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The Global TB Caucus Annual Report for 2021 outlines The Caucus’ milestones for the year and the progress made toward ending TB. These milestones accomplished by caucus members from each of the regional networks highlight how political will and policy development is crucial to creating a world without TB. The Global TB Caucus Secretariat continuously supports, informs, and engages with members of parliament to ensure that their policies and work plans are evidence-based and relevant to their stakeholders. Together, the Global TB Caucus members and the secretariat have organised and participated in events, meetings, dialogues, workshops, and webinars throughout the year resulting in global commitments in the fight against TB, national legislation for health policies, and budget allocation toward TB programs, and the launch and relaunch of national TB Caucuses.
Highlights

The G20

The Global TB Caucus Secretariat has worked with members of parliament (MPs) and other key stakeholders and helped ensure that TB remained a key focus of the Italian G20 in 2021. The Caucus — in partnership with the Global Fund, ACTION Partnership, and TB Alliance — hosted a high-level multilateral dialogue between the three concurrent G20 presidencies (Saudi Arabia, Italy, Indonesia) and the current G7 presidency (Germany) to discuss the impact of COVID on TB and measures for recovery. The Caucus also partnered with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, TB Alliance, and the ACTION partnership to bring together MPs, government officials, technical experts, and CSOs to discuss global mobilisation around TB, the fight against COVID-19, and strengthening health systems.

With the support of MPs, partners, and government representatives, both the G20 Health Ministers’ and G20 Heads of States declarations mentioned TB.

Programmes and Legislation

The Caucus’ active engagement has resulted in national programmes and policies to improve healthcare access, particularly to TB services, and an increase in budgetary allocations in several countries and regional networks. Among the gains in TB policy and financing are as follows:

Belarus | Hon. Liudmila Makarina-Kibak, head of the Belarus TB Caucus is in regular contact with the Ministry of Health to discuss TB and other pressing health issues.

Cuba | Diputado Luiz Velázquez of Cuba led the development of a model of TB Law approved in Parlacen (subregional parliament of Central America).

Indonesia | The country enacted Presidential Regulation number 67 on TB Prevention and Control, establishing a multi-sectoral TB response at the national and sub-national levels and the creation of inter-ministerial and local level teams to accelerate the TB response. They have also increased the national TB budget from USD 59 million in 2020 to USD 193 million in 2021.

Kenya | Through a KES 5.8 billion (USD 48 million) allocation from Global Fund Kenya, the country received funding for its TB program.

Pakistan | In order to ensure the continuation of TB services, Pakistan enacted a national strategy which includes the provision of two months’ worth of treatment and effective IPC measures to protect the health and safety of health workers, staff, and patients. Simultaneous testing for TB and COVID-19 was also scaled up, taking into consideration the similarity of symptoms (cough, fever, and laboured breathing) and exposure or presence of risk factors.
**Paraguay** | The Chamber of Deputies in Paraguay approved a TB Bill drafted by Diputado Pastor Vera Bejarano of the Americas TB Caucus and the Caucus Focal Point.

**South Africa** | The Western Cape province of South Africa received USD 10 million for health, especially TB.

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Launch of TB Caucuses

Throughout 2021, The Caucus gained new membership and witnessed the launch and relaunch of the following National TB Caucuses:

1. Angola
2. Bangladesh
3. Denmark
4. Eswatini
5. Kazakhstan
6. Moldova
7. Sierra Leone
8. South Korea
9. Tanzania
10. Zimbabwe

As well as two provincial caucuses in South Africa.
“Building the political will to #endTB”

The Global TB Caucus is a unique international network of more than 2500 parliamentarians that has presence in more than 150 countries. We work collectively and individually towards ending the TB epidemic.
01
About The Global TB Caucus
Who We Are

The Global TB Caucus is a non-political and non-partisan global network of parliamentarians who share a commitment to ending the tuberculosis (TB) epidemic. Led by its members for its members, The Caucus aims to transform the response to TB through targeted interventions at national, regional, and global levels. The Caucus has over 2500 members from over 150 countries worldwide.

Our Vision

We are committed to building political will and to supporting relevant stakeholders in their efforts to create a world without TB.

Our Objectives

- We aim to drive political leadership at every level to find solutions to one of the world’s most intractable health challenges: Tuberculosis (TB).
- We strive to support high TB burden countries by establishing caucuses, working with focal points, and cooperating with stakeholders at all levels, with a focus on increasing funding, accountability, and implementing better policies for TB.
- We seek to propel our parliamentary agenda towards investment in TB-affected communities and civil society organisations, followed by research and development with world-leading scientific institutions and insights exchanged with civil society.

Our Values

Empathetic
We recognize the humanity in everyone, and champion human rights whenever possible.

Cooperative
We are not just a collective of parliamentarians and other stakeholders, but also a team committed to working across party lines.

Mindful
We are understanding but also respectful of what we do.

Purpose-driven
We make an effort to anticipate each others’ needs and keep the organisation’s goal at heart in whatever we do.

Diverse
Our differences enrich us. We ensure that all voices are heard and appreciated.

Open
We are receptive to feedback, and provide support when necessary. We engage with TB stakeholders and keep them informed about our activities.
Our History

2014

• Launch of the Global TB Caucus
• Declarations of support from the Minister of Health for South Africa, the Chairperson of the Stop TB Partnership, and other political representatives from around the world

2015

• Rapid growth of The Caucus membership
• Members from across the Asia Pacific come together as the first regional network of the Global TB Caucus in August 2015
• Members of Parliament (MP) from the 100th country joins The Caucus in October 2015

2016

• MPs from across the Americas gather in Brazil to launch the Americas Regional TB Caucus, followed by the launch of national TB caucuses in six countries
• MPs from Europe and Central Asia gather in Tbilisi to launch the Eurasian TB Caucus

2018

• The United Nations hosts the first High-Level Meeting (HLM) on TB to agree on definitive commitments to end TB by 2030
• Following the UN HLM on TB, MPs from across the world gather in The Hague to discuss actions and next steps to make sure their countries deliver on the agreed-upon commitments

2019

• Members of The Caucus set to work on ensuring institutional commitment and action towards meeting the global TB commitments made in 2018, focusing on:
  • Ensuring that political commitments were translated into customised national and regional policy, action, and resource mobilisation
  • Deepening engagement with parliamentary platforms across global regions and member engagement with colleagues around the world through targeted bilateral and multilateral delegations

2020

• The Caucus shifts activities online with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic
• The Caucus holds its first online Executive Committee meeting in May 2020, with the participation of co-chairs from all regions, to share updates of the regions’ work, discuss the impact of COVID-19, and adopt a Statement of Intent on TB and COVID-19 to guide the work
In 2021, we took another step toward progress

2021 can be characterised as the year of cautious hope, as the world began emerging from the pandemic that defined the previous year. The beginning of 2021 coincided with the initial rollouts of COVID vaccines across the globe — the fastest vaccines to have ever been developed. While the development of these vaccines was nothing short of a miracle, the deployment and distribution issues faced by many countries hindered any premature celebrations of the end of the pandemic.

This speaks of the challenges that continue to plague health systems and service delivery. Inadequate support and commitment contribute to treatment delays and obstruct people’s access to life-saving medication and essential health programmes. COVID-19 had devastating effects on almost every aspect of global health since 2020, but tuberculosis services have been disproportionately affected.

The World Health Organisation Global Tuberculosis Report 2021 shows a decline in tuberculosis case notifications as a result of pandemic-related disruptions in health services. And for the first time in a decade, tuberculosis mortality has increased. But there have been efforts by countries and regions around the world to reverse what COVID has undone in the fight against TB.

The Global TB Caucus has remained steadfast in its commitment to accelerate progress against the global TB epidemic through targeted actions at the global, regional, and national levels. Throughout 2021, The Caucus strengthened engagements with parliamentarians and partnerships with stakeholders to address existing gaps to end TB. The 2021 annual report outlines The Caucus’ milestones over the past year and its calls to action as we take another step towards a TB-free future.
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The Caucus in 2021

Leveraging platforms to strengthen parliamentary engagement and multi-sectoral involvement for a TB-free future.
Global Initiatives

The Caucus works together with different sectors to strengthen parliamentary engagement and build political will to end TB. We have organised several initiatives and implemented campaigns that span different regions around the globe. Here are our top-line campaigns and initiatives throughout 2021.

MAF ACCOUNTABILITY

Multisectoral collaboration — parliamentarians, civil society, and key partners need to work together to accelerate progress towards achieving targets and greater progress towards ending TB. Parliamentarians are critical in ensuring that policies are developed mandating response and commitments on the national level, while civil society partnership helps ensure that policies and programmes are inclusive and responsive to what persons affected by TB need the most.

Developed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a tool to foster multisectoral collaborations and accountability for putting political commitments to end TB into practice, the Multisectoral Accountability Framework (MAF-TB) defines the critical role national stakeholders — including civil society, community organisations, and parliamentarians — play in sustaining such mechanisms.

In cooperation with the WHO EURO office, The Caucus developed a checklist designed for use by parliamentarians at the national level following the MAF-TB to ensure that members of parliament (MPs) fulfil their duties and responsibilities and hold them accountable to their commitments.

Members of National TB Caucuses in the EECA region were joined by speakers from the World Health organisation, TB Europe Coalition, and Stop TB Partnership for the MAF-TB Meeting on March 10, 2022.
Working closely with the WHO Regional Office for Europe, the MPs checklist was adapted for pilot implementation in Ukraine, alongside the ongoing implementation of the MAF in-country. Considering the available resources, it was decided that rapid deployment of the checklist would take the form of interviews, supported by secondary research.

With support from WHO EURO, the National TB Programme, Alliance for Public Health, the Ukraine TB Caucus, and the Secretariat of the National Council on TB and HIV/AIDS, the Global TB Caucus conducted three key interviews with representatives from the following key stakeholders: Parliamentarians, the National TB Programme, and Civil Society. The findings from these interviews were synthesised into recommendations that have been forwarded to the WHO EURO and through national channels, ensuring their integration into the National TB Roadmap in Ukraine.

The Global TB Caucus Secretariat is now working with parliamentarians and WHO regional offices to implement the checklist in other countries.

THE G20

The year 2021 has spurred the need for continued innovation and adaptation coming from the global strategic shifts towards digital and virtual spaces brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of the transition for the year ahead, Italy assumed the presidency of the G20 in December 2020 with a focus on the interconnected pillars of action: People, Planet, and Prosperity. The Global TB Caucus Secretariat, working with MPs and other key stakeholders, helped ensure that TB remained a key focus of the G20 in 2021. And throughout the year, The Caucus was able to achieve milestones that contributed to keeping TB as a primary health issue during Italy’s G20 presidency:

- Significant growth in TB community engagement as more partner organisations got involved in the G20 efforts.
  - The Stop TB Partnership, alongside its annual board meeting, hosted a closed-door meeting for Ministerial representatives from across the G20 to gather insights and inputs on strategy.
The Caucus — in partnership with the Global Fund, ACTION Partnership, and TB Alliance — hosted a high-level multilateral dialogue between the three concurrent G20 presidencies and the current G7 presidency to discuss the impact of COVID on TB and measures for recovery.

- With the support of MPs, partners, and government representatives, both the G20 Health Ministers’ and G20 Heads of States declarations mentioned TB.

- The Health Ministers’ declaration contained strong, specific language around TB and its connection to key G20 health priorities.

- The Heads of State declaration mentioned TB within the context of the Global Fund, ensuring financial commitment to the maintenance of health systems and pandemic preparedness and response.

Towards the end of 2021, The Caucus Secretariat began engagement with the Indonesian G20 presidency for 2022. Through internal coordination, advocacy, and strategic interventions, robust targets and milestones have been put in place for the coming year.

By achieving a high level of commitment and ownership from a diverse group of stakeholders, the Global TB Caucus considers the 2021 TB campaign a success.
PLATFORM OF EXPERTS

To offer a platform for civil society representatives to connect with parliamentarians on TB-related topics, The Caucus launched the Platform of Experts (PoE) on June 30, 2021. Over 50 participants were present during the two sessions, including Members of Parliament (MPs) and Focal Points (FPs).

The purpose of the platform is to mobilise knowledge to ensure a sustainable and informed response to TB at the national level and to cultivate and increase genuine connections between civil society and political representatives. The outcomes from the discussion were reported and discussed at larger meetings with the heads and members of the National TB Caucuses.

One of the outcomes of the first meeting of the PoE was the proposal by the Stop TB Partnership Geneva to the Dynamique Réponse d’Afrique Francophone Sur la Tuberculose (DRAF TB) in the Francophone Region in Africa to provide full technical assistance for countries who are planning, implementing, or are interested in conducting a Communities, Rights and Gender (CRG) assessment.

The second meeting of the PoE conducted online in December 2021, focused on the experience of implementing the multisectoral accountability framework (MAF) by CSOs in different countries. Separate attention was also paid to the need to implement the MPs’ checklist, developed by the Global TB Caucus and piloted in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, and to encourage MPs, CSOs, and partners to implement the MAF-TB checklist to consolidate efforts on the achievement of the UN High-Level Meeting (UN HLM) targets.

Prior to the official launch of the PoE were a series of preliminary launches in almost every region of the GTBC, along with several capacity-building sessions with FP.

- **May 6:** FPs met online in the Eastern Europe Central Asia (EECA) region.
- **May 7:** GTBC conducted an online meeting with Western Europe (WE) FPs.
- **June 29:** GTBC helped arrange a capacity-building workshop on TB political advocacy with South African FPs, which was used to brief CSO representatives about the PoE that launched a day later on June 30.

Over 50 participants, including Members of Parliament and Focal Points, attended the launch of the Platform of Experts on June 30, 2022.
IMPACT OF PARTNERSHIP ON THE TB RESPONSE

Despite the success of National Caucuses in countries and the continuous advocacy at the country level by MPs and CSOs, a recent survey carried out by the Global TB Caucus on MP and CSO engagement during COVID-19 showed that the relationship between MPs and FPs in some countries are either non-existent or relatively distant.

In this context, the Global TB Caucus held a briefing on April 7th entitled “The impact of partnership in the TB response: The role of civil society in the global TB response”. The report’s key findings from national, regional, and global perspectives provided advocacy tools for action, backed by quantitative and qualitative evidence of the impact of civil society and parliamentary collaboration on the TB response.

- On June 1, 2021, the Caucus, in collaboration with DRAF-TB, convened its first online focal points capacity-building workshop on parliamentary advocacy in the Francophone region.

- On May 7, 2021, the Eswatini TB Caucus, with the help of the GTBC, held a two-day capacity-building workshop on TB, Human Rights, and Global Fund replenishment for its MPs with speakers from Stop TB Partnership, the national TB program, Global Fund and Global TB caucus.

- The 4th Baltic TB online symposium with the theme “Intersectoral collaboration for quality services and accountability” was held in the Western Europe region from 25th to 26th of August 2021.

Altogether, the results from the workshops contributed to the Francophone and Anglophone regional strategy for Focal Points and Parliamentarian engagement in the fight against tuberculosis at the country level.
Regional Milestones

Over 2,500 Members of Parliament in different regions of the world work to raise the political profile of TB and enable cross-cutting policies to transform TB response.

The Caucus has four regional networks — Africa, the Americas, Asia Pacific, and Europe (which includes Eastern Europe and Central Asia, and Western Europe) — and two linguistic networks, Francophone and Lusophone. These networks bring together parliamentarians from across their regions to learn, share ideas, and agree on joint and individual actions that will enhance the response to TB in their nations and regions.

EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

The re-emergence of tuberculosis (TB) in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA) dramatically increased the TB burden back in the 1990s, with the highest-burden being in the countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. These countries also maintain the highest rates of drug-resistant TB (DR-TB) in the world.

The Caucus’ work in collaboration with its partners enables parliamentary participation in the improvements in TB and DR-TB care and prevention in Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia (EECA).

Regional and International Meetings

- Online Bilateral Meeting between Uzbekistan and Tajikistan on September 24, 2021
- Three Online Regional Summit meetings of the Eurasian Parliamentary Group on TB with heads of national TB caucuses in April, June, and October 2020 and one online regional online meeting in March 2021 on accountability
Implementation of the MAF-TB

- Kazakhstan and Ukraine were chosen as pilot countries for the implementation of the parliamentarians’ annexes of the MAF-TB checklist, which has helped assess the needs around parliamentary engagement in TB accountability.

Online Workshops

- Public Health Legislation Strategy Workshop with CSOs on September 2, 2021
- Public Health Legislation Strategy Workshop with Heads of National TB Caucuses and CSOs partners on October 28, 2021
- Public Health Legislation Strategy Workshop with CSOs on December 3, 2021

National TB Caucuses

- Parliamentary Hearing in Kazakhstan to relaunch the National TB Caucus on April 19, 2021
- Parliamentary hearing and relaunch of the Moldavian National TB Caucus on December 15, 2021

“Ukraine is fulfilling its political commitments on the UN High-Level Meeting targets. For this reason, I am doing my utmost to increase the attention of senior officials toward the need to implement a high-level review through multisectoral cooperation and accountability.”

— HON. LADA BULAKH
Head of the Ukrainian National TB Caucus
Moldavian TB Caucus

We, the undersigned, as political representatives of the Republic of Moldova, as members of the Global TB Caucus, in full accordance with the principles articulated in the Barcelona Declaration, and in response to the ongoing epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) in the Republic of Moldova, our EECA region, and the world, hereby commit:

To found a Moldavian TB Caucus of parliamentarians open to any political representative from the Republic of Moldova to join, and in doing so to commit to work with representatives of all political parties to drive progress against TB.

To work in our collective and individual capacities to build broad political support for efforts eliminate TB and for the key organisations engaged in the fight against TB.

To support the voices of patients and vulnerable groups in the response to the disease and in doing to take all necessary measures to lift the burden of stigma from TB patients and their families.

To help bring about the necessary funding to accelerate progress against TB at a national, regional, and global level, and to support the development of better policies to tackle the disease.

To engage with all relevant national and international stakeholders involved in the fight against TB.

To work with political representatives from other countries around the world to accelerate progress towards ending TB.

In signing this document we endorse its principles and objectives and commit to use all the means at our disposal, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, to build commitment in our country and in the wider region for ever-increasing efforts to end the TB epidemic.

Signatures:
WESTERN EUROPE

Western Europe, like other regions, has seen a drop in TB case notifications between 2019 and 2020 partially due to measures taken by countries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The epidemic patterns and trends vary widely within the Western Europe region and its neighbours. The entire European Union/European Economic Area is approaching the low incidence level of below 10 per 100,000 population, yet it also has nine of the 30 countries with the highest multidrug-resistant TB burden in the world. In this region, TB primarily affects poor and vulnerable populations.

Much of the developments in the region were lessons learned from how the COVID-19 pandemic affected TB response and the actions needed moving forward.

Tuberculosis and COVID-19

- Tuberculosis research and investment – lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic webinar organised by the MEP Lung Health Group, in collaboration with the Global TB Caucus and TB Europe Coalition.

Meeting between Global Co-Chair of the GTBC, Rt Hon. Lord Herbert of South Downs CBE PC; Mr Dag-Inge Ulstein, Norwegian Minister of International Development; Lucica Ditiu, Executive Director of Stop TB Partnership; and Mona Drage, Managing Director, LHL International, on World TB Day to discuss the lessons learned from the COVID-19 and TB struggle.

International Engagements

- Hon. Lia Quartapelli, Member of Parliament from Italy and the Rt Hon. Lord Herbert of South Downs CBE PC, Global Co-Chair of the Global TB Caucus spoke at the G20 virtual delegation, in partnership with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, TB Alliance, and the ACTION partnership.

National TB Caucuses

- Engagements to relaunch the Danish TB Caucus, joining established National Caucuses in Western Europe such as Germany, Latvia, Romania, and the United Kingdom; the Danish TB Caucus will take a dual HIV/TB focus in 2022.

“As the G7, we should] establish multisectoral, multilateral collaborations to ensure that G7 countries have a clear understanding of what is needed to end TB.”

— HON. STEPHAN ALBANI
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Asia Pacific region is home to 60% of the world’s population — some 4.3 billion people — including the world’s most populous countries, China and India. The region is also home to nearly 65% of the global TB burden with a total annual estimation of nearly 7 million and more than 870,000 annual deaths (WHO GTR, 2021).

Many new national caucuses have been established in the region, including those in Australia, India, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Pakistan, Vietnam, and Bangladesh, with ongoing discussions to launch new caucuses in at least four other countries — including Indonesia and the Pacific Islands. Updates from the region focused on the achievements of the National Caucuses and members of parliament in each country.

National Programmes and Legislation

- Indonesia enacted Presidential Regulation number 67 on TB Prevention and Control in August 2021, establishing a concrete multi-sectoral TB response at the national and sub-national levels in the country and instructing the creation of inter-ministerial and local level teams to accelerate the TB response. This enables civil society, TB-affected communities, and non-conventional TB actors to take on an active role in accelerating Indonesia’s effort to end TB.

- Pakistan enacted a national strategy to ensure the continuation of TB services, including the provision of two months’ worth of treatment and effective IPC measures to protect the health and safety of health workers, staff, and patients. Simultaneous testing for TB and COVID-19 was also scaled up, taking into consideration the similarity of symptoms (cough, fever, and laboured breathing) and exposure or presence of risk factors.

- The Philippines pushed for stronger legislation to accelerate the national TB response through Republic Act No. 1067 (Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Plan Act) enacted in 2016, complemented by recent legislative measures such as the Universal Health Care law. This law ensures accessibility and affordability of health services, fast-tracks disease elimination through preventive and curative health services, and maximises government resources. Discussions to create new amendments to the existing TB law in the Philippines are being pursued to ensure the realisation of the country’s vision to eliminate deaths, disease, and suffering due to TB.
National Meetings

- Sensitisation meeting on Tuberculosis at the Parliament Annexe, organised by the National TB Elimination Program (NTEP) under the TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyan, was held for all Honourable Members of both Indian Houses of the Parliament to solicit their cooperation and support towards Ending TB in India by 2025.

- The National Parliamentary Conference on Tuberculosis among Women, attended by the Vice President and Ministers from India, was held to ensure that Members of Parliament support a gender-balanced TB approach.

National TB Caucus

- Bangladesh launched its national TB Caucus dubbed as ‘Bangladesh Parliamentary Forum for Health and Wellbeing’, organised by the MPs of the National Parliament to ensure public health protection including controlling infectious and non-infectious diseases, forming a tobacco-free Bangladesh, fighting TB, and cooperating with the government.

Budget Increases

- The Indonesian House of Representatives successfully advocated for an increase in the national TB budget. The TB budget increased three times, from USD 59 million in 2020 to USD 193 million in 2021, to ensure that TB services are functioning properly.

Multisectoral Accountability Framework

- Parliamentarians in Pakistan lead the implementation and rollout of the Multisectoral Accountability Framework (MAF) at the district level in Pakistan. Various high-level commitments were also made by Parliamentarians and the Government to End TB in Pakistan.
“Unless broad immediate action is taken, [we] will not meet the targets agreed in the Political Declaration from the UN HLM on Tuberculosis. We hope these stories will not only educate you but further galvanise each of us to work much harder to ensure that the TB response and people with TB get the resources and care they deserve, as well as supporting those in the fight against it. But more importantly, to make sure that the world remains committed to investing in TB research and development.”

— HON. ANGELINA “HELEN” D.L. TAN
AMERICAS

The Americas region comprises 46 countries and territories, with Brazil and Peru among the WHO high-TB burden countries. With the COVID-19 pandemic, progress in Tuberculosis elimination has severely affected the region.

The impact of the disease was the subject of the Americas Regional Virtual Meeting in October 2021, attended by Hon. Luis Gallo (co-chair, Uruguay), Hon. Gisela Scaglia (co-chair, Argentina), Hon. Mario Fiad (Argentina), Hon. Pastor Vera Bejarano (Paraguay), Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), Global Fund, and civil society.

Legislation

- Diputado Pastor Vera Bejarano, a member of Americas TB Caucus, along with the Focal Point drafted a TB bill which was approved by the Chamber of Deputies in Paraguay in July 2021.

- A model of a TB law was approved in Parlacen (subregional parliament of Central America), led by Diputado Luiz Velázquez, from Cuba.

- The Global TB Caucus had a panel at the VII Health Committee Congress Pan American Health organisation dedicated to the contribution of the parliamentary work in the TB response as a public health issue.

- Hon. Pastor Vera Bjearano of Paraguay led a High-Level Meeting to discuss Domestic Resource Mobilisation after the end of the Global Fund’s grant in September 2021, with the presence of NTP, civil society organisations, members of the National TB Caucus, and members of the Ministry of Public Health.

- Hon. Virginia Velasco of Bolivia led a high-level meeting on the TB situation in the country during the pandemic in December 2021.

- Hon. Sen Velasco hosted a public hearing with the presence of NTP, members of the Ministry of Health, civil society organisations, and Dr Ciro Zabala, a former member of the National TB Caucus to assess the epidemiological situation of TB and to set the next steps for increasing the response of the disease in Bolivia.
ANGLOPHONE AFRICA

Over 25% of TB deaths occur in the entire African Region, with the emergence of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) posing a major health security threat and could risk gains made in the fight against TB. Progress has been set further back by COVID-19 impacting patient flow and resulting in more missed scheduled appointments for disease treatment across the board. Members of Parliament from global and country levels have a duty to ensure that TB is always on the agenda and efforts to address COVID-19 and other diseases do not diminish the need for continued investments into TB. The enthusiasm shown in fighting COVID19 should be replicated for other global health challenges.

Despite the pandemic’s lasting effects on healthcare operations and service delivery, there have been critical developments in the progress of TB elimination in the Anglophone East and Southern African region.

Regional and National Meetings

- A regional anglophone meeting on country updates and sharing the results on childhood TB policies was held, with guest speakers including Lucica Ditiu from Stop TB Partnership, Dr. Felix Mboya from EGPAF, Dr. Charles Sandy from Zimbabwe National TB Program, Scott Boule from Global Fund.
- National meetings were held in Zimbabwe, focusing on reviving the caucus, engagement of actors in TB response, and resource mobilisation.
- National meetings were held in Eswatini to discuss strengthening the caucus and capacity building on TB-related issues.

Members of the Zimbabwe TB Caucus discussing the next steps in reviving the Caucus.
International Agreements

- New members, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, and South Africa signed the Barcelona Declaration.
- Bilateral agreements were made between Zimbabwe and Lesotho and Eswatini-Sierra Leone.

Workshops and Capacity building

- Capacity building with caucus members in Eswatini on TB and Human Rights facilitated by the national TB program and partners was conducted.
- A multilateral workshop for CSOs in South Africa on advocacy for effective parliamentary engagement was conducted with participants from South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Eswatini. Member of Parliament Hon. Ruth Labode of Zimbabwe gave a presentation on how CSOs can work better with policymakers.

National TB Caucuses

- Establishment of a national caucus in Sierra Leone on April 6, 2021
- Launch of two provincial caucuses in South Africa in March and April 2021
- Relaunch of the national caucus in Tanzania in June 2021
- Reestablishment of the national caucuses in Eswatini in February 2021 and Zimbabwe in November 2021

Budget increases

- Kenya received funding for the TB program through Global Fund Kenya’s allocation of KES 5.8 billion for TB, HIV, and Malaria response.
- South Africa’s Western Cape province received USD 10 million in funds for health, particularly TB.

Webinars

- South Africa organised a solution-focused webinar to share the results of the research on the economic impact of TB mortality on South Africa and how to sustain the TB response in the wake of the COVID-19 epidemic. Main speakers include Eric Goosby, the lead writer of the report, and Rt Hon. Lord Herbert of South Downs CBE PC, the GTBC Co-chair.

The webinar emphasised the importance of continuing the delivery of TB and HIV services during lockdowns and the initiatives supported by the South African government to ensure service accessibility. Amongst the outcome of the webinar was the commitment by the Minister of Health on a date for the launch of the TB prevalence survey for South Africa.

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Excerpts from the capacity-building workshop for CSOs on TB advocacy organised by South Africa.
Female parliamentarians and secretariat members of the Anglophone region joined the global community to amplify issues around TB concerning women and children in celebration of International Women’s Day on March 8, 2021.

Anglophone region MPs and TB focal points participated in the Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) campaigns in September 2021 to commemorate the Global Fund’s 20th Anniversary and in preparation for the 7th replenishment for 2022.
FRANCOPHONE AND WEST AFRICA

Francophone Africa still carries a high burden of communicable and neonatal diseases exacerbated by the weakness of its healthcare systems and services. Having strong health systems is crucial for ending epidemics of HIV, TB, and malaria, accelerating progress toward universal health coverage, and preparing countries for emerging health threats.

Understanding these challenges, organisations like the GTBC push for investments in health systems to fight TB.

Parliamentary Sessions


- The Nigerian speaker of the House of Representatives issued a mandate to the AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria control committee to meet with relevant stakeholders to gather more information and report on the necessary legislative action to address the current situation.

- The GTBC hosted an interactive session on building a relationship in the fight against TB in West Africa during the ECOWAS Parliament ordinary session in June 2021 and recruited 19 new parliamentarians from eight ECOWAS member states.

National Meetings

- National meetings between civil society, TB programs, and parliamentarians were held respectively in Cameroon, Chad, Guinea, and DR Congo, among others.

International Campaigns & Engagements

- Female parliamentarians and secretariat members of the Francophone region joined the global community to amplify issues around TB concerning women and children in celebration of International Women’s Day on March 8, 2021.

- The Francophone region of the Global TB Caucus organised a UN High-Level Meeting (HLM) on accountability to mark the 3rd anniversary of the UN HLM in 2018. The meeting brought together parliamentarians, TB survivors, and partners, (WHO, Global Fund, The Union) Civil Society (DRAF TB and others), and National TB Programs from eight countries to discuss the current TB situation in the region and analyse the constraints in line with the UN HLM regional objectives, commitments, and targets.
• Francophone region MPs joined Global Fund Advocates Network (GFAN) in September 2021 to commemorate the Global Fund’s 20th Anniversary and in preparation for the 7th replenishment for 2022.

• A multisectoral interactive dialogue was held during the 52nd World Union conference on lung health in October 2021, where stakeholders brainstormed on how to overcome the challenges in the implementation of the UN HLM on TB targets at the country level. The session involved a high-level political dialogue between parliamentarians, civil society, government, and national TB programmes.

• Senator Pierre Flambeau Ngayap, the co-chair of the Francophone region, joined parliamentarians to sign a joint declaration at the International Forum on Global Health in December 2021. The declaration focuses on enhancing global health, and in recognition of the need for multilateralism and coordination to address the current pandemic, tackle other infectious diseases and drivers of ill-health, and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

• The Francophone TB Caucus and French MP Jean François Mbaye joined other caucus MPs from G20 countries in writing a letter to the Minister of Health of Indonesia, advocating for the inclusion of TB as a priority during Indonesia’s G20 Presidency and endorsing the TB side event proposed by Stop TB Partnership Indonesia.

### Capacity Building

• The Global TB Caucus in the Francophone region, in collaboration with DRAF TB, convened for its first online focal points capacity-building workshop on parliamentary advocacy on June 1, 2021.

### Multimedia

• MPs of the Francophone region joined caucus MPs from other regions in a video campaign to mark the 100 anniversary of the BCG vaccine in July 2021 and emphasise the need for more R&D for TB vaccines to meet the UN HLM targets.

• Caucus parliamentarians of the francophone region partnered with DRAF TB for a 2018 UN HLM commitments accountability campaign, and were featured along with civil society representatives in the UN HLM accountability and voice of parliamentarians video in September 2021. The video’s message was a reminder of how far we still are from achieving the UN HLM targets amid the COVID-19 pandemic and urged governments to accelerate progress.
“The purpose of government, according to the Nigerian constitution, is the security and welfare of the people and only a few matters affect the welfare of Nigerians as a collective more than the scourge of TB.”

— HON. BENJAMIN OKEZIE KALU

Hon. Benjamin Okezie Kalu, Global TB Caucus Member of Parliament and member of Nigeria Parliamentary TB Caucus, was recently honoured during Nigeria’s National TB Conference on November 11, 2021.
The years 2020 and 2021 were difficult for global health and the economy. Although certain elements of the future are always uncertain and uncontrollable, the Global TB Caucus firmly believes that eliminating TB is possible and the return of investment in ending TB presents not only enormous economic benefits but ultimately immeasurable human and societal benefits. As countries move to innovate in response to the pandemic, the work must move beyond silos and unite to fight all deadly infectious diseases and prevent future outbreaks.
Our Impact in Numbers

24 of the 48 high TB burden countries reported increases in the percentage of domestic contribution to the total estimated funding for TB.

3 bilateral delegations and multilateral virtual events aimed to engage and cultivate new champions.

4 regional platforms made statements on TB by conducting parallel meetings to sensitise and educate new parliamentary champions.

5 parliamentary meetings and summits draw together members of parliament from the same regions to discuss disease response.

11 National TB Caucuses launched and relaunched: Angola, Bangladesh, Denmark, Eswatini, Equatorial Guinea, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Sierra Leone, South Korea, Zimbabwe, and several regional legislative caucuses in South Africa.
03

The Caucus
Case Studies

An in-depth look at some of the
milestones in our partner network.
The Global TB Caucus is the largest single-disease-focused parliamentary network in the world, working with parliamentarians to effectively advocate for national governments to improve policies, invest more funds, and demonstrate greater political leadership in the fight against TB.

We engage and support our parliamentarians to work with National, Regional, and Global TB Caucuses and Focal Points to address gaps in the TB response in the areas of legislation, oversight, and budgetary allocation. Here are a few of the milestones we achieved in partnership with parliamentarians across regions.

**Forwarding Legislation**

**PHILIPPINES**

Caucus Parliamentarians in the Philippines pushed for stronger legislation to accelerate the national TB response through Republic Act No. 1067, also known as the Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Plan, enacted in 2016. The legislation is complemented with other legislative measures in 2022 such as the Universal Health Care law, which ensures accessibility and affordability of health services, fast-tracks the elimination of TB through the rollout of preventive and curative health services, maximises revenues, and channels limited resources to other pressing issues.

Additionally, new amendments to the existing TB law are being discussed amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Sen. Christopher Lawrence “Bong” Go shared that he filed Senate Bill 1748 to strengthen the national program for the elimination of TB to ensure the realisation of the country’s vision to eliminate deaths, disease, and suffering due to TB. SBN 1748 seeks to amend Republic Act 10767, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Plan Act. The proposed measure will provide for the creation of a TB registry and monitoring system which will address the issue of the underreporting of TB cases, a gap identified in the 2016 National TB Prevalence Survey.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

The Speaker of the Legislature, Hon. Sussana Dantjie, together with the Department of Health and South African National AIDS Council (SANAC), launched the North West Provincial Legislature TB Caucus on March 5, 2021. The Caucus was created to ensure that Members of the Provincial Legislature are advancing policies and discussions on TB and that services are sustained.

The Caucus will also bring civil society organisations, the Department of Health, and MPLs together to explore how TB services are delivered to affected communities. Hon. Dantjie said The Caucus should also assist in ensuring that medication is delivered to patients in all the communities including rural communities.

The caucus will be chaired by Deputy Speaker, Hon. Viola Motsumi, Hon. Kim Medupe, Hon. Bitsa Lenkopane, Hon. Kerileng, and Hon. Gavin Edwards. South Africa is planning on launching more provincial TB Caucuses that will feed into the national Caucuses.
“We want to support all groups and stakeholders who are involved in treatment and ending of TB as it kills more people than any other disease in the country. This stakeholder engagement process will also help in ensuring that the budget for eradication of the disease is spent accordingly and that there is proper oversight on the management of the funds appropriated.”

— HON. SUSSANA DANTJIE

Improvements on Oversight

NIGERIA

TB services were massively disrupted in Nigeria during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic and in response, MPs in Nigeria took advocacy-focused actions to leverage the COVID-19 response to strengthen national health systems. MPs supported the National TB Program and their partners and other stakeholders in advocating for dual testing for both COVID-19 and TB. MPs also called on the President of Nigeria to prioritise the availability of GeneXpert machines to accelerate case detection in line with UN HLM TB commitments.

Other actions taken include parliamentary debates, letters to the presidential task force on COVID-19, a National Assembly Joint health committee meeting with members of the Presidential task force — including the Minister of Health and Director-General of the National Centre for disease control, and the inauguration of an 18-person committee on COVID-19 which includes all the chairs of the health-related committees. These actions and advocacy efforts supported the National TB Programs, partners, and stakeholders in integrating the TB program into some components of COVID-19 control measures, for example: integrating TB case findings into the COVID-19 structure of all outreach efforts in 12 states (Anambra, Bauchi, Benue, Cross River, Delta, Imo, Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Niger, Osun, and the Rivers States).

Despite initial predictions of the possible impact of COVID-19 on TB services, a key outcome of these strategic interventions is the increase in annual TB case notification during COVID-19. This makes Nigeria one of the few countries that recorded gains in the fight against TB amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, as of July 2021. Nigeria’s COVID-19 response was also ranked by THE WHO as the 4th most successful globally.

PAKISTAN

COVID-19 has affected the diagnosis and service delivery for TB in Pakistan. It has most significantly impacted TB laboratories, which have seen an 80% decrease in TB testing. Only 32% of the primary healthcare...
facilities have infection prevention and control (IPC) related facilities, highlighting that the majority of the health facilities need IPC-related interventions. In addition, only 14% of healthcare workers are using personal protective equipment (PPE).

In response, Pakistan enacted a national strategy supported by parliamentarians to ensure the continuation of TB services and an uninterrupted supply of medicines, including the provision of a two-month TB treatment. The country now has effective IPC measures to protect the health and safety of health workers, staff, and patients. Simultaneous testing for TB and COVID-19 has been scaled up, taking into consideration the similarity of symptoms (cough, fever, and laboured breathing) and exposure or presence of risk factors.

The establishment of the Pakistan TB Caucus in 2020 amplified the role and support of Parliamentarians in TB elimination. Parliamentarians lead the implementation and rollout of the Multisectoral Accountability Framework (MAF) at the district level, and various high-level commitments were made by parliamentarians and the government to end TB in the country. The implementation will not only oversee the activities of various stakeholders but also designate responsibilities integrated within the checklist.

The National TB Caucus also created an action plan until the end of 2021 and early 2022, which includes mobilising the Provincial Caucus to conduct outreach and advocacy for DRM, and planning a World Tuberculosis Day event with the first lady. It is also currently advocating for a national budget increase for TB.

### Budget Increase

**INDONESIA**

With the third-highest TB burden, Indonesian MPs committed to safeguarding the TB response during the COVID-19 pandemic. They enacted mitigation plans which include prioritising people who have a high risk of infection by providing personal protective equipment. Parliamentarians led this advocacy within the House of Representatives to monitor TB service implementation.

The Minister of Health developed and enacted a TB protocol during the pandemic to ensure TB services are not interrupted. Parliament also successfully advocated for a national TB budget increase. For the fiscal year 2021, the TB budget increased threefold — from USD 59 million in 2020 to USD 193 million in 2021 — to ensure that TB services can still function properly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

President of Indonesia, Joko Widodo (Jokowi), signed a Presidential Regulation (Perpres) on the Prevention of Tuberculosis (TBC). The Minister of Health was appointed as chief executive of the steering board, with the Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture as chairperson. Jokowi signed Presidential Regulation No. 67 of 2021 concerning Tuberculosis Management on August 2, 2021. The regulation stipulates the TB elimination targets by 2030 as follows:
1. A decrease in the incidence rate of TB to 65 per 100,000 population.

2. A decrease in the death rate due to tuberculosis to six per 100,000 population. To achieve this target, the government implemented a national TB elimination strategy.

MP Putih Sari commends the enactment of the Presidential Regulation on TB and pushes the government to improve the programmatic implementation, budgeting, and policy related to TB. According to Putih Sari, the government has expressed a strong commitment to achieving TB elimination in Indonesia by 2030 with the issuance of this Presidential Regulation.

KENYA

Through continued advocacy efforts by the Kenyan National TB Caucus and civil society to push for an increase in health financing for the three disease areas, the Global Fund Kenya allocated KES 5.8 billion for TB, HIV, and Malaria response. Hon. Mule was engaged in the budgeting process and was also influential in the allocation process.

Kenya Head of Caucus Hon. Mule met with CSOs to educate them on how to participate in budget consultations. He is currently working on presenting a motion on the need for the government to put more attention to TB based on the recently published report that showed that TB in Kenya is among the highest in Africa. Mule is pushing for payments for TB patients who have not been paid for the past five months.

BELARUS

The Ministry of Health will receive an additional RUB 140 million from the reserve fund of the President of Belarus through the order signed by Alexander Lukashenko. The money will be used to purchase vaccines against COVID-19, as well as drugs for treating tumours, TB, heart disease, and others. This will ensure high-quality medical care and an uninterrupted supply of medicines to health care organisations. The head of the national TB Caucus in Belarus, Hon. Liudmila Makarina-Kibak, is in regular contact with the Ministry of Health, discussing TB and other pressing health issues.

“This Presidential Decree No. 67 provides greater space for communities, TB survivors, and civil society organisations to be more actively involved in TB control.”

— HON. PUTIH SARI
Shift to Virtual

**KAZAKHSTAN**

The Kazakhstan National TB Caucus was relaunched on April 19th in an online event with its new members of parliament and with Hon. Zarina Kamasova as the new Chair. Western Europe Co-chair, Baroness Alison Suttie, also attended and gave a speech encouraging new parliamentarians to continue the successful activities of the National TB Caucus, and highlighted the excellent opportunity for Kazakhstan as a pilot country for the implementation of the WHO multisectoral mechanism framework (MAF-TB). Such actions will bring together stakeholders, and split responsibilities to achieve the targets of the UN HLM meeting.

Outcomes of this online meeting include raising awareness about the multisectoral collaboration and accountability in the fight against TB among new members of the National TB Caucus; confirming support from parliamentarians to revise legislation, strategies, and regulations, for solving the tasks and goals of MAF-TB; signing of the Barcelona Declaration by the new members of parliament and the adoption of a national resolution.

**SOUTH AFRICA**

Like most countries, the COVID-19 pandemic and the different levels of lockdown negatively impacted healthcare access in South Africa, including TB services. The TB gains made in the country were slowly being reversed due to the focus on COVID. As such, the GTBC, together with the South African National AIDS Council and the South African TB Caucus, held a webinar to discuss TB and maintaining TB services during the pandemic.

The webinar was attended by 275 people from a diverse pool of organisations across civil society, philanthropies, international organisations, media, and academic institutions, including esteemed Ministers of Health, Members of Parliament, and Civil Society Leadership. It also launched the South African version of The Economic Impact of TB Mortality in South Africa, which was presented by lead author, Dr Eric Goosby.

To sustain the political commitments in the fight against TB, South Africa pushed for the establishment of provincial TB Caucuses, leading to the formation of the North West and Western Cape provincial TB Caucuses. The Western Cape Province made notable strides in 2021; launching a Provincial TB emergency plan aimed at reducing the spread of TB in the province, following commitments made during World TB Day. The local government also launched a public-facing “first of its kind” TB dashboard to assist in enabling behaviour change as well as monitoring the implementation of the province’s multisectoral response plan and the success of the government’s interventions.

Through government-to-government support, South Africa’s Western Cape province also signed an agreement with the United States through the United States Agency for International Development worth USD 10 million to strengthen the fight against COVID-19, HIV, and TB in the province.
Addressing Gaps and Closing the Divide

Calls to action for all stakeholders involved in the fight against TB.

While gains in the fight against TB are valuable, the end of the global TB epidemic remains to be seen. We often hope for long strides and great leaps to get us closer to ending TB once and for all, but more often than not, it is the steps we take every day, collectively, that make great impacts.

We at the Global TB Caucus reiterate the call and urge legislators, advocacy groups, and the public to take immediate action to end this disease.

For our Members of Parliament

1. Reach all people through TB prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and care by setting ambitious and time-bound national targets and operationalising them through aligned National TB Strategic Plans, implementation plans, budgets, and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.

2. Make the TB response rights-based, equitable, and stigma-free, with communities at the centre by completing a TB Community, Rights and Gender Assessment and a TB Stigma Assessment, followed by the development, funding, monitoring, and evaluation.
Leverage COVID-19 as a strategic opportunity to end TB by developing, funding, and implementing TB/COVID Catch-Up Plans that enable National TB Programmes to get back on track and accelerate progress, with COVID-19 framed not as an excuse to fail to meet TB targets, but an opportunity to build back better.

Accelerate the development of, and access to, essential new tools to end TB by ceasing the use of all outdated and harmful TB diagnostics, drugs, and models of care. Instead, scaling-up access to newer, safer and quicker options, and fast-tracking the development of priority, innovative new tools. Also, funding the operational and implementation research necessary to improve TB treatment outcomes for all.

Invest the funds necessary to end TB by collaborating to achieve the financial targets in the response to TB.

Commit to accountability, multi-sectorality, and leadership on TB by addressing the current weaknesses in accountability for TB through urgently implementing an independent National Multi-Sectoral Accountability Framework for TB in every country, with high-level leadership and supported by a strong, national monitoring and review system.

Leverage COVID-19 as a strategic opportunity to end TB by developing, funding, and implementing TB/COVID Catch-Up Plans that enable National TB Programmes to get back on track and accelerate progress, with COVID-19 framed not as an excuse to fail to meet TB targets, but an opportunity to build back better.

For our Partners and Stakeholders

Maintain a strong commitment to ending TB by implementing locally-led programs and projects that respond to the needs of affected communities at the grassroots level.

Deepen and strengthen collaborations with Members of Parliament to establish sustainable relationships by serving as Focal Points and local partners who forward parliamentary advocacy for TB response.
For the Public

1. Hold governments accountable to their TB commitments, especially for the benefit of affected communities, by being involved and participating in engagement across all components of the accountability Multisectoral Accountability Framework for TB.

2. Take part in an urgent move towards systems of real-time, national-level TB data collection that is disaggregated by key and vulnerable populations, and inclusive of community-led monitoring initiatives that target the identification of human rights barriers to TB and related services.

3. Demand meaningful engagement with TB-affected communities in the development of TB programs and legislation.