

Ending Cryptococcal Meningitis Deaths by 2030 – Strategic Framework
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The Ending Cryptococcal Meningitis Deaths by 2030 strategic framework outlines the key reasons why a global strategy to address cryptococcal meningitis deaths is needed and what essential programmatic elements are required to make this a reality. Cryptococcal meningitis is one of the main causes of death of people living with HIV. While diagnostic tests and medicines for prevention and treatment exist, access in resource-limited settings is extremely limited. Treatment with fluconazole alone, most commonly used in low-income settings, results in around 20% survival. This strategic framework sets out the case for a re-invigorated global drive to end CM deaths by 2030, as part of a broader drive to end all HIV-related deaths. This framework calls for high-level targets to be set and lays out building blocks to help countries develop their own plans to minimise deaths from cryptococcal meningitis. Earlier diagnosis and optimised treatment with flucytosine and amphotericin B, as recommended by the World Health Organization, could improve survival to around 70%.