024

TUBERCULOSIS IS THE WORLD'S LEADING INFECTIOUS DISEASE KILLER

1.25 MILLION TB DEATHS INCLUDING **161 000** DEATHS AMONG PEOPLE WITH HIV

TB is also the leading cause of deaths among people with HIV and a major contributor to deaths associated with antimicrobial resistance.

IN 2023 AN ESTIMATED 10.8 MILLION PEOPLE FELL ILL WITH TB

79 MILLION LIVES SAVED SINCE THE YEAR 2000 DUE TO GLOBAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT TB

DRUG-RESISTANT TB REMAINS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS WITH GAPS IN DETECTION AND TREATMENT.

Only about **2 IN 5 PEOPLE** with drug-resistant TB accessed treatment

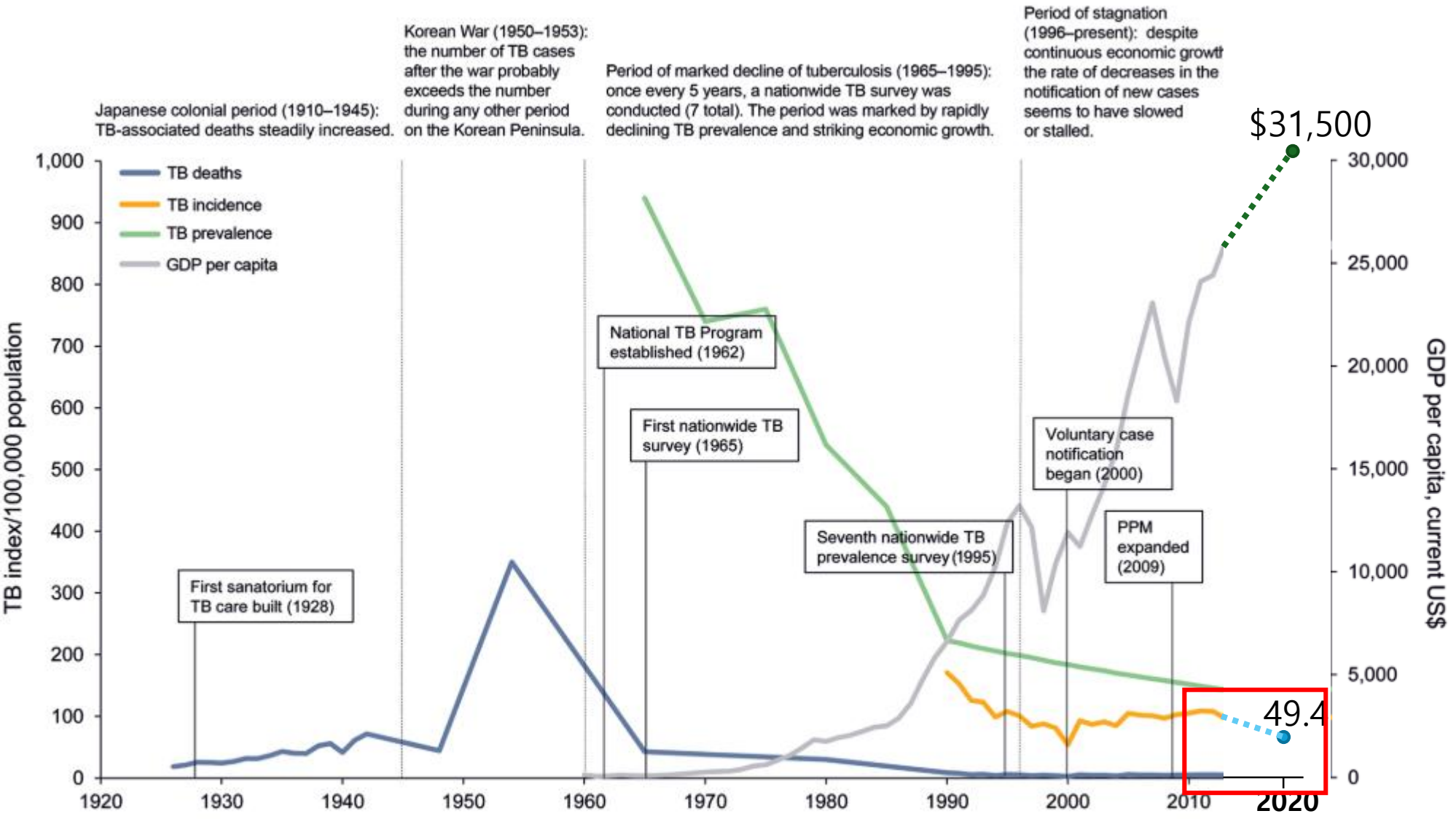**US$ 22 BILLION** REQUIRED PER YEAR FOR TB PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, TREATMENT AND CARE

US$ 5.7 BILLION WAS AVAILABLE IN 2023 of which 80% domestic financing and US$ 1.2 billion international financing

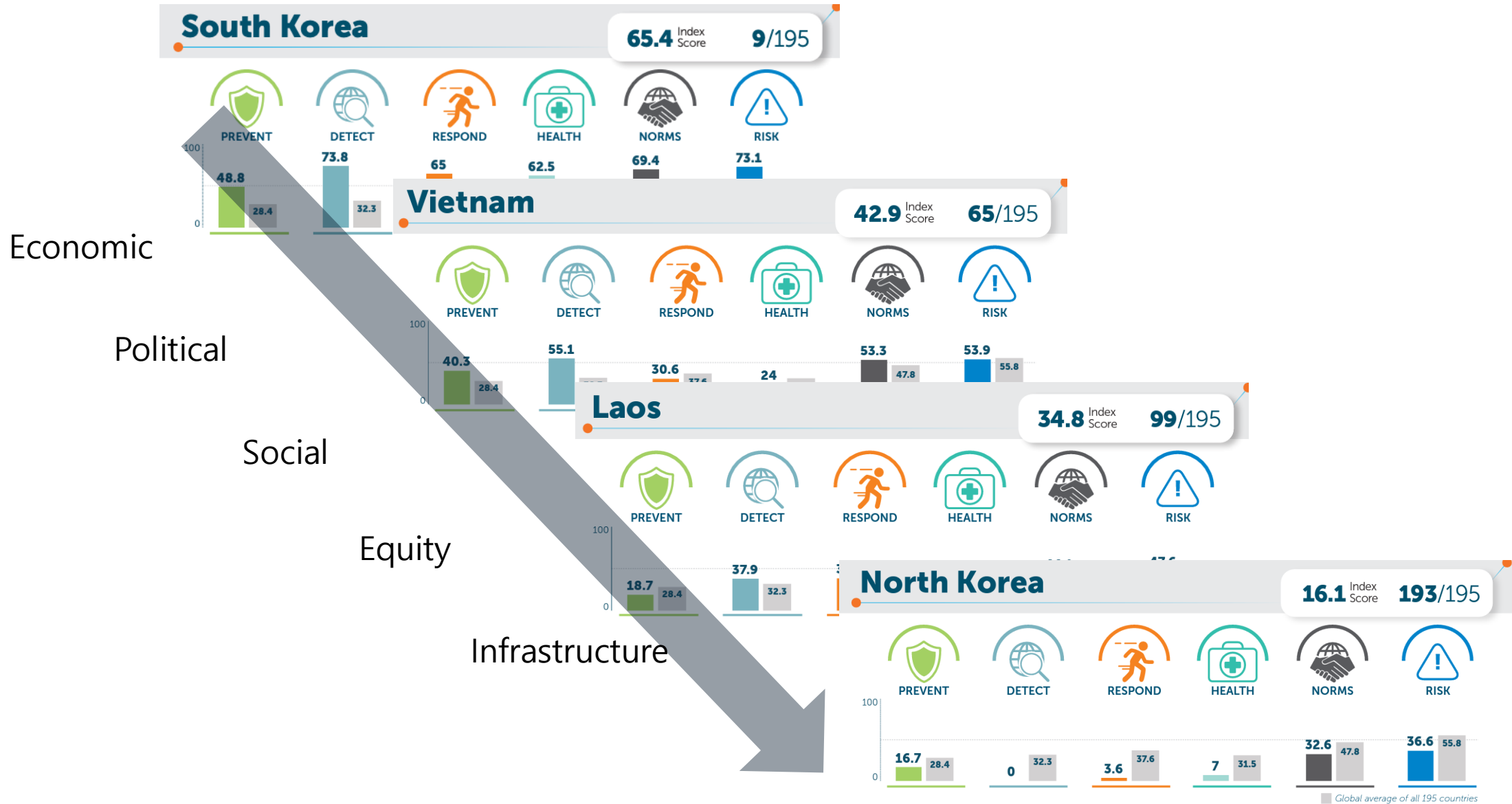**US$ 5 BILLION** REQUIRED PER YEAR FOR TB RESEARCH

US$ 4 BILLION FUNDING GAP

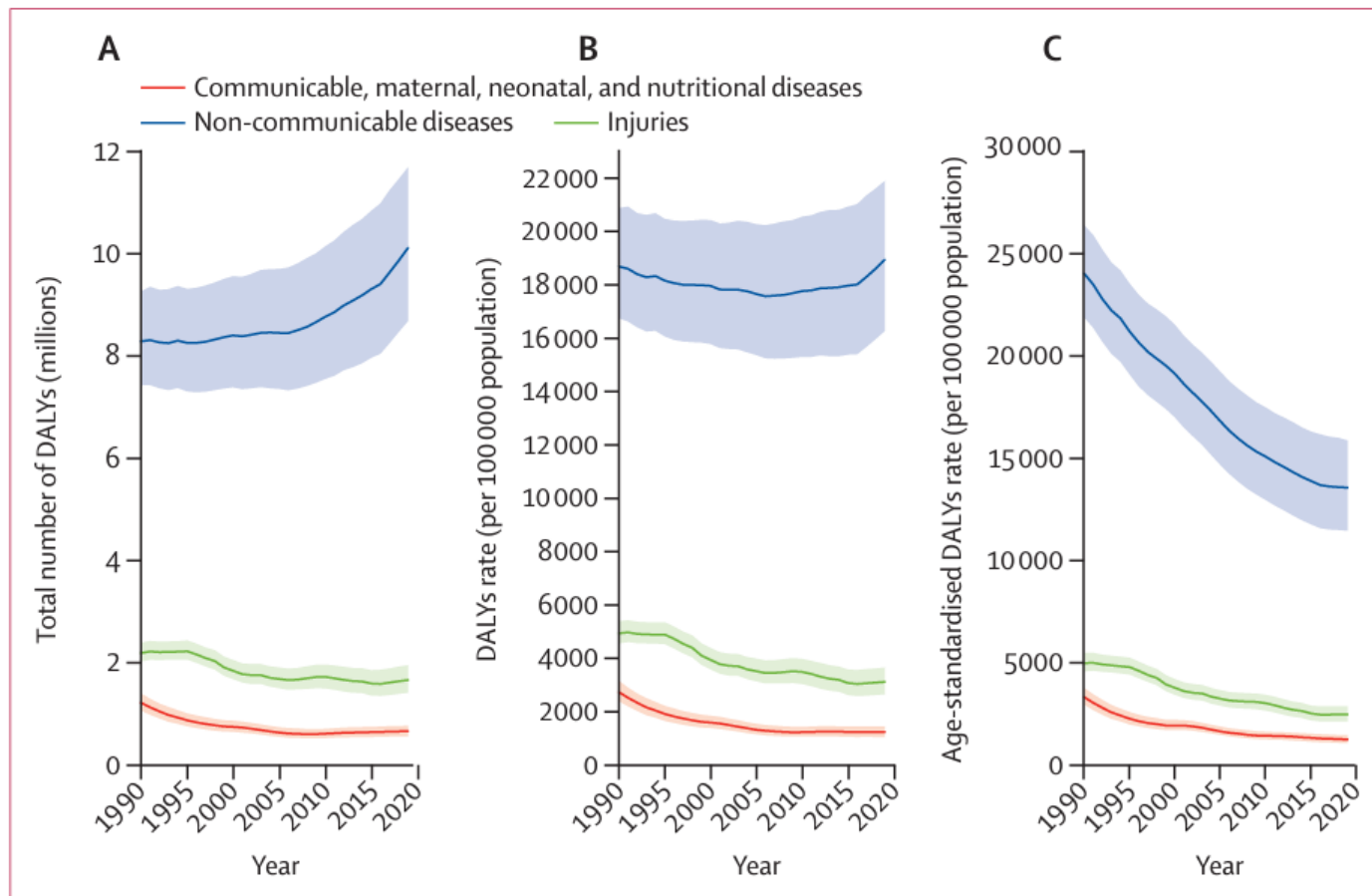# Why Korea?: Achievements in TB control in South Korea since 1930s

Figure 1. Number of tuberculosis (TB) cases per 100,000 population in South Korea, 1926–2013. Major periods are demarcated by dotted lines. Historical tuberculosis milestones for each period are briefly described. Notable tuberculosis control efforts are summarized in the boxes. GDP, gross domestic product; PPM, public–private mix. Sources: (1,4–6).
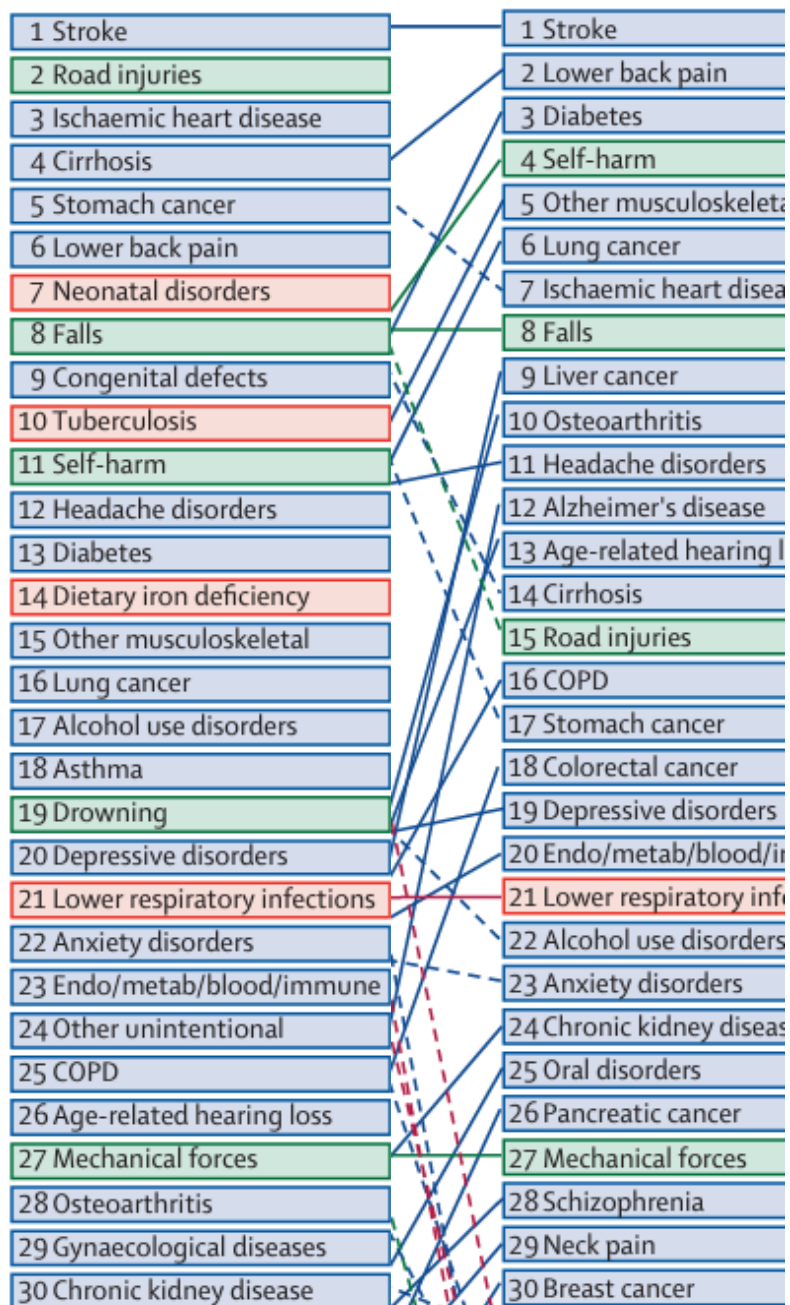
Global Health Security (GHS) Index - 2021

Economic

Political

Social

Equity

Infrastructure

South Korea — 65.4 Index Score — 9/195
PREVENT 48.8 / 28.4 — DETECT 73.8 / 32.3 — RESPOND 65 — HEALTH 62.5 — NORMS 69.4 — RISK 73.1

Vietnam — 42.9 Index Score — 65/195
PREVENT 40.3 / 28.4 — DETECT 55.1 — RESPOND 30.6 / 37.6 — HEALTH 24 — NORMS 53.3 / 47.8 — RISK 53.9 / 55.8

Laos — 34.8 Index Score — 99/195
PREVENT 18.7 / 28.4 — DETECT 37.9 / 32.3 — RESPOND 47.6

North Korea — 16.1 Index Score — 193/195
PREVENT 16.7 / 28.4 — DETECT 0 / 32.3 — RESPOND 3.6 / 37.6 — HEALTH 7 / 31.5 — NORMS 32.6 / 47.8 — RISK 36.6 / 55.8

Global average of all 195 countries

Population health outcomes in South Korea 1990–2019, and projections up to 2040: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2019

GBD 2019 South Korea BoD Collaborators*

| Leading causes 1990	Leading causes 2019
1 Stroke	1 Stroke
2 Road injuries	2 Lower back pain
3 Ischaemic heart disease	3 Diabetes
4 Cirrhosis	4 Self-harm
5 Stomach cancer	5 Other musculoskeleta
6 Lower back pain	6 Lung cancer
7 Neonatal disorders	7 Ischaemic heart disea
8 Falls	8 Falls
9 Congenital defects	9 Liver cancer
10 Tuberculosis	10 Osteoarthritis
11 Self-harm	11 Headache disorders
12 Headache disorders	12 Alzheimer's disease
13 Diabetes	13 Age-related hearing l
14 Dietary iron deficiency	14 Cirrhosis
15 Other musculoskeletal	15 Road injuries
16 Lung cancer	16 COPD
17 Alcohol use disorders	17 Stomach cancer
18 Asthma	18 Colorectal cancer
19 Drowning	19 Depressive disorders
20 Depressive disorders	20 Endo/metab/blood/i
21 Lower respiratory infections	21 Lower respiratory inf
22 Anxiety disorders	22 Alcohol use disorders
23 Endo/metab/blood/immune	23 Anxiety disorders
24 Other unintentional	24 Chronic kidney diseas
25 COPD	25 Oral disorders
26 Age-related hearing loss	26 Pancreatic cancer
27 Mechanical forces	27 Mechanical forces
28 Osteoarthritis	28 Schizophrenia
29 Gynaecological diseases	29 Neck pain
30 Chronic kidney disease	30 Breast cancer

Disease Burden in DPR Korea

북한의 결핵 문제

Incidence, New and relapse TB cases notified, HIV-positive TB incidence
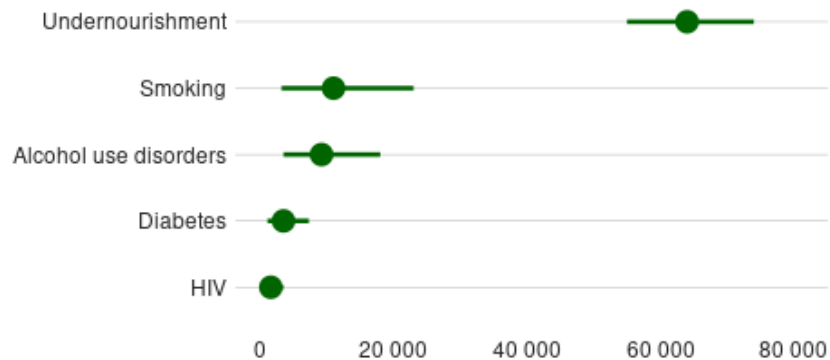(Rate per 100 000 population per year)
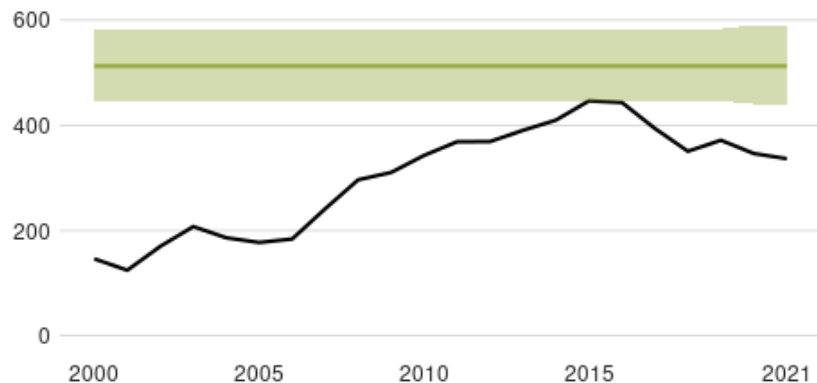
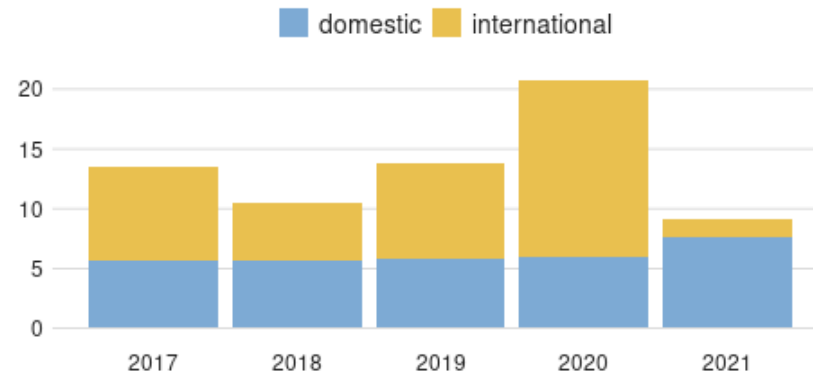Incidence, Notified cases by age group and sex, 2021
(Number)
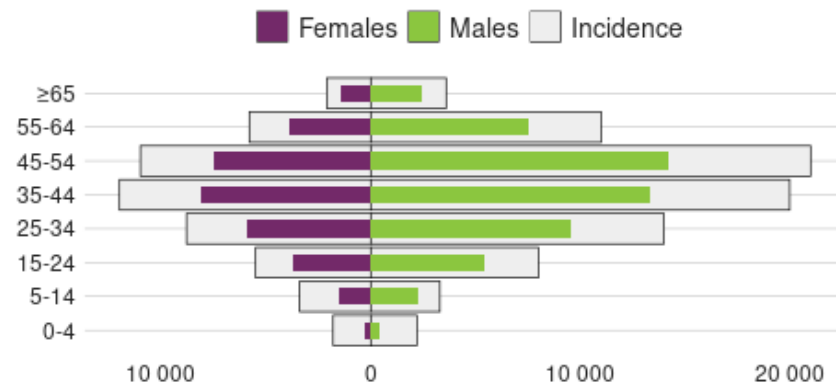
Cases attributable to five risk factors, 2021
(Number)

Funding for TB
(US$ millions)

TB-specific problems for N. Korea

진단과 치료의 coverage

Universal health coverage and social protection*

TB treatment coverage (notified/estimated incidence), 2021	66% (57-76)
TB patients facing catastrophic total costs	
TB case fatality ratio (estimated mortality/estimated incidence), 2021	17% (12-23)

Lower than most settings

내성결핵의 진단과 치료

Drug-resistant TB care**, 2021**

% of bacteriologically confirmed TB cases tested for rifampicin resistance - New cases ^	0%
% of bacteriologically confirmed TB cases tested for rifampicin resistance - Previously treated cases ^	3.6%
Laboratory-confirmed cases - MDR/RR-TB (without pre-XDR-TB/XDR-TB) ^^	270
Patients started on treatment - MDR/RR-TB (without pre-XDR-TB/XDR-TB) ^^^	815
Laboratory-confirmed cases - pre-XDR-TB or XDR-TB ^^	0
Patients started on treatment - pre-XDR-TB or XDR-TB ^^^	0
MDR/RR-TB cases tested for resistance to any fluoroquinolone	0

Lower than most settings

결핵환자의 치료 결과

Treatment success rate and cohort size

	Success	Cohort
New and relapse cases registered in 2020	87%	89 640
Previously treated cases, excluding relapse, registered in 2020	76%	8 729
HIV-positive TB cases registered in 2020		0
MDR/RR-TB cases started on second-line treatment in 2019	72%	2 312
Pre-XDR-TB/XDR-TB cases started on second-line treatment in 2019	79%	84

Better or on-par vs. most settings

?????!!!!!

TB-specific problems for N. Korea – Drug Resistant TB

rGLC mission report (2018)

No coverage

Global Fund

Fig 1. DPRK MDR TB treatment centers supported by the Eugene Bell Foundation (2015).

Sonchon MDR–TB Center
Songsan MDR TB Center
N. Pyongan Province
S. Pyongan Province
Ryongsong MDR–TB Center
Botonggang MDR–TB Center
Dongdaewon MDR–TB Center
Kangso MDR–TB Center
Pyongyang City
Nampo City
Yangdok MDR–TB Center
Sadong MDR–TB Center
Ryokpo MDR–TB Center
North Hwanghae Province MDR-TB Hospital
N. Hwanghae Province
South Hwanghae Province MDR–TB Hospital
Kaesong MDR–TB Center
S. Hwanghae Province
Haeju City
Kaesong

Table 3: Notification and enrolment of DR-TB cases in 2017

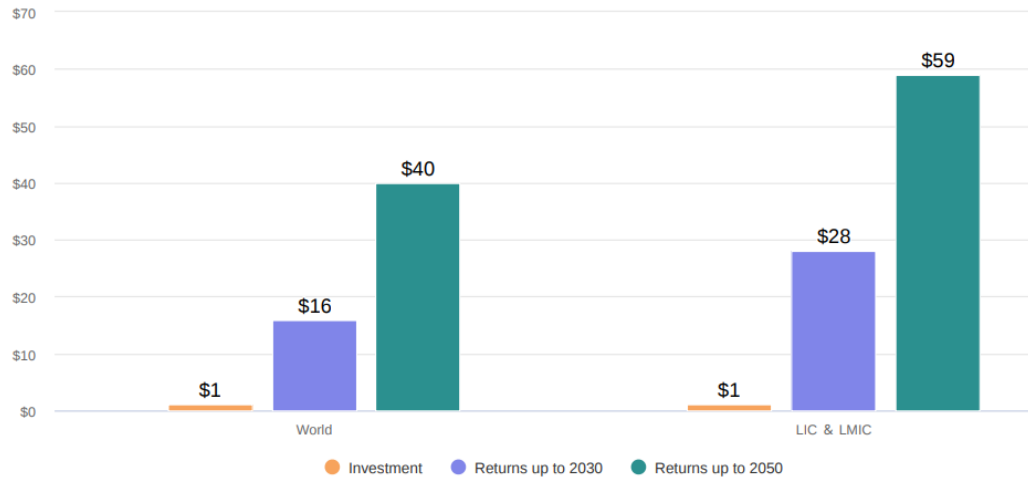| Drug-resistant TB care, 2017	New cases	Previously treated cases	Total number***
Estimated MDR/RR-TB cases among notified pulmonary TB cases			4 100 (2 300–5 800)
Estimated % of TB cases with MDR/RR-TB	2.2% (0.82–4.2)	16% (9.1–25)	
% notified tested for rifampicin resistance		14%	2 116
MDR/RR-TB cases tested for resistance to second-line drugs			0
Laboratory-confirmed cases		MDR/RR-TB: 1 515, XDR-TB: 0	
Patients started on treatment ****		MDR/RR-TB: 1 732, XDR-TB: 19	

Not a disease burden reduction

Drug-resistant TB care**, 2021

% of bacteriologically confirmed TB cases tested for rifampicin resistance - New cases ^	0%
% of bacteriologically confirmed TB cases tested for rifampicin resistance - Previously treated cases ^	3.6%
Laboratory-confirmed cases - MDR/RR-TB (without pre-XDR-TB/XDR-TB) ^^	270
Patients started on treatment - MDR/RR-TB (without pre-XDR-TB/XDR-TB) ^^^	815
Laboratory-confirmed cases - pre-XDR-TB or XDR-TB ^^	0
Patients started on treatment - pre-XDR-TB or XDR-TB ^^^	0
MDR/RR-TB cases tested for resistance to any fluoroquinolone	0

Lower than most settings

Resistance pattern	2013 report	2016 report
MDR w/out second-line resistances	62%	68.6%
MDR w/ second-line DR (Pre-XDR)	22.8%	19.1%
MDR w/ second-line DR (XDR)	2%	6.7%

Seung & Linton (2013) and Seung, Franke & Linton (2016)

Investment case for TB and TB R&D

- Clear investment case for TB!
  - $40 return per $1 invested overall
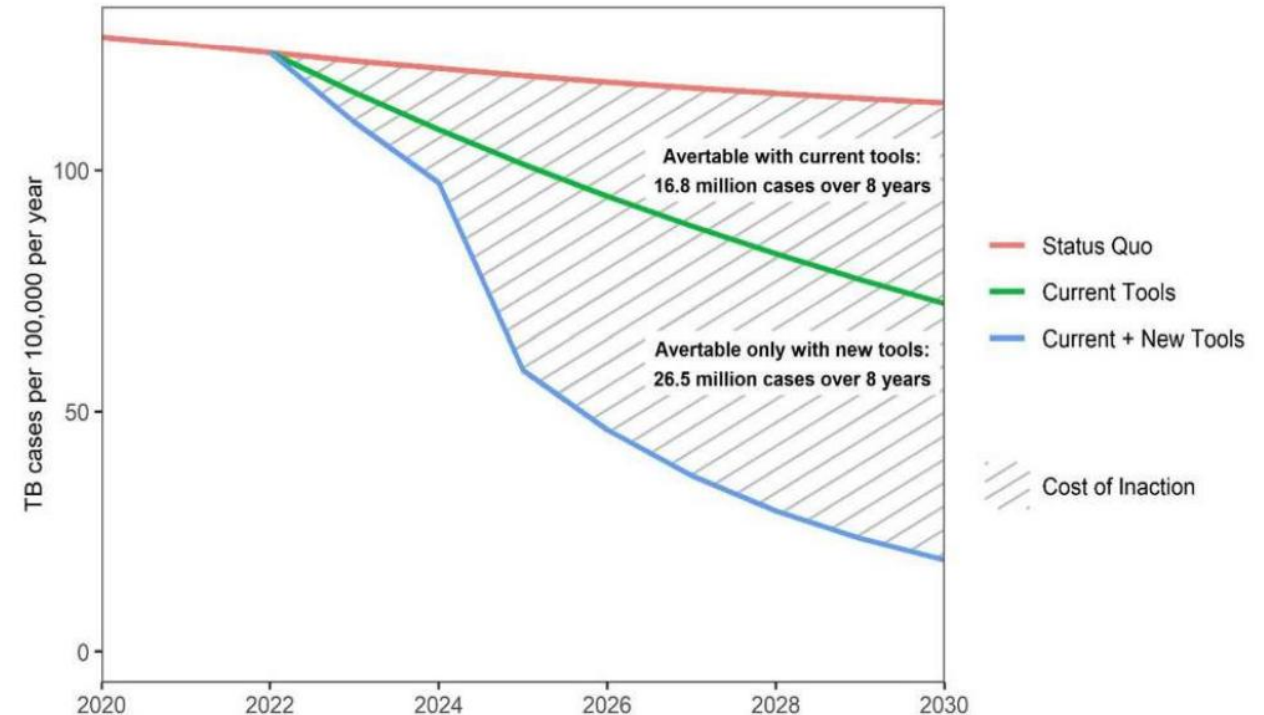 - $59 return per $1 invested for LIC & LMICs

VS (NCDs by 2030)

This investment yields
a return of:
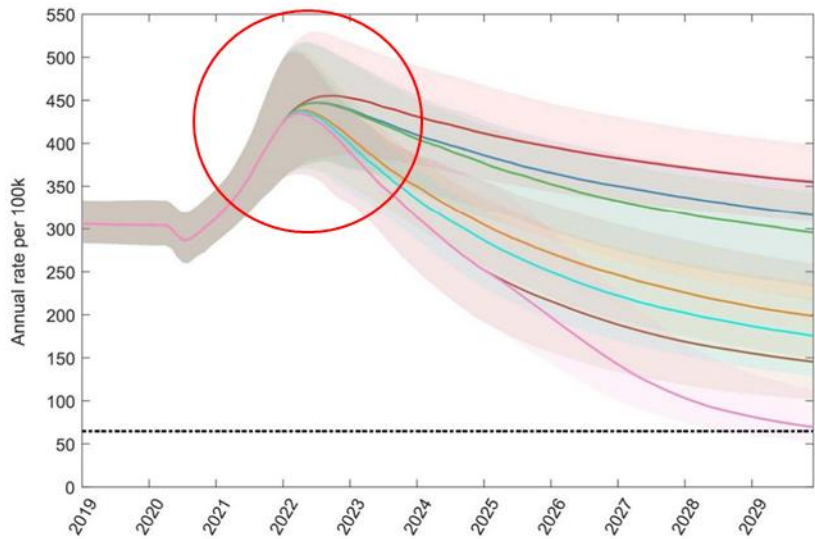**US$ 7**
for each dollar invested

If we don't deliver, then... (maintaining current levels of funding till 2030)

- 43 million will be infected
- 6.6 million will die of TB
- 234 million DALYs will arise
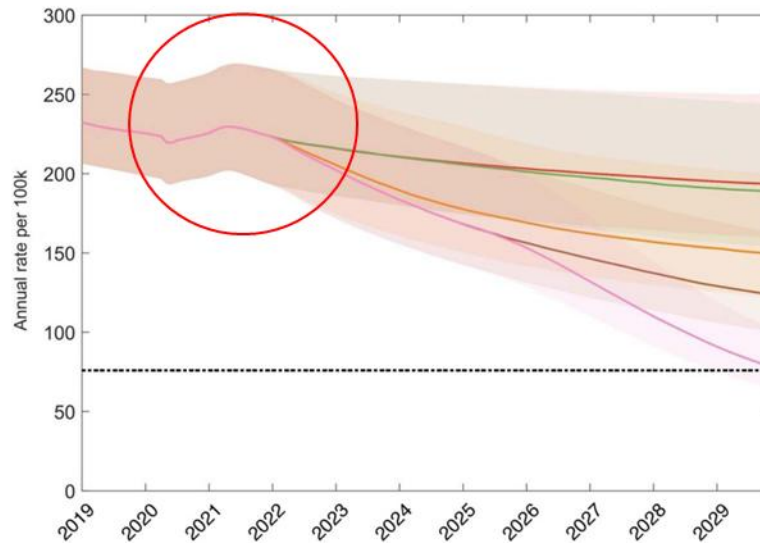- 1 Trillion Dollars in lost due to losses in productivity

Using modeling to inform evidence-base strategies for TB

Post-2020 realities

Assessment of impact scenarios for END-TB global & country level plan

Global and country level decision making

Global and country level funding decisions

Key objectives and schematic of the global TB modeling consortium for the Korean Peninsula – a 5-year plan

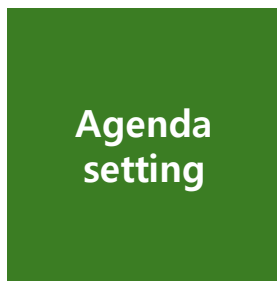**Objective 1:** Refined estimates of TB disease burden and long-term projection

Objective 2: Develop scenarios of required interventions to reach the End-TB goals (in both N. Korea and the Korean Peninsula)

Objective 3: TB cascade-specific (case-finding, patient management) strategic development and impact assessment

Objective 4: Assessment of budget and economic impact of TB control strategies in the Korean Peninsula

Objective 5: Use of consolidated model-based evidence to engage N. Korean and global stakeholders to develop engagement strategies for TB control and beyond

Six major building blocks of the global consortium

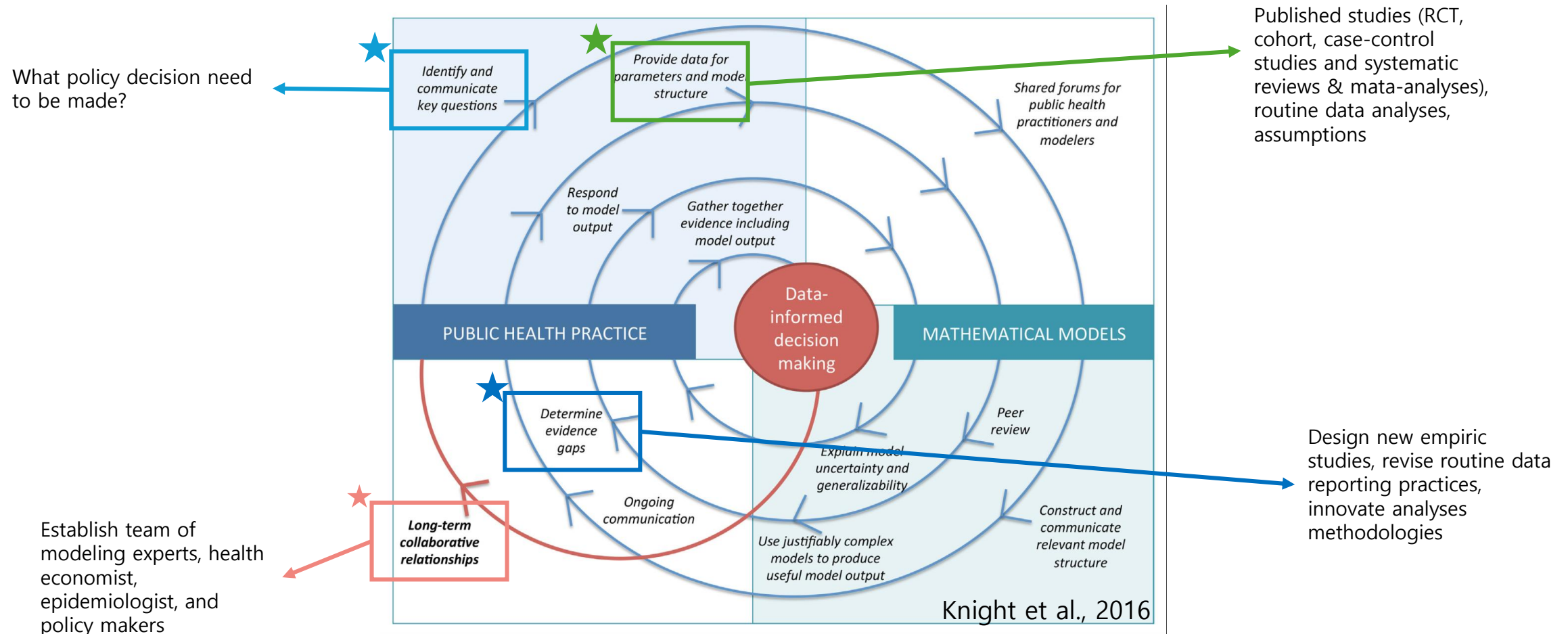| Agenda setting	Execution of RFP	Iterative and integrated modeling	Development of strategies	Engagement of key stakeholders	Refine and strategize
Develop TB modeling consortium	Invitation of multiple modeling groups	Refinement of modeling methods to address uncertainties	Establish evidence-based strategies for each objective	Dissemination of results and feedback	Iterative refinement of the model-based evidence

The policy process involving modeling...

A never-ending cycle of modeling to policy to implementation to modeling...

Models inform new policy → new data generated → models are reshaped/updated → new policy developed/updated

What policy decision need to be made?

Published studies (RCT, cohort, case-control studies and systematic reviews & mata-analyses), routine data analyses, assumptions

Design new empiric studies, revise routine data reporting practices, innovate analyses methodologies

Establish team of modeling experts, health economist, epidemiologist, and policy makers

Identify and communicate key questions

Provide data for parameters and model structure

Shared forums for public health practitioners and modelers

Respond to model output

Gather together evidence including model output

Data-informed decision making

PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE

MATHEMATICAL MODELS

Determine evidence gaps

Peer review

Explain model uncertainty and generalizability

Ongoing communication

Construct and communicate relevant model structure

Long-term collaborative relationships

Use justifiably complex models to produce useful model output

Knight et al., 2016

Criticisms of models

- Makes assumptions based on limited Data
  - Example: protective effect of prior latent TB infection / patient care-seeking behavior based on symptom levels
- Oversimplify the world
  - Example: homogeneous mixing
- Difficult to validate
  - Any evidence that predictions will c
- Difficult to understand
  - Too much of a "black box"

All are true... but is there an alternative?!

Decision-making w/out models?

- Expert opinion-based discussions
  - Experts create their own "mental models" of what is best!
- Predictable determinants of expert's view
  - Recent thought patterns/events, anecdotal evidence
  - Outspoken experts more influential than silent ones
  - Experts' own research and political agenda
  - Sound bites over substance
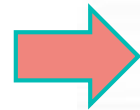
How does this compare to the criticisms of the models?

- **Assumptions vs. data?**
- **Oversimplify the world?**
- **Difficult to validate?**
- **Difficult to understand?**

TOLD YA IT'S COLLAPSING !...

OBAMACARE

BZZZZ

- Criticisms of models are generally criticisms of the messy nature of decision-making, not models themselves
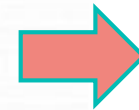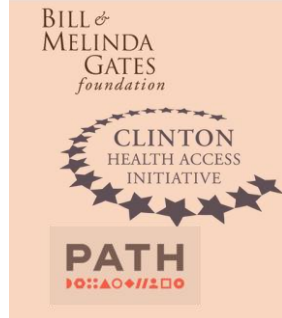
Understanding the support priorities (first 5 years)

- Establishment of the global TB modeling consortium to develop End-TB strategy in the Korean Peninsula

- Development and execution of key evidence generation agenda for developing engagement for TB in N. Korea

- Iterative consortium meetings & global stakeholder engagement in the strategic development

Initial Engagement (year 6-10)

- [Where Possible] N. Korean stakeholder engagement in the initial scale-up planning for evidence-based implementation

- Call for an action – recruitment of global implementing partners (w/ experience in TB) to executive specific components of the evidence-based TB engagement strategy for N. Korea

- Execution of TB model-based TB control strategy through rapid scale-up key strategies (mobile solutions for community-based interventions alongside of infrastructural development)

- Generate implementation evidence and update TB modeling to inform longer strategies

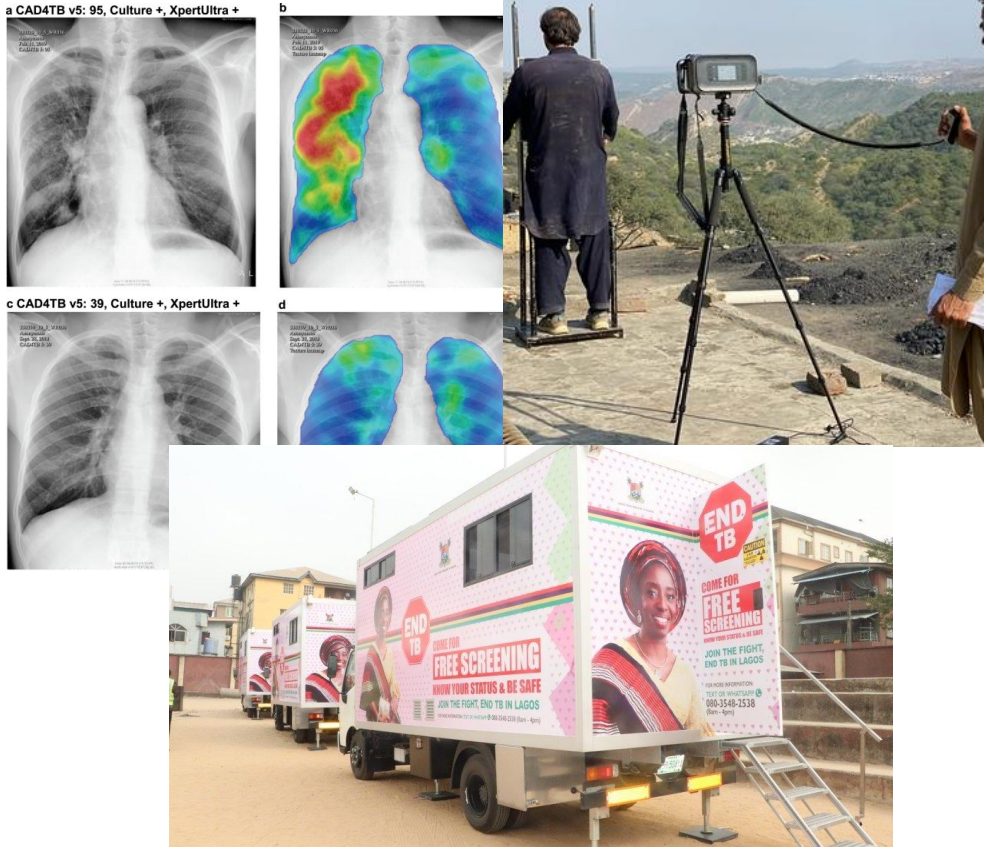**Mid/Long-term Engagement (year 11 and beyond)**

- Review and re-strategize long-term TB control policy and efforts for N. Korea

- Optimize TB case finding and service delivery through operational research

- Optimization of TB service integration alongside modernization of health systems

- Reassessment of TB care service delivery gaps and inclusion of post-TB care

- Improved research cooperation and identify research opportunities to improve TB disease burden and health systems components relevant for TB

- Develop longer term 'TB free' Korean Peninsula strategy alongside the health systems strengthening

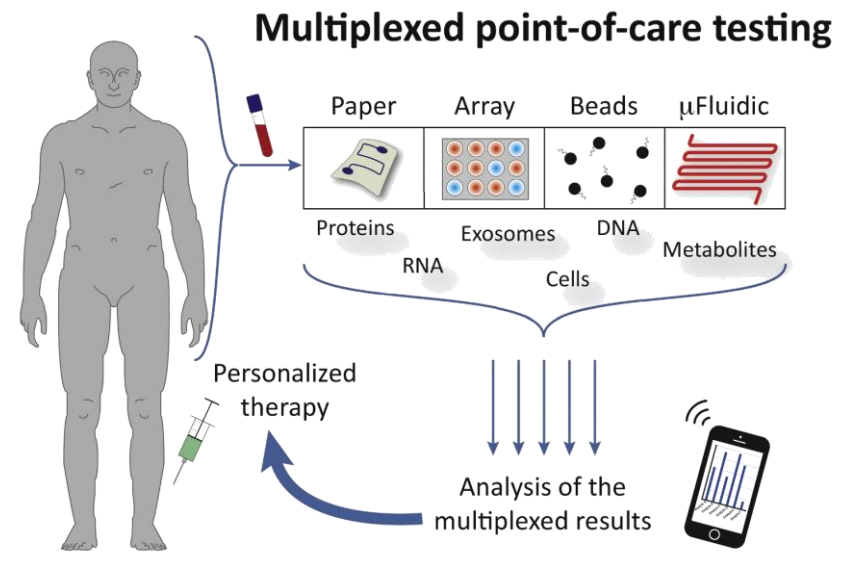- Strengthen the global engagement in the Korean Peninsula

Development, Adoption & Implementation of Evidence-based Policy and Program Delivery

Some food for thought

Strengthening laboratory system through vertical vs. horizontal approach

Mobile screening

Initially for TB, but extendable to other diagnoses

Multiplexed point-of-care testing

Paper Array Beads µFluidic

Proteins Exosomes DNA Metabolites

RNA Cells

Personalized therapy

Analysis of the multiplexed results

Trends in Biotechnology

https://images.app.goo.gl/kXjqLfUWw2egXz4p7

AI-Hotspot mapping
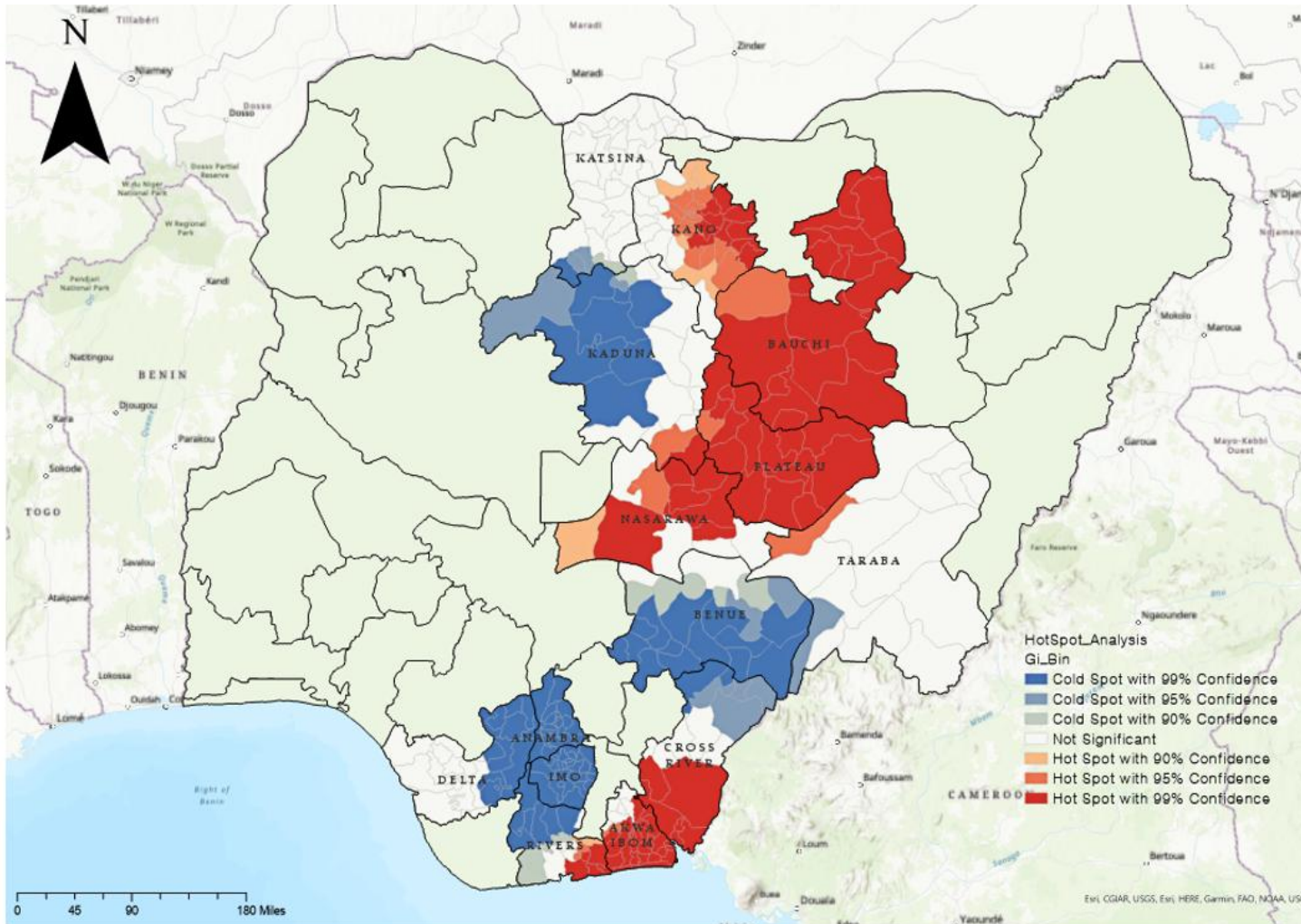
Benefits in TB ACF

1. Improved operational efficiency
2. Improve program yields (in case finding)
3. Improved cost-efficiency & effectiveness
4. Improved decision in prioritizing areas for TB service network strengthening

Potential challenges and limitations

1. Data availability (reliance on routine data – disease surveillance infrastructure level dependent)
2. Methods used to assess 'hot' spots (spatial homogeneity → patient movement not reflected)
3. Screening success depends on patient and community acceptance → outreach should always include community programs to reduce disease stigma, education for awareness & risk communication

Ogbudebe C, Jeong D, Odume B, Chukwuogo O, Dim C, Useni S, Okuzu O, Malolan C, Kim D, Nwariaku F, Nwokoye N, Gande S, Nongo D, Eneogu R, Odusote T, Oyelaran S, Chijioke-Akaniro O, Nihalani N, Anyaike C, Gidado M
Identifying Hot Spots of Tuberculosis in Nigeria Using an Early Warning Outbreak Recognition System: Retrospective Analysis of Implications for Active Case Finding Interventions
JMIR Public Health Surveill 2023;9:e40311

Be a global friend to **END TB** with Korea

Thank you