World TB Day 2022

Combining stories and science to make the world TB Proof.
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TB Proof is a South African based non-governmental organisation which was established in 2012, by health workers, who had developed occupational TB, as well as students, who were passionate about TB prevention. We strive towards a TB Proof world and aim to achieve this through combining stories and science. Our initial focus was on preventing the spread of TB in healthcare facilities through advocacy and education. Since then, we have expanded our advocacy efforts to include access to new treatment options, empowering community health workers and addressing stigma. Through involving communities affected by TB and using the latest research, we advocate for high quality TB prevention and care.

Social Media

TB survivors, Noni Radebe and Sadia Anzum did an Instagram Live where they shared their TB survivor journey and how they use it to inspire others. Click here to listen to the recording.
Social Media

Phumeza Tisile, TB survivor and advocate, shared the findings from the #UseMyVoice to #EndTB project's TB stigma assessments in a pre-recorded video.

Click here to listen to the recording.

Sadia Anzum made a World TB Day reel which was shared on Instagram. Click here to view this reel.

TB survivor, Zihle Mbopa shared a post where she advocates for the implementation of the Test & Treat approach to test all close TB contacts and other high risk groups for TB and provide them with TB treatment or TB preventive therapy (TPT).

Rachel Mbuyamba (right) did a social media post which focused on TB stigma. This post was shared on Instagram and Facebook.

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) invited Phumeza Tisile to share a quote for their vaccination campaign on Twitter.

Click here to view the post.
Zolelwa Sifumba was featured on Johnsons & Johnsons social media pages for World TB Day.

“\n\nThe TB Proof network saved my life. They also introduced me to advocacy and activism, helping me realize I could use my voice not just to get better myself, but to help improve the situation for others.
\nZolelwa Sifumba, M.D.  
TB survivor | patient advocate | activist  
Durban, South Africa  

#WorldTBDay    Johnson-Johnson\n\n"
The Stop TB Partnership, The Aurum Institute and TB Proof co-hosted a Twitter chat on the 24th of March. The title of the Twitter chat was 'Invest To End TB: Save Lives'.

Only US$6.5 billion per year is currently available for the TB response which is less than half of the commitments made by world leaders four years ago (Stop TB Partnership, 2022). TB interventions are some of the most cost-effective of all public health interventions with every US$1 invested in TB prevention and care ensures a return of US$43 (Copenhagen Consensus, online).

TB prevention saves lives and reduces TB incidence. Yet, targets for TB Preventive Therapy (TPT) for all TB contacts (adults and children) and high risk groups, including people living with HIV reached only 29% of the global target of providing 30 million people with TPT between 2018 and 2022 (IMPAACT4TB, 2021).

Effective TB infection prevention and control measures include promoting safe shared air within indoor spaces to reduce TB and COVID-19 transmission. Therefore, the COVID-19 response could be leveraged to strengthen the TB response by increasing awareness about adequate ventilation and mask-wearing by the public (Escombe et al., 2019; Howard et al., 2021). We need increased financial resources for TB prevention in order to mitigate the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the TB response.

Please click here to read the Twitter chat report. Below is the advert that was used for this event along with the expert panelists. 5.238 million people saw tweets associated with the chat between 24 March to 25 March 2022. A total of 98 Twitter accounts participated and 753 tweets where sent out during this time frame, using the hashtag #TBProof. This is significantly more than the 1.016 million impressions for our World TB Day 2021 Twitter chat.
Phumeza Tisile was the main speaker at the GlaxoSmithKline Global Health World TB Day event where she shared her TB survivor story and advocated for affordable and shorter regimens. She was also a speaker at the University of California's World TB Day Symposium where she also shared her story and advocated for person-centered care. The London School of Tropical Medicine interviewed Phumeza as part of their podcast series: Connecting Citizens to Science. She spoke about her TB journey and advocated for safe TB drugs that are affordable and shorter in duration. She shared an encouraging message to those currently undergoing TB treatment. Click here to listen to the recording.

Renier Coetzee and Ingrid Schoeman were interviewed on Afrikaans news programme, eNuus. Renier shared about the TB recovery plan and that people with a cough should be tested for both TB and COVID-19 and that high risk groups should be tested for TB and once TB disease has been ruled out, be provided with TB Preventive Therapy. Ingrid also shared her TB story. Click here to view the recording.
Zolelwa Sifumba, Occupational DR-TB survivor and activist for TB Proof shared on SABC’s Vital Signs programme about her TB journey and how she became the health worker and advocate that she is now through her difficult TB journey.

She was joined by experts: Dr Norbert Ndjeka, Chief director: TB control and management at the National Department of Health (South Africa), Prof Keertan Dheda, Head of the Division of Pulmonology at the UCT and Anele Yawa, General Secretary at Treatment Action Campaign.

Zolelwa was also interviewed on eNCA where she shared her TB survivor story.
In commemoration of World TB Day, TB Proof hosted a webinar on "How long is someone with TB infectious" in order to contribute towards the development of guidelines around the duration of TB infectiousness. Helene-Mari van der Westhuizen and Erika Mohr-Holland were co-chairing the webinar. Click here to listen to the recording.

"The policies regarding TB care are not up to date with the current evidence from TB infectiousness studies. More studies on this subject need to be produced as to ensure policies have the evidence needed to change, as there remains controversy regarding the duration of TB infectiousness" - Erika Mohr-Holland.
Online articles

Wieda Human was quoted in the Spotlight article: "SA company gearing up to make API" about the manufacturing of local active pharmaceutical ingredients (API) particular to TB drugs.

"TB Proof welcomes the potential that CPT Pharma can bring to ensuring better access to TB preventative therapy and TB treatment... by shortening the supply chain and... decreasing reliance on imported medication."

Ingrid Schoeman co-authored an op-ed article published in Devex with Rhea Lobo, a TB survivor.

"Apart from investments in a TB vaccine, urgent action is needed for national TB programs across the world to scale-up TB preventive therapy, or TPT, to those in need. This includes all people living with HIV; close contact of people with TB, including children; and people who previously had TB. Action is also needed to make it easier for communities to complete TPT by improving decentralized care, as was done for COVID-19."

#RightToPreventTB
#PreventTBToEndTB

Ingrid was quoted in the Spotlight article on: "What should the TB priorities be in the new NSP?"

Arne and Dalene von Delft co-authored the scientific article: "The intersecting pandemics of tuberculosis and COVID-19: population-level and patient-level impact, clinical presentation, and corrective interventions" which was published in the Lancet Respiratory Medicine.
TB Proof provided awareness resources for the Western Cape Department of Health event "Break the Stigma" at the Northern Tygerberg sub structure.
Goodman Makanda virtually joined the Western Cape Department of Health’s TB symposium as a guest speaker. The focus of this symposium was to update the audience on vaccine and drug development as well as TB advocacy. Goodman shared the findings from the Challenge Facility for Civil Society (CFCS) round 9 TB stigma project as well as his story of defeating TB.

In - person events cont.

Goodman Makanda TB Story

This project aimed to address TB stigma through a gender-responsive stigma reduction intervention and advocacy campaign, based on the identified rather than perceived needs of the community.

Zolelw Sifumba gave a TB awareness talk at the 121 Infantry Battalion Military base in Mtubatuba.
In - person events cont.

Brittany Smith and Goodman Makanda, both TB survivors were guest speakers at the #TBTheHeartOfTheMatter community engagement project at Adriaanse Clinic.

This project aims to create an understanding of the social and technical aspects of TB and to achieve global learning which is culturally aware and which expresses genuine human experience through visual language that is globally understood.

Radio interview

Portia Muedi, Community Health Worker did an interview in Setswana on MamsFM where she shared general TB knowledge with listeners. Click here to listen to the recording.
Closing

TB Proof would like to thank our members and partners for another successful World TB Day.

For any questions, kindly contact Wieda Human, TB Proof's Media liason at wieda@tbproof.org.