

TBAC launches civil society advocacy toolkit to support SA TB champions' efforts



The workshop brought together TB champions from across the country, mobilising them to drive progress towards ending TB.

In South Africa's ongoing fight against TB, community champions are an important part of the gameplay to increase testing and reduce infections and deaths.

But being an advocate is not an easy job. In fact it means combining passion with purpose and having the courage and patience to push for change.

This is why the TBAC developed a civil society advocacy toolkit to help guide and inspire SA's TB ambassadors.

The toolkit titled "Tackling TB in our communities" is a guide to help community TB advocates see the importance of their roles and guide them on their advocacy journey.

The toolkit was launched during a workshop at the RHAP offices in Johannesburg in

August.

The one-day session focused on unpacking the TB Recovery Plan Version 4.0. It helped them understand the data to equip them with the knowledge to implement the plan and inform their advocacy efforts.



[DOWNLOAD THE TOOLKIT HERE](#)

New TB preventive treatment guidelines from The Union: what does this mean for South Africa?

This quarter TBAC sat down with TB Proof's Dr Janet Giddy to unpack the latest global TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) guidelines and understand what they mean for South Africa. Dr Giddy stressed the need for stronger healthcare worker training, increased public awareness and an evidence-based policy to protect contacts of people with drug-resistant TB. The conversation also highlighted how integrating social and nutritional support could significantly improve outcomes and help curb the spread of TB in communities.

[Read more on this here](#)



AIDS Healthcare Foundation joins the consortium to strengthen TB and HIV response in South Africa

TBAC also has a new partner: the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

The foundation is a global nonprofit organization with presence in 48 countries, including South Africa.

In South Africa, the partnership aims to strengthen South Africa's TB and HIV response by reducing stigma, supporting TB champions and expanding community outreach.



Dr. Nombuso Madonsela, AHF Country Program Director

In South Africa, where the burden of both diseases is among the highest globally, this partnership is not just medical, it is a moral imperative.

Dr. Nombuso Madonsela

[Read the full story of the new consortium partnership on the TBAC site.](#)

TB mining trends: why much work is still needed

TBAC also took some time to focus on South Africa's mining sector.

While the sector has made real progress in tackling TB, cutting incidence rates nearly three-fold since 2015, the team of

researchers flag certain subsectors – as places where work is needed. Gold mining, for example, still carries a much heavier TB burden. The study highlights the success of industry wide

initiatives like the Masoyise Health Programme, workplace health checks, and contact tracing. It calls for sustained collaboration.

[ACCESS THE ARTICLE HERE](#)

TB CHAMPION FOCUS: looking at how our community advocates are working on the ground

Tackling TB happens everywhere. At homes, in streets, at clinics and at community gatherings where people are traced, supported and reminded that TB is curable and preventable. In these spaces, champions advocate for better treatment, awareness and access to care. This quarter we spoke to TB champions from KwaZulu-Natal and Northern Cape to learn more about their efforts to help end TB in their communities.

KwaZulu-Natal TB champion



Mabusi Kgwete, SANAC Civil Society Forum TB Ambassador, Kwa-Zulu Natal

Mabusi Kgwete, SANAC Civil Society Forum TB Ambassador in Kwa-Zulu Natal, was diagnosed with extra-pulmonary TB in 2023. It was TB of the bones which affected her knees and made her journey to recovery very challenging. She shares her experience of engaging with communities about the disease as a TB champion. The importance of clear communication from healthcare workers and the power of support groups in breaking stigma. Mabusi reflects on what she sees in clinics, patients opening up more about their recovery, healthcare workers testing everyone who visit clinics and communities slowly becoming more informed about TB. At the same time, she raises concerns about the lack of awareness that TB can affect different parts of the body.

Northern Cape TB champion

Victor Mammeshi, is a TB advocate and district chair of Civil Society in the Northern Cape. In 2016, he was diagnosed with MDR-TB after his health worsened when he stopped taking his HIV treatment. His recovery was difficult. He had to take 28 TB tablets every morning until his body was strong enough to resume antiretroviral medication. But in 2018, Victor was declared TB-free. Today, he shares his journey with others, encouraging them to get tested for TB, finish their treatment, fight stigma and he believes that people can beat TB through medication.



Victor Mammeshi, District chair of Civil Society in the Zfm district, Northern Cape

[READ BOTH STORIES HERE](#)

#SITSHELE #THETHA #TELLUS #SPEIG

This month we feature four stories from our ongoing campaign to help people see how TB affects people's lives, families and communities. These stories highlight the everyday realities of people living with TB and the social impact of the disease. Our campaign amplifies these voices, encouraging people to tell their TB stories and push government to take action and make TB national a priority.



TB survivor from Western Cape, Bravo Thompson, shared his TB story on #Speig



TB survivor from Gauteng, Lehlohonolo Thobakgale, shared her TB story on #Sitshele



TB survivor from the Eastern Cape, Vuyiswa Zaneke, shared her TB story on #Thetha



TB survivor from the Eastern Cape, Rev. Mzoxolo Boyana, shared his TB story on #Thetha

Share your TB story, by scanning this QR code and telling us your TB experience.



Reach out to us - share your thoughts

At TBAC, we would love to hear from you. Share your ideas on TB initiatives that we should cover. Continue the conversation by visiting our social media platforms or dropping us an email. And if you want this newsletter again, sign up by sending us an email to info@tbac.org.za

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