



Communique by TB Affected Communities and Civil Society with Recommendations for the United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis, Universal Health Coverage and Pandemic Preparedness

We, TB affected communities and civil society across the African continent advocating for well resourced & effective TB response, gathered to express our views and recommendations for the upcoming United Nations High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis, Universal Health Coverage and Pandemic Preparedness.

As citizens of Africa, we are deeply concerned about the devastating impact of tuberculosis, unequal and unaffordable access to universal health coverage and inadequate preparation for future pandemics. We work closely with governments, policy makers and other stakeholders to play a vital role in promoting the health and well-being of individuals and communities. Members of Parliament, elected representatives of the people, have a critical responsibility in supporting and meaningfully engaging civil society and communities to ensure equitable and affordable access to health for all.

From our deliberations, we recommend the following for the 3 High Level Meetings in New York September 2023 :-

- Increased funding to end the TB epidemic: Use of legislative and oversight powers to advocate for increased, effective and efficient funding for tuberculosis prevention, diagnosis, treatment, research and development of tools and commodities through domestic resources for health
- Ensure universal access to treatment for all: Ensuring that all members of our constituencies have access to treatment by advocating for policies and programs that improve access to affordable drugs, diagnostic tools, and effective treatment regimens.
- Strengthen Primary Health Care systems: Advocating for policies that strengthen health systems, meaningfully engaging communities and allocating sustainable financing efficiently and effectively to support the delivery of quality services.
- Investing in Human resources for Health: Increasing the number of trained and well compensated health care workers including community health workers & volunteers and ensuring availability of essential medicines and medical supplies.
- Promote Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response: Advocating for public awareness, policy advocacy, advocacy for domestic resources for health and using accountability mechanisms to prepare for prevention and response to pandemics
- Address social determinants of health: Advocating for policies that address the social determinants of health, including poverty, inequality, and discrimination, in order to reduce the spread of communicable diseases.

- Integration of traditional medicine in health systems: Advocating for the integration of traditional medicine in providing access to affordable and culturally appropriate health services. This is a more holistic approach to healthcare that combines both traditional and modern medical practices, leading to better health outcomes and improved overall well-being

As TB Affected Communities and Civil Society, We affirm the 6 Thematic Calls to Action as Critical to Ending TB For TB HLM on 22 September 2023 as follows :

1. **Close Gaps in TB Prevention, Diagnosis, Treatment & Care by Reaching All people with TB-** deliver quality people-centered, community-based and Key Vulnerable Population(KPV) TB care including child friendly services to improve TB outcomes
2. **Make TB response equitable, gender-responsive, right-based and stigma free with TB affected communities and Civil Society at the center** – ensure that Communities, Rights and Gender and Stigma elimination are prioritized in TB HLM declaration with specific targets and integration to NSP and TB Reviews
3. **Accelerate the development, rollout of and access to essential new tools to end TB** – ensure adequate investment for new TB diagnosis and treatment including vaccines
4. **Invest the Funds necessary to End TB** – close global TB gap through investment of US\$ 210 billion including US\$40 billion directed to TB R&D between 2023-2030 aiming at achieving all the 6 calls to action
5. **Prioritize TB in Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response (PPPR), Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** – include TB in national essential services in Primary Health Care and UHC packages
6. **Commit to multi-sectoral action, decisive leadership and accountability** – develop, strengthen and leverage on the Multi-sectoral Accountability Forums with special focus on Community Led Monitoring(CLM) for achievement of commitments and targets

In the lead up to the high level meetings in New York September 2023, we urge the United Nations and Member States to prioritize the end of Tuberculosis, equitable access to Universal Health Coverage for all, and to increase investments for Pandemic Preparedness and Response in their development agendas. **For the 2023 UN HLM on TB we are hoping that TB HLM 2023 will be a really High Level Meeting, and requesting High Level Representation from Our Governments and transparent process to engage affected communities and Civil Society in developing country plans.**