



EAST, CENTRAL & SOUTHERN AFRICA HEALTH COMMUNITY (ECSA-HC)

TIMS Regional conference to share best and promising practises and showcase innovations geared towards ending TB in the Mining Sector in Southern Africa

Concept Note

3rd – 7th June 2024

Venue: Durban International Conference Centre



The purpose of this concept note is to invite key populations in TB in the mining sector, stakeholders, and partners to a regional forum to review progress in implementing initiatives, share Best and Promising practices and Showcase innovations geared towards ending TB in the Mining sector in Southern Africa.

Introduction and Background

Tuberculosis (TB) is the ninth leading cause of death worldwide and remains a disease of Global health importance. Over 25% of the Global TB burden is in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA). The mining sector has particularly been severely affected by TB and HIV and related risks of silicosis due to exposure to multiple risk factors as a result of their poor living conditions and their migrant lifestyles. An estimated 89% of miners have latent TB. The incidence of TB among miners is also 3-4 times higher than the general population. The burden is further fuelled by the circular movement of mineworkers across provinces and national borders, exacerbated by poor cross border referral systems that adversely affect treatment adherence.

South Africa, as the mining hub, has over 500,000 mineworkers, of which over 40% are migrant laborers, originating from Lesotho, Mozambique, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Eswatini. 9 out of the 16 SADC Member States have large mining activities. These countries are Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Madagascar, Malawi, Namibia, Tanzania and Zambia. Although there is limited data on TB in the mines from these countries, the countries are ranked under high TB burdened countries.

To respond to the high burden of TB associated with mining, the Heads of State at a summit held in Maputo in August 2012 adopted a Declaration on TB in the Mining sector (The Maputo Declaration). The Maputo Declaration aimed at mounting a region-wide, multisectoral response to the shared negative effects of the epidemics of TB, TB /HIV and related occupational diseases. Following the Maputo Declaration, a SADC regional Protocol was developed, as a guiding document on implementation of the Declaration. Since then, several initiatives have been undertaken by different partners, countries and stakeholders, contributing to ending TB in the mining sectors.

12 years post the adoption of the SADC Declaration and Protocol, the region wishes to convene a regional forum to showcase work implemented to address TB in the mining sector and also to share best and promising practices to ending TB in the mining sector under the theme “Ending TB in the mines started with me”.

About the Regional Conference

The 5-day forum shall be hosted by the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community in collaboration with the TIMS Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) with support from the South Africa Department of Health. The forum shall be held on 3rd – 7th June in Durban, South Africa preceding the Durban TB Conference. The forum is aimed at convening stakeholders, partners, funders and key populations to review progress and share best and promising practices that are being implemented within the Southern Africa Region towards ending TB in the mining Sector.

Stakeholders, key populations and partners shall be invited to submit abstracts which will be reviewed and once approved, presented at the forum.

Objectives

The main objective of the conference is to share progress in implementing TB in the mines programmes, share best and promising practices and showcase innovations towards ending TB in the Mining Sector. Particularly, the forum shall convene players in ending TB in the mining sector to:

- Review and Share progress in implementing programmes that support ending TB in the mining sector
- Share and document best and promising practices
- Showcase digital innovations in TB detection, treatment, care and prevention
- Share perspectives and experiences from affected communities and forge recommendations to address challenges faced by key populations in accessing TB services

Date and Venue

The forum shall take place from **3rd - 7th June 2024** in **Durban, South Africa**. It will be hosted in the side-lines of the **8th Durban TB Conference** at the Durban International Conference Centre.

Audience

The forum shall attract high level officials from SADC secretariat, SADC countries, Civil Society organizations, TIMS Key Population organisations, Private sector and other key stakeholders such as officials from international organizations including the UN, The Global Fund, USAID, the World Bank, and Stop-TB partnership.

Expected outcomes of the Conference

The Conference is expected to come up with a regional best practice report and recommendations which will be useful in the fight against TB in the mines in Southern Africa. Particularly, the conference shall aim to document and share implementable best practices that would improve programming of TB in the mines initiatives.

Funding

The conference is funded through the Global Fund under the TIMS Project. All sponsored participants shall be fully supported by ECSA-HC. All other registered participants shall cover the costs of their participation. *All registered participants shall receive complimentary entry to fully attend the 8th Durban TB Conference and the exclusive cocktail party.*

Registration and submission of abstracts

All participants are expected to register through the conference page at: <https://ecsahc.org/timsconference> in advance . No registration fees will be incurred for attending the conference however, only registered participants shall be allowed access into the venue.

Interested participants are invited to submit abstracts to be presented at the conference via <https://ecsahc.org/timsconference>. Guidelines on the abstract submission can be found at the same link.

About the TIMS project



The TB in the Mining Sector in Southern Africa (TIMS) is a Global Fund initiative that supports the region in addressing key provisions of the Protocols on Health, Mining, Employment and Labour, and the Declaration on TB in the Mining Sector in Southern Africa. The project emerged as a response to the 2012 SADC TB in the Mines declaration. Phase 3 of the project is to end in 2024. The project focuses on sustainable multi-sectoral and multi-country collaboration, and accountability for the control of TB and other Occupational Lung Diseases in the mining communities. The TIMS project has been implemented in three phases since 2016 as follows:

1. **TIMS phase 1** was implemented in ten (10) project countries which included Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe from 2016-2017 with funding of USD 30 million. The project supported a harmonized response to TB across the collaborating countries to contribute to overall reduction of the TB burden in each of the participating countries,
2. **TIMS phase 2** was awarded an additional USD 22.5 million to the same 10 collaborating countries to achieve the same goal as the first phase in the period 2018-2020 and, (iii) under phase 3, the Global Fund approved a USD 10.5 million funding proposal which expanded the geographical coverage of the programme to all SADC countries to include Angola, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo and Madagascar in the period 2021-2024.
3. **TIMS phase 3** which has been deemed the final cycle, was awarded USD 10.5 million with an expanded geographical coverage of all 16 SADC countries for the period of 2021 – 2024. This phase focuses on strengthening coordination across the 16 SADC Member States while promoting sustainability through country grants and other funding mechanisms.

The East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA-HC) is the current Principal Recipient under TIMS Phase III and supports implementation of the grant in the 16 SADC countries. The grant is coordinated under the TIMS Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM), whose secretariat is housed at the AUDA-NEPAD. Specifically, TIMS III focuses on the following:

- a) Sustaining coordination and implementation of the SADC Declaration on TB in the mines, looking at strengthening capacity for implementation of the TB in the mines protocol;
- b) Strengthening TB and occupational health services, including compensation systems, private sector initiatives as well SOPs
- c) Strengthening health information systems, including cross border referral systems, information sharing and establishment of regional data repository
- d) Addressing human rights barriers in accessing TB services and
- e) Strengthening Community Led Monitoring systems .