

Gender Equitable Solutions To Help End Tuberculosis

Parliamentary briefing | December 2024

Tuberculosis in Nigeria

Tuberculosis (TB) is an airborne disease, meaning it can affect anyone. Nigeria has the highest TB burden in Africa, one of eight high-burden countries accounting for more than two thirds of the global total. Although Nigeria has made tremendous progress in TB diagnosis and treatment, two in five people with TB remained undiagnosed and missed out on care in 2023.

Delayed diagnosis and subsequent disease progression cause worse outcomes including treatment failure, disability, or death, alongside catastrophic economic and social consequences for those with TB and their families. In Nigeria, TB disproportionately affects men, and men are less likely than women to access timely diagnosis and treatment. As a result, most new infections in men, women, and children are attributable to transmission from men. In-depth understanding of the gendered barriers to TB care are often lacking.

KEY STATISTICS

 IN 2023

1.25

million

TB DEATHS
GLOBALLY

10.8

million

PEOPLE
FELL ILL
WITH TB
GLOBALLY

5.7%

OF PEOPLE
WHO DIED
OF TB
WERE IN
NIGERIA

4.6%

OF PEOPLE
WHO
DEVELOPED
TB WERE IN
NIGERIA

55%

OF PEOPLE WHO
DEVELOPED TB
GLOBALLY WERE MEN

Country commitments for a global challenge

In October 2023, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the political declaration of the second High-Level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis, under the theme of “Advancing science, finance and innovation, and their benefits, to urgently end the global tuberculosis epidemic, in particular by ensuring equitable access to prevention, testing, treatment and care”. Heads of Government are expected to follow through on global commitments which cannot be achieved unless each country meets its share of targets by working across multiple sectors.

The LIGHT research programme

The **Zankli Research Centre (ZRC)** is a leading academic institution in Nigeria at the forefront of TB research. The centre collaborates across the world to drive progress in ending TB from the laboratory to the community. ZRC partners with organisations from Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and the UK on the LIGHT Consortium; a six-year cross-disciplinary global health research programme funded by UK aid, led by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. LIGHT focuses on generating new evidence to inform policy and practice for transforming gendered pathways to health for people affected by TB in peri-urban settings. Ultimately, LIGHT aims to improve overall health and wellbeing, socio-economic outcomes and equity, leaving no-one affected by TB in sub-Saharan Africa, behind. The research programme does this by enabling and supporting global and national policy environments and health systems to improve sustainable and equitable access to quality TB services and medical products, reducing TB mortality and morbidity among men, women, and children.



Recommendations for action

In 2025, Nigeria has an unprecedented opportunity to show leadership in the TB response. This includes leading on gender-responsive approaches through enhanced awareness, strengthened partnership and increased funding for positive impact across the population. This could be attained by increasing men's access to TB prevention and care, increasing treatment coverage among men, and reducing risks among men that are caused or exacerbated by social and structural determinants of TB.

AWARENESS

Community to high level-led advocacy is needed for increased local to national awareness of the gender aspects of the TB burden while ensuring that TB is part of the health agenda.

PARTNERSHIP

Strengthened sustainable collaborations across all partners, including Parliamentarian members of the Nigeria and Global TB Caucuses, NTBLCP and academia, are crucial for ending TB in Nigeria. Effective and timely exchange of knowledge enables informed decision-making, action and accountability.

FUNDING

Development of a new legal framework for domestic resource mobilisation and allocation is required to complement external financing for gender-responsive TB prevention and care.

References

World Health Organization, Global TB Report, 2024

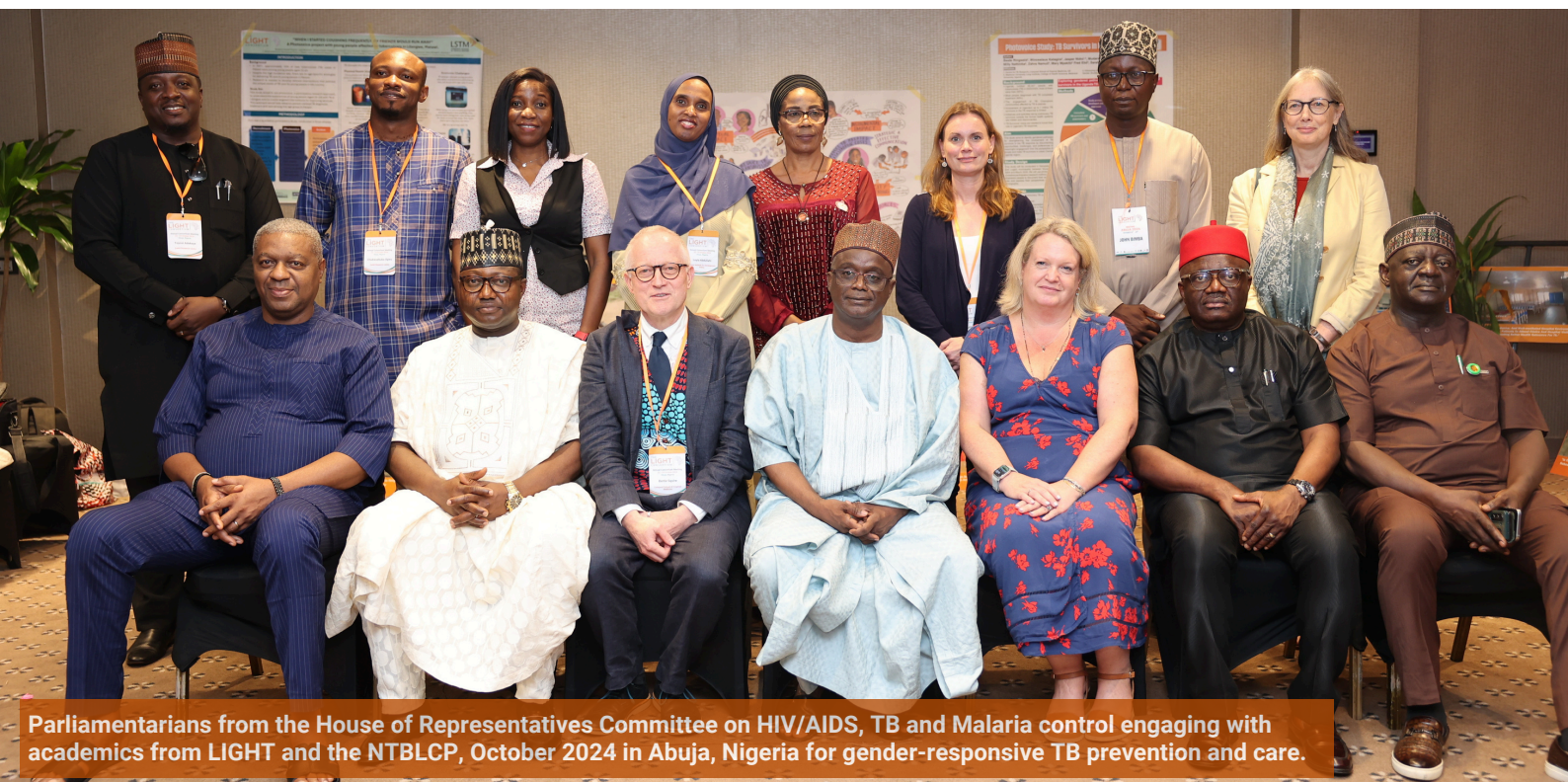
<https://www.who.int/teams/global-tuberculosis-programme/tb-reports/global-tuberculosis-report-2024>

2023 Political Declaration of the high-level meeting on the fight against tuberculosis

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/306/91/pdf/n2330691.pdf>

Stop TB Partnership UNHLM 2023 Country Targets

https://www.stoptb.org/sites/default/files/imported/document/country_targets-combined.pdf



Parliamentarians from the House of Representatives Committee on HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria control engaging with academics from LIGHT and the NTBLCP, October 2024 in Abuja, Nigeria for gender-responsive TB prevention and care.