

HEALTH PROMOTION TANZANIA (HDT)

TANZANIA PARLIAMENT APPROVES HEALTH PROMOTION TANZANIA'S (HDT) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TB | HIV DOMESTIC FINANCING.



Introduction:

The Steering committee of the parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, headed by the Hon. Speaker Dr. Job Ndungai, endorsed the recommendations made by Health Promotion Tanzania to significantly reduce HIV and TB donor dependence. The committee is composed of 20 members (16 Members of parliament) from different parties, Prime minister, one ex- official Attorney General and deputy speaker. With this advancement, the parliament has now given a green light for the standing committee on HIV and TB to present on its behalf to the think tank task team for the ministry of Finance for consideration in the forthcoming financial bill. If the task team approves the proposal, HIV and TB will start receiving dedicated domestic funding in financial year 2020/2021 and various legal instruments including for AIDS Trust Fund will have to change. This may mark the beginning of home-grown strategic interventions for HIV and TB prevention as well as sustainable financing for the two diseases of poverty.

The current TB/HIV trend in Tanzania:

TB affects mostly the poor people. The World TB report estimates that in Tanzania about 39,000 people dies of TB every year, four in ten are HIV positive. That is to say: 3,250 Tanzanians die of TB monthly; 108 Tanzanians die of TB daily. The Tanzania HIV Impact survey of 2016-2017 estimates that about 72,000 new HIV infection occurs among adults aged 15-49 years (197 per day). At least five men and above 6 women in hundred are infected by HIV, this translated to about 1.4 million living with HIV and needing treatment and care. One in ten (9.9%) households in Tanzania had at least one HIV-positive household member. UNAIDS report of 2018 estimates that about 24,000 Tanzania died in 2018, which is about 65 people dies every day.

TB/HIV Funding situation:

GFATM application estimates that for (2018-2020) indicated that the funding estimated gap for HIV (219.6 USD) and TB (90.1 USD) in Tanzania. TB domestic funding for in Tanzania in 2018 was estimated to be 7% of TB funding in Tanzania.

HDT's advocacy journey to TB/HIV domestic financing:

HDT advocacy efforts started in 2019 with HIV and AIDS committee and office of the speaker to increase TB attention in the parliament and accountability in Government. TB was included in the mandate of standing committee for HIV, which gave it more prominence. HDT then conducted evidence-based advocacy to 34 members of the HIV and TB parliamentary committee in Dodoma on the need of the government of Tanzania to increase domestic funding for TB. The compelling evidence presented led to the parliamentary committee meeting minister for finance and for HDT to be given a go ahead to propose sources to fund TB and HIV domestically. HDT hired a senior economist Prof. Prosper Ngowi to make a proposal for sources of income that could finance the response upholding three economic principles namely easy to collect, less cost to collect and not marginalizing the vulnerable.

HDT assembled a team of experts to advise on business markets (Mr. John Ulanga- former Executive Director Foundation for Civil Society) and public health investment (Dr. Hassan Mshinda- Former director Ifakara Health Institute) and Political opportunity (Hon Oscar Mukasa PhD- Member of parliament).

On 2nd Feb 2020, the consultant presented initial recommendations to a joint team above during a dinner meeting held at Johari Hotel in Dar Es Salaam. The team proposed two modalities; one that will collect and finance TB and HIV for interim five years and another modality that will collect, invest in treasurer bonds and generate funds that will finance TB and HIV in long-term without any more collection.

Synopsis of the domestic funding recommendations:

On 10th March HDT and NACOPHA, met with selected members of parliament and staff of parliament to refine the proposals and make them politically and technically appropriate. This paved way to meeting the speaker of parliament Hon. Job Ndugai to advocate for his support. If the proposals submitted are approved as they are, the interim period 2020-2024, the government will collect and finance TB and HIV response by TZS 2,756,775,000 per year equivalent to USD 1.22 Million) per year. After five years, AIDS trust fund will have accumulated TZS 980,342,796,789 equivalent to USD 435 million. Using funding gap estimated of USD 101 per year, this means that the fund will reduce the gap for four years. A mechanism has been proposed to reinvest part of the money in treasurer bond for subsequent years continued funding. TZS 717 billion (USD 318 million) will also be set aside for private sector pharmaceutical investment that will reduce medical supplies and equipment importation.

Unfinished business:

This work is not completed, this update provide status so far. Advocacy at parliament and ministerial cabinet is required as well as advocacy with head of state to ensure this proposal makes it to financial bill especially now with COVID 19 challenges. Advocacy with parliament is equally required to ensure that the bill passes when tabled by the minister. Changes in legal framework for AIDS Trust Fund and corresponding regulations will be another milestone. Meeting to align TACAIDS, NTLP and NACP on strategic thinking and working together and support each other will be prerequisite to this noble journey.

About Health Promotion Tanzania:

Health Promotion Tanzania popularly known as HDT, is a leader in promoting public health system and policy change that will impact on health and lives of Tanzanian. With over seven years of experience in promoting health and wellbeing, we focus on health systems strengthening and advocacy for policy change. HDT has become a household name in the country, reputable in mobilizing other partners to attain outcomes in health through SMART advocacy – an evidence-based decisionmaker-centered approach that stresses on right timing for advocacy intervention.

To further support this work or for more information please visit www.healthpromotiontanzania.org or contact advocacy department at advocacy@hdt.or.tz.

