
Time for Change

New Approaches
for Managing Drug-Resistant TB
in Regions with High HIV Rates

Friday, 9 November 2007

13:00 – 15:30

Arabella Sheraton Hotel

Convention Square

Lower Long Street

Cape Town

Tuberculosis (TB) is the leading cause of death among people with HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that up to 80 percent of TB patients are living with HIV in the region. However, with today's limited diagnostic tools and lack of laboratory capacity in many rural settings, smear-negative TB, extra-pulmonary TB (common in people living with HIV) and drug-resistant TB are difficult to detect.

Treatment for drug-resistant TB is not widely available in most parts of southern Africa. Where treatment exists, it is usually centralised and facility-based. This approach contributes to long waiting lists and poses constraints for patients and their families.

Experience in fighting drug-resistant TB to date comes mainly from Eastern Europe and South America, but the situation is radically different in southern Africa, forcing governmental and nongovernmental agencies to think outside-the-box about where and how to manage diagnosis and treatment of drug-resistant TB, infection control, and treatment adherence.

At this satellite TIME FOR CHANGE, representatives of the WHO, national TB programs, field-based medical NGOs, and activists will discuss the merits and challenges of decentralized, community-based drug-resistant TB management in southern Africa.

For more information, please visit

www.soros.org/timeforchange

Agenda

13:00 – 13:10 **WELCOME**

- ▶ *Vuyiseka Dubula*, Western Cape Coordinator
Treatment Action Campaign
- ▶ *Cynthia Eyakuze*, Director of Public Health Watch
Public Health Program, Open Society Institute

13:10 – 14:00 **THINKING DIFFERENTLY**

Governmental and non-governmental actors in southern Africa are thinking outside-the-box about where and how to manage diagnosis and treatment of drug-resistant TB, infection control, and treatment adherence.

- ▶ Chair: *Gregg Gonsalves*, Coordinator
AIDS and Rights Alliance for
Southern Africa
- ▶ Speakers: *Dr Salmaan Keshavjee*
Deputy Country Director
Partners in Health Lesotho

Dr Eric Goemaere, Head of Mission
Médecins Sans Frontières, South Africa

Johanna Ncala
National Treatment Literacy Coordinator
Treatment Action Campaign

14:00 – 14:40 **FACING THE CHALLENGES OF IMPLEMENTATION: A LOOK TO LESOTHO**

Brief presentations followed by Q&A to highlight specific initiatives underway in Lesotho at the programmatic level to address MDR-TB and HIV.

- ▶ Chair: *Dr Francis Varaine*, Chair
TB Working Group
Médecins Sans Frontières

► Speakers: *Dr Kefas Samson*
Advisor to the National TB Program
Ministry of Health and Social Welfare,
Lesotho

Dr Hind Satti
MDR–TB Project Director
Partners in Health Lesotho

Dr Pheello Lethola
HIV and TB Doctor
Médecins Sans Frontières Lesotho

14:40 – 15:30

CHALLENGING TB ORTHODOXY: CONFRONTING POLICY BARRIERS

A moderated panel discussion with Q&A with policy makers, clinicians and activists about what it will take to implement new approaches and validate new tools to improve diagnosis and management of MDR–TB in high HIV prevalence settings.

► Chair: *Dr Alasdair Reid*
HIV/TB Advisor
Joint United Nations Programme
on HIV/AIDS

► Panelists: *Dr Rhehab Chimzizi*
TB/HIV Program Officer
National TB Program, Malawi

Dr Mario Raviglione
Director of Stop TB Department
World Health Organization

Zackie Achmat
Chair
Treatment Action Campaign

Dr Muhwa Jeremiah Chakaya
Chief Research Officer
Centre for Respiratory Diseases Research
Kenya Medical Research Institute

About the Sponsoring Organizations

Public Health Watch, a project of the **Public Health Program** of the **Open Society Institute** (OSI), aims to strengthen meaningful and sustained engagement by affected communities in the development, implementation, and monitoring of TB and HIV policies. Toward this end, it supports advocates to identify, document, and articulate priority issues, and to press for accountability. Public Health Watch's mission fits within the broader objectives of the Public Health Program, which promotes health policies based on social inclusion, human rights, justice, and scientific evidence. The program works with local, national, and international civil society organizations to foster greater civil society engagement in public health policy and practice, to combat the social marginalization and stigma that lead to poor health, and to facilitate access to health information. Investor and philanthropist George Soros created the Open Society Institute in 1993 as a private operating and grantmaking foundation to support his foundations in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Those foundations were established, starting in 1984, to help countries make the transition from communism. OSI has expanded the activities of the Soros foundations network to encompass the United States and more than 60 countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an independent international medical humanitarian organization that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural or man-made disasters, or exclusion from health care in more than 70 countries. Each year, MSF doctors, nurses, logisticians, water-and-sanitation experts, administrators, and other medical and non-medical professionals depart on more than 4,700 aid assignments. They work alongside more than 25,800 locally hired staff to provide medical care. In emergencies and their aftermath, MSF provides essential health care, rehabilitates and runs hospitals and clinics, performs surgery, battles epidemics, carries out vaccination campaigns, operates feeding centers for malnourished children, and offers mental health care. Through longer-

term programs, MSF treats patients with infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, sleeping sickness, and HIV/AIDS, and provides medical and psychological care to marginalized groups such as street children. MSF was founded in 1971 as the first nongovernmental organization to both provide emergency medical assistance and bear witness publicly to the plight of the people it assists. A private nonprofit association, MSF is an international network with sections in 19 countries.

Partners In Health (PIH) is a non-profit corporation based in Boston, Massachusetts. Established in 1987, PIH is committed to working with partner organizations to strengthen public health systems and improve the health and well-being of people living in poor communities. PIH currently provides technical and financial assistance, medical supplies, and administrative support to partner projects in Haiti, Peru, Russia, Rwanda, Lesotho, Malawi, Mexico, Guatemala, and Boston. Starting in Peru in 1996, PIH was among the pioneers in delivering comprehensive prevention and treatment for MDR-TB in resource-poor settings. A key component of PIH's success has been training and hiring thousands of community health workers to prevent illness, monitor medical and socioeconomic needs and deliver quality health care and DOT to people living with chronic infectious diseases such as AIDS and tuberculosis. The model of community-based care for MDR-TB developed in Peru has since been adapted successfully in Haiti, Russia, Rwanda and Lesotho, where PIH received support from OSI to develop, test, and disseminate a model for treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis in areas with high rates of HIV infection and AIDS.

Established in 2002, the **AIDS and Rights Alliance for Southern Africa** (ARASA) is a regional partnership of non-governmental organizations working together to promote a human rights approach to HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa through capacity building and advocacy. ARASA focuses its activities in three interlinking programme areas: advocacy and lobbying; training and awareness raising; and capacity building for access to treatment and prevention. Central to all of the programme areas is the recognition that some 25 years into the epidemic the protection of human rights remains critical to a successful response to HIV and AIDS. HIV-related stigma and discrimination remain major obstacles to meeting the target of universal access to HIV prevention, care and treatment. It is internationally recognised that protection of human rights, both of those vulnerable to HIV infection and those

already infected, is not only a right, but also produces positive public health results against HIV. The denial of human rights such as the rights to non-discrimination and gender equality, information, education, health, privacy and social assistance increases both vulnerability to infection as well as the impact of the epidemic.

The **Treatment Action Campaign** (TAC) was founded on 10 December 1998 in Cape Town, South Africa. We campaign for treatment for people with HIV and to reduce new HIV infections. Our efforts have resulted in many life-saving interventions, including the implementation of country-wide mother-to-child transmission prevention and antiretroviral treatment programmes. TAC also runs a treatment literacy campaign: this is a training programme on the science of HIV treatment and prevention.

TAC's objectives are described in the organisation's Constitution as:

- ▶ Campaign for equitable access to affordable treatment for all people with HIV/AIDS.
- ▶ Campaign for and support the prevention and elimination of all new HIV infections.
- ▶ Promote and sponsor legislation to ensure equal access to social services for and equal treatment of all people with HIV/AIDS.
- ▶ Challenge by means of litigation, lobbying, advocacy and all forms of legitimate social mobilisation, any barrier or obstacle, including unfair discrimination, that limits access to treatment for HIV/AIDS in the private and public sector.
- ▶ Educate, promote and develop an understanding and commitment within all communities of developments in HIV/AIDS treatment.
- ▶ Campaign for access to affordable and quality health care for all people in South Africa.
- ▶ Train and develop a representative and effective leadership of people living with HIV/AIDS on the basis of equality and non-discrimination irrespective of race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, sex, socio-economic status, nationality, marital status or any other ground.
- ▶ Campaign for an effective regional and global network comprising of organisations with similar aims and objectives.



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TAC
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